

MAUREEN CUYLER-VAN HOVE



Jack Van Hove, Sara Bradley, Alex Van Hove

Photo courtesy: Tracey Eide www.EquineSportPhotography.com

Maureen has been described as a "Very Cool Lady". She has lived her life in such a way that it is easy to honor and praise her for the cherished legacy she has left us. She has been involved with horses all of her life. Maureen was born in Ontario in 1962, the youngest of 4 children. Maureen followed her heart after high school and attended the Humber College Equine Program from which she graduated. Later, she moved to BC and began to work with the Pacific Riding for the Disabled and the Hastings Racecourse with Jack Diamond.

She later met her husband to be Jack Van Hove and they were married in 1990. Together they traveled and enjoyed life. They became the proud parents to Alex in 1994 and upon birth he became Maureen's everything. She loved Campbell Valley Park and it was her dream to have her horse and live by the Park. Her dream "Shady Acres" became a reality. As well as her love for horses, Maureen was also very active in undersea diving and had a passion for that.

Maureen's involvement in the equine community was tremendous. She worked at Maynard's Tack Shop in Cloverdale for over 25 years and was an integral part of their business. She was a loyal employee and she was always willing and able to help the customer. Whether you were at the shop to purchase something or just ask questions, Maureen was there to help. She was known as "Maureen from Maynard's" by everyone.

Some of Maureen's other involvements included the Southlands Riding Club, Sunnyside Saddle Club, Pony Club and the Campbell Valley Riding Club. She was very active in all of these clubs and played an integral part of the first Regional Dressage Show at Southlands.

Her love of horses helped her son Alex become a rider, and it was one of Maureen's greatest dreams to one day see Alex compete in an A circuit show. He accomplished this and Maureen was proud and pleased to be able to watch him ride at Thunderbird.

Through her association with Rick Maynard, Maureen found another love of her life when he connected her with a very large and special horse. She named this big guy, Gemini. He was the horse that Maureen fell in love with and admired so much. They had that "special bond" and kind of relationship that all horse owners hope to have with their animals. They were truly partners.

Maureen Cuyler-Van Hove was a special and wonderful person who will be missed by the Equine Community. She was honest, brave and she lived life with integrity and purpose. Horse Council BC would like to honor her memory by presenting 2007 Horse Person of the Year award. She will be missed.