

## Albertans Recognized



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## Bill Collins Inducted into AQHA Hall of Fame



Bill Collins, retired owner of Leecoll Stables, Calgary, is the first Canadian to be inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame, one of the highest honours bestowed by AQHA.

Bill Collins began his American Quarter Horse career in 1955 in Alberta. He instructed cutting

horse enthusiasts throughout Canada, Australia, Germany and Great Britain. Among his other achievements, in 1974 Bill founded the cutting competition at the Calgary Stampede. His judging career includes all the major AQHA shows. Bill was the first recipient of the Alberta Horse Industry Distinguished Service Award in 2000.

The induction ceremonies took place during the 2007 AQHA Convention, March 2nd to 6th, in Houston, Texas.



**Ron & Marg Southern Inducted into**

## **Canada's Sports Hall of Fame**

In November of 2006, Ron and Marg Southern, both members of the Order of Canada, were inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, recognizing their contribution to the development and advancement of the sport of competitive show jumping in Canada.

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## **Carl & Mary Ellen Wilson, Jack Longmuir Receive AQHA Legacy Award**

Carl and Mary Ellen Wilson of Rimbey and Jack Longmuir of Empress have each received the AQHA Legacy award for 50 years of Quarter Horse breeding. Of the 109 recipients since 1997, the Wilsons and Longmuirs are the only Canadians to have received this award.

## **Ron Southern Appointed "Officer of the Order of Orange Nassau"**

At a special ceremony during the annual Holland Day at the 31st Spruce Meadows Concours Hippique in Calgary, Netherlands Ambassador to Canada, Mr. K.P.M. de Beer, made the

appointment and called Ron Southern a "true Ambassador" for the Netherlands.

Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands was graciously pleased to bestow the Royal Honour of Officer of the Order of Orange Nassau for his outstanding service to society.

Ambassador de Beer stressed that bestowing this Honour traditionally only happens once a year, on the day that the Dutch celebrate the Queen's birthday and that a special exception was made for Mr. Southern so that he could receive this Order during the Holland Day Celebrations at Spruce Meadows.