



Jacqui Oldham, Dr. John Gilray, Susan Thompson

Dr. John Gilray, DVM, graduated from Guelph Veterinary College in.....well a long time ago, he recently attended the 50th reunion of his grad class! In his early life in Ontario he was active with the hunts there, he has been a horse lover and horseman all of his life. He has made lifelong friends back east that have become leaders in the equestrian sport in Canada, people like the Jacobsen's who founded the Canadian Equestrian Federation. John Gilray regularly visits his contacts in the east and annually travels to the Royal Winter Fair where he acts as an official.

Dr. Gilray is accredited as an equine judge of many breeds and disciplines, he is extremely competent and loves to judge. He is a superior judge of conformation and was one of the first inspectors in the Canadian Hunter Improvement Society, now the Canadian Sport Horse Association. John eventually moved west to BC and warmer climates. In addition to practicing veterinary medicine, he has been a driving force in equestrian sport. John makes a distinction between equestrian sport and horse industry, he recalls when a horse's value lay primarily in the enjoyment it provided its owner and the sport a leisure activity.; whereas now many horse owners consider the horse an investment and expect a hard currency return on that investment, sometimes at the expense of the horse's welfare. His own ethics in his life and in his practice have always reflected that concern for the animals.

John Gilray started the Fraser Valley Hunt and was the Master of the Hunt for years and rode to hounds weekly. He provided veterinary care for the hounds and educated the locals on proper protocol for Hunts. John was very active in teaching Pony Club and from that went on to teach Adult Education in the local Continuing education classes.

Internationally, John is a FEI veterinarian and has accompanied our Olympic athletes on several occasions starting in 1960. He was also chairman of the Northwest International Horse Show which was made to emulate the Royal Winter Fair in pomp, class and glamour.

HCBC was proud to present Dr. John Gilray the Lifetime Achievement award in recognition of his dedication to horse sport, the horse industry and his multitude of achievements as a result.