

# KELSEY CURRIE

## Co-Pilot

(Canadian Sport Horse Gelding)

Kelsey is a student at Saint John High School busy with her studies and training to compete in Eventing. She is also a working student with Ian Roberts and Kelly Plitz at their facility, Dreamcrest, in Port Perry, ON.

### Personally speaking..

When Kelsey was only 5 years old, her aunt introduced her to the world of horses and she's been 'hooked' ever since.

Kelsey originally trained with Lynn Kennedy, Jennifer Hanson and Rob Stevenson, and now trains with Valerie Phelan, Sue Fraser, Kelly Plitz and Ian Roberts.

Her horse is stabled at Lakewood Farm in the winter and in summer, her horse goes to Roberts' facility where Kelsey is able to have lessons 6 times a week and ride four horses a day.

### Accomplishments & Goals

Best competitive accomplishment so far? "My biggest accomplishment to date is not an individual result but the experience I have gained this past year competing all over Ontario, in Richland Michigan and in Kentucky at the Kentucky Horse park shortly after WEG. Also having just returned from training and competing in South Carolina for the month of March, the opportunity to compete next to national team members: learning from the pros how to successfully compete at that level is my biggest accomplishment."

Best non-competitive accomplishment? "I really enjoy everything I have accomplished with my new mount Co- Pilot (Ziggy). He is a 16.1hh 8yo CDN Sport Horse Gelding, who did the 1.20 Jumpers. Until this year, when we purchased him, he had never seen a cross country course, and he is now successfully competing at the Training level. I think this is my best accomplishment, because it feels great to have introduced a horse to this sport, and be confident he will be successful at it because of the work I have put in."

Short-term goal(s)? "To compete in the North American Junior Young Riders Championships for Eventing."

Long-term goal(s)? "To compete at the 3\* level or above."

### Obstacles, Heros and Future Plans

"I have been working on keeping myself calm when situations get tense. I need to appreciate the little great things. Ziggy, until last year, was only ever in a jumper ring. We are still working on his dressage and learning to compete in the dressage ring.

"Ian Roberts is my hero. He has competed at the highest levels, and yet he is one of the most down to earth people I know. He is never cocky, and he never puts himself higher than



Leaping High!

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you. He stays calm in difficult situations, and when something goes wrong, he always looks at the positive before addressing your mishaps. I find he is always thankful when you do something for him, and he always treats people with respect. Ian always puts safety first. If he doesn't think the horse is fit to run. It won't run. If he thinks the rider is not ready to move up. They won't move up.

Especially in this sport, we need more people like Ian, producing safe, intelligent riders. The thing I love the most about Ian Roberts is that he gives kids a chance. There are plenty of young riders in North America who are more talented than me, but he chooses to give me the chance. He recognizes hard workers, and recognizes when a kid really wants to make it to the top. Ian truly is a trusted horseman and well known all around, and I can't begin to explain how much he has influenced me and my riding, and working for him alone, has been a dream and an accomplishment for me.

### Factoids

- Current horse(s) - Co-Pilot (Ziggy to his friends)
- Greatest joy - Making my family and coaches proud
- Secret indulgence - salt and vinegar chips

### More...

- Competitive discipline(s) - Eventing (Dressage, Cross Country and Show Jumping).
- Previous horse(s) - Marco Polo and Flash Gordon

### And More...

- Hobbies / interests - spending time with family and friends; playing hockey and lacrosse
- Favourite book - 'Go ask Alice and Crank'
- Favourite music - Jason Aldean and Kenny Chesney