

Canadian Eventers Excel at the Young Riders Championships!

*Submitted by the
Holmes-Smith Family*

Tosca Holmes-Smith
and Flat



KEELY GIBB

Eventing is a family affair for the Holmes-Smith family, with everyone on the road supporting Tosca and Carmen in their quest for excellence. They very kindly agreed to give the Gaitpost a show report of the Championships, and it is very charmingly non self-promotional - these girls did amazingly well, as did all the team members, and we take our hats off to you, ladies!

The Eventing portion of the 2017 North American Junior and Young Rider Championships, hosted by Rebecca Farms, proved to be a massive success for Canada's up-and-coming event riders. Canada was able to field full teams for both the CH-J* and CICY2* by combining riders from Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta.

Representing Canada on the CIC2* team from Ontario were April Simmonds riding *Impressively Done*, Annick Niemuller riding *FE Black Jack*, and Emily Thompson riding *Paddington*. Anne-Sophie Levesque of Alberta completed the team aboard *Eskapade*. Canada's 2* team started the competition with

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Emily Thompson aboard Paddington.



Anne-Sophie Levesque on Eskapade.

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a bang, leading the pack going into Cross-Country. Anne-Sophie was first on course and managed a perfect double clear run around Ian Stark's tough track. April and Emily also managed to jump clear on their horses; however, added 11.2 and 6.4 time penalties, respectively, to their scores. Annick rode beautifully, but she and her young horse were caught out by a tricky line early on in the course and added 20 jump penalties to their score, as well

as 12.8 time penalties. With Annick's score dropped the team was able to hold on to their lead after Cross-Country. On Sunday morning however, Emily was forced to withdraw *Paddy* before Show Jumping due to a stone bruise he had suffered on Cross-Country. In Stadium, Anne-Sophie jumped clear up until the final fence when she pulled an unfortunate rail, but still finished fifth overall in a competitive field. April added 12 penalties to her score and Annick added 17. The team managed to bring home bronze for Canada.

Canada's CCI1* team was made up of three riders from Ontario; Chloe Duffy riding *Oro Veradero*, Ella Marquis riding *Meadowbrook's Pollyanna*, and Eva Marquis riding *Hollywood*. The fourth team member was Tosca Holmes-Smith of British Columbia with *Fiat*. Four solid Dressage tests had the team placed fourth after Dressage. On Saturday, Tosca, Chloe, and Ella all put in double clear Cross-Country rounds; however, Eva and *Lurch* suffered a fall on course, disqualifying them from the competition. The team was in silver position going into Show Jumping and although only adding three rails total to their score, the competition was tight and twelve penalties was enough to drop down to bronze. Tosca, who was sitting in third place going into the final phase, put in a double clear round aboard *Fiat*, and was able to edge out the two riders ahead of her, and take home individual gold for Canada. Chloe and *Oro* also jumped double clear and moved up from ninth place after Cross-Country to finish fifth.

Rebecca Farms proved to be an amazing venue for this prestigious competition, which was run smoothly and efficiently. The Broussards never cease to amaze the eventing community with their generosity and leadership.

It's exciting to see so many truly talented and hard working Canadian young riders moving up the levels in eventing. With so many up-and-coming riders working towards NAJYRC as a goal, we are certain to only grow more competitive in the years to come! 