

New Canadian Warmblood sires will bring depth and diversity

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PHOTOGRAPHY: JAN ASH-GROSS

Eight well bred and well turned-out stallions aged two to four years, were presented to the CWHBA for licensing in 2025, and from which five were licensed. Their breeders are to be complemented for their efforts.

Canada is a vast country, so to accommodate the large distances and attendant scheduling issues, the 2025 inspection tour was undertaken by onsite inspectors and video taped for review by an international panel of judges. The final adjudication of all the stallions took place via video conference. This system of eyes-on-the-ground combined with a single panel review was used with good effect during the pandemic and proved to be an efficient method again in 2025.

The eight young stallions were very well presented at four locations, with the tour being organized and managed by Victoria Kendall. Each of the host farms provided a consistent venue to allow the panel to make a thorough and fair adjudication. At each site she was joined by additional inspectors: in Alberta at Old Gate Farm near Olds by Cassandra Morrish and Sabrina Gillespie; in British Columbia at Rosenol Performance Horses, Prince George by Cathy Chalack and Roxy Schippers; in Saskatchewan at Pelmac Stables, Saskatoon by Lisa Longtin; and in Manitoba at Eastridge Farm, by Cathy Chalack and Lorraine Wilson.

This was the first year that stallions were evaluated using linear profiling exclusively as a precursor to a final normative grading. It is the third year that the four point grading system has been used for ranking the horses according to four designations – superior, above average, average, and below average. This system has been well received as it dispenses with the ambiguous one-to-ten normative scoring system and provides grading results in a

more relevant form.

The international portion of the panel was made up of Jan-Ove Olsson from Sweden and Hakan Wahlman from Finland. Both these individuals have direct experience judging in Canada in the past and were able to bring their extensive expertise to bear within the context of that knowledge. CWHBA studbook committee members, Chair Janice Tyndall, Chris Gould, Jennette Coote, and Cathy Chalack, were joined by Victoria Kendall, Cassandra Morrish, and Lisa Longtin for the final grading session.

The stallion Forte H (Cantos 23 x For Pleasure), a 2022 chestnut owned by MG Partners Inc., was deemed to be above average in all categories. An attractive refined modern stallion, he impressed with his active and elastic trot and uphill, balanced canter. Careful and with quick reflexes he showed good technique and scope through the jumping chute.

Four-year-old Valinor (Valentino x El Bundy), dark bay born in 2021 and owned by Jillian Schafstein, presented a harmonious modern picture with a long top line and an expressive head. His canter was long, uphill, and particularly rhythmic which enhanced his measured approach to the jumps.

Orzel De Muze (2022/dark bay: Pomméral de Muze x Alcatraz) bred and owned by Brittany Payjack, showed clearly mature, masculine characteristics, above average conformation and correctness, and careful quick jumping technique.

Sterling (2022/black: Gaudi x Plains Liberator) is owned by Adrienne Herron. This Totalis grandson presented as a dressage specialist and his gaits confirmed that designation with an elastic and active trot and round uphill, balanced canter. His well placed arched neck and overall conformation are further assets for his chosen career.

Cobalt FF (2023/bay: Colorit x Chaman) bred and owned by Fable Farm Inc., is a tall, mature two year old, very modern in type that exhibited attractive conformation in a harmonious package. His hind leg technique indicated good retro-flexion and potential scope as a jumping specialist.

These five young stallions bring diverse pedigrees and at the same time reinforce some very important bloodlines with such stallions as Diamant de Semilly and Voltaire in their backgrounds. We look forward to their contribution to the Canadian breeding program. ■



Forte H (Cantos 23 x For Pleasure) – 2022 chestnut stallion