



# Crime fighter turned rider

By **BILL KAUFMANN**  
Calgary Sun

After trading in a career as an FBI lawyer, a Calgary native hopes to collar success with a new equestrian venue.

Jill Giese is parlaying experience as a dressage performer in Europe into a training centre in B.C.'s coastal mountains.

"I trained with the best dressage people in Britain and Germany and I'm taking what I learned from there in building a world-class equestrian facility," said Giese, representing Equimat Canada at Spruce Meadows' Equi-Fair.

Giese's long and winding road began with her duty as an FBI lawyer in New York City curbing scam artists preying on pensioners.

The job took her to England, but during a six-month leave of absence, she rekindled a childhood love of horses and never came back to the law enforcement fold.

Since then, she's won a number of international dressage championships and often appeared in the British Nationals.

Her favourite mount, a Hannoverian named Dreamcatcher, earned renown in Europe.

Dreamcatcher supplied for a trio of foals embryos that were transplanted into surrogate mares.

All four have made the trip to Canada to form part of a nucleus for Dreamcatcher Meadows, a 17-hectare spread on the Lilloet River at Pemberton, B.C. near Whistler.



— KEVIN UDAHL, Calgary Sun

**INSPIRED ...** Spruce Meadows helped inspire Jill Giese to open her own dressage training centre.

Spruce Meadows has been an inspiration for Giese, who left Canada for Europe 20 years ago when the venue was still finding its legs.

"When I was a kid they were just starting and I always wondered if I would ever ride there," said Giese, who at the time was a Canadian Western Champion rider on a Morgan horse at the age of 16.

At Pemberton, an indoor arena should be completed in two months.

"Being in the equestrian business is not an easy thing and Dreamcatcher Meadows is a bit off the beaten track," she said.

"But when I saw the land, I just knew I wanted to do it there."

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