

BC HORSE COUNCIL 2016 Junior Athlete of the Year Nomination
SUNNY BALSHAW

Sunny Balshaw has loved horses since she was a one year old riding the ponies on weekends at Maplewood Farm in North Vancouver. She is competing now as a 15 year old and has developed into an incredible horse person who has achieved some amazing accomplishments with her miniature horses from Sunnyvale Miniatures, her grandparents' farm in Columbia Valley, BC. She also shows horses for her trainer's clients at Triple Heart Training Centre and has brought them many awards and Championships as well.

Sunny competes locally in BC as well as in the northwest through Washington & Oregon and internationally in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the National show which culminates the show season and attracts about 1600 of the best of the best horses to North America. At the Nationals in September 2016 Sunny won five National Championships and seven Reserve Championships and multiple Top Ten's competing in the Ages 13-17 Division. She is proud to represent Canada and the announcer was very busy this year announcing her from Columbia Valley, BC.

This year at the Nationals Sunny was the National Champion in Showmanship, Over with her Currys Dream Girl and the Reserve National Champion in Showmanship, Under with her Century Farms Quazar who she has shown since he was a yearling. Also of special note, In the Youth Obstacle Driving class she was the National Champion with Sunnyvale Monarchos Majestic as well as the Reserve National Champion with Century Farms Quazar, a feat which had not previously been accomplished. As well, her gelding Los Arboles Odysseys Rangler was named 2016 Nationals Super Gelding which was a very special honor.

Sunny's miniature horses achieved many goals in 2016, with Quazar winning his fifth Hall of Fame award in Country Pleasure Driving to add to his Hall of Fames in Hunter, Obstacle, Versatility and Liberty and also achieved Silver Hall of Fames in both Hunter and Obstacle. He is 10 years old now and we were told he would not

amount to much when we bought him as a yearling but Sunny loved him so he became her boy and she developed a special bond with him that now symbolizes what love and dedication can accomplish.

Sunny's accomplishments are amazing and this year in November at the National Convention in Texas, the award for 2015 Horse of the Year, Division B Performance, was presented to her Curry's Dream Girl. It is a once in a lifetime kind of award and we are extremely proud of both of them. Sunny provided the love and confidence that this young mare needed to rise to the very top and show to her absolute best.

Sunny represented Canada on the Youth Committee for the American Miniature Horse Association for three years and helped by being part of expanding the youth program. She is very interested in helping others learn and enjoy their miniature horses and this year started mentoring another youth as well as an amateur who have both developed their knowledge and skills and been very successful in the show ring this year.

The National Youth Chair for the American Miniature Horse Registry sent a letter confirming that Sunny has demonstrated her commitment to excellence by winning the 2015 Alvadar Future of The Industry Award and the 2016 Reserve Alvadar Future of the Industry Award at the National Show by earning the highest overall points for all Youth exhibitors. This is a very coveted award and an honor for anyone but particularly such a young Canadian youth who looks forward to a very bright future.