

Lachlan Baskin

NBEA Youth Bursary

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For the last 13 years horses have played such a prominent role in my life. Ever since I first sat on a horse at the age of two, I knew that I needed to have these animals in my life for eternity. Over this long span, horses have taught me more than one could ever imagine. From learning to love a creature to your fullest, too really understanding patience and its importance all the way to things might not fall into your hand as perfectly as you imagined but that is never a sign to give up. They showed me that this sport is more than rising trot and big sticks that you jump over but that you need an exceptionally strong understanding and connection to succeed.

After many years of riding lessons, for my 9<sup>th</sup> birthday I was gifted my first ever pony. Ever since June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, I intuitively knew I would love this pony forever. Over the 5 years of ownership, we had our difficulties, however we created such an unbreakable bond. Chester taught me how to sit anything and never give up. At the end of the day, I have this pony to thank for making me the rider I am today. This past season, Chester and I had the opportunity to show in various provinces across Canada in the Large Pony division. We finished the season with many top placings that secured us a spot at the Royal Winter Fair. Sadly, after the Royal we had to make the heartbreaking decision to sell Chester and move on with my riding career.

Following the sale of Chester my family and I decided to purchase a four-year-old warmblood by the name of Louis. Because of only being four, Louis is very inexperienced. I hope to apply the knowledge handed down from Chester and my trainers to make Louis dazzle in the hunter and equitation divisions in the future. Although my focus may be on the hunters and equitation, I am constantly finding myself spending many hours on my dressage training. I plan to make Louis

strong and well-rounded in many disciplines of this sport. Once developed, I hope to make many returns to the Royal and finish my years as a junior in the equation ring with Louis. I aspire to continue to develop young horses for as long as possible.

I cannot wait to rebuild that unbreakable bond with Louis and all the horses to come in my lifetime. I desire to continue my progression and education in this sport while continuing to have the time of my life. Horses mean the world to me, and I wish to keep them with me for as long as possible.