

CSARDAS TETLEY (nominated in 2005)

by Kristen Howard, Ron Savard & Judy Saunders



On February 16, 1985, a chestnut Arabian colt named *Csardas Tetley*, was born into the world to *Director x Csardas Dalulyka* on the farm of Louis and Joyce Jancsar owners of Csardas Arabians of Innerkip, Ontario.

Tetley started out as a school horse with the Jancsar's, but his true destiny awaited him when he was purchased by Ron Savard of Campbellville, Ontario as a 'big and bold' 6 year old. Tetley was considered a handful and called some not-so-nice names by others who rode him, but he and Ron got along great, and within two years they had won their first 50 mile endurance ride. That accomplishment was only the beginning of Tetley's illustrious career. Tetley competed successfully in OCTRA and AERC rides for 9 consecutive seasons from 1991-1999. In that time, he completed 70 rides (34 endurance, 21 competitive trail rides, 13 ride 'n' ties and 2 mileage rides) with an overall completion rate of 90%, accumulating 2657 OCTRA miles and 1987 AERC miles.

TETLEY'S ENDURANCE ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- 26 Top Ten finishes
- 6 Best Conditions
- 6 100 Milers
- OCTRA Year End Top Ten Endurance Horse in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996, with Champion Endurance Horse in 1994 and 1996, and Reserve Champion Endurance Horse in 1993

RIDE 'N' TIE ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- 7 wins, 3-2nds and 3-3rds
- OCTRA Champion Ride 'n' Tie Horse in 1993 and 1995

Though not his strongest area, Tetley finished in the ribbons in 18/21 of his competitive rides. He has won each of Sweepstakes, Reserve Sweepstakes and AHA Region 18 Championship titles.

ADDITIONAL HONOURS THAT TETLEY HAS WON:

- OCTRA Top Horse Overall in 1993, 1994 and 1996
- OCTRA Longevity Award in 1996
- OCTRA High Point Arabian in 1993, 1994 and 1996
- AERC Year End Middleweight Division: 3rd in 1995; 4th in 1996; and, 5th in 1997



In 1996, Ron and Tetley together with Ron's wife, Judy Saunders and her horse *WP Ghost Dancer*, tackled the Outlaw Trail Historical Endurance Ride. The Outlaw Trail Ride traces the steps of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid through Utah's canyon lands. It is a five-day, point-to-point, 265 mile historical adventure riding from Teasdale (central Utah) to Kanab (at the Arizona border). The cliff-dwelling Anasazi Indians lived in this area. Though some of the trail followed historic wagon roads established by pioneers through rugged wilderness, the feature that truly characterized this as "The Ultimate Endurance Adventure", was the challenging, highly technical and often treacherous escape routes followed by Butch Cassidy, The Sundance Kid and other outlaws. This ride required a higher level of rider awareness and responsibility than an average endurance ride, as this was primarily a wilderness ride -- much of it at high elevation. There were few opportunities for outside help if a horse and rider encountered problems and there was only one vet check and crew opportunity per 50 or 55 miles. Courageous pit crews transported gear from camp to camp through heart stopping routes of their own, while riders travelled by trail, road, and cross-country to see great sights of the Old West. Ron describes this ride as very tough, and the best adventure of his life. One of many challenges Ron and Tetley faced included climbing up slick rock (sand stone) at a near 45 degree angle -- Tetley climbed a few segments at a time with Ron standing in the stirrups with his body over Tetley's head to prevent him from going over backwards! Tetley successfully completed 215 miles of this grueling ride!

Another adventure this pair experienced in 1996, was the 100 mile ride at the Southern II in Ohio, USA. Rain, sleet and very cold conditions continued for the duration of the ride making the hills extremely muddy and slick. Most riders would have called it quits, but Tetley persevered to a 6th place finish.

A scary moment for Ron was at a sandy ride in Northern Michigan, USA. Tetley would drink out of a footprint, which was normally a wonderful thing to do, but not at this ride. In doing so, Tetley ingested sand and got sand colic. Tetley recovered, but after that experience, Ron would only let Tetley drink clean water!

Ron attributes Tetley's success to his willing, competitive nature; strong forward gaits; excellent recoveries; confident, sensible nature -- never wasting energy on nervousness or spooking; and, his ability to look after himself -- he never passed up on an opportunity to drink or eat.

Sadly, Tetley passed away on December 6, 2014 at the age of 29, still owned and loved by Ron Savard. A beautiful headstone hand made by Ron and Judy marks his resting place at Rock 'n' Horse Farm -- a wonderful lasting tribute to an incredible equine athlete and friend.