

Spruce Meadows' Linda Southern-Heathcott

Linda Southern-Heathcott has been a part of the famous Spruce Meadows equestrian facility in Canada since the beginning. When she was 11 years old her parents started to build the venue. "In the first few years I was on the rock picking team. I am now the President and CEO of Spruce Meadows," Linda said. Linda shares her thoughts on Spruce Meadows and her life:

Goals for Spruce Meadows...

My goal for Spruce Meadows is to continue to be a leader in the sport of show jumping; to strive to ensure that our show jumping events are enjoyed by our fans; and to strive to offer the highest of standards to the athletes, world class prize money and continue to appeal and excite our 500,000 fans who come to cheer on the athletes.

Exciting things about Spruce Meadows...

Wow, there are so many exciting things - but I guess I would try to explain where we have come from - humble beginnings. As a family, we have built a wonderful show jumping facility for athletes, sponsors, media and fans to enjoy. In return, my team and I get a sense of gratitude when the stands are filled with cheering fans.

Place she likes to "hang out" at Spruce Meadows...

I love to sit on a bench outside the All Canada ring and watch the jumping - especially on a sunny day. I also love to be in the center of the International Ring when the big competitions are on - the thrill and suspense of the event. Especially when the stakes are high - you can hear a pin drop and it is so special because the crowd brings a certain electricity to the venue.

Her riding career...

The highlight of my career was competing in the Atlanta Olympics in 1996.

On riding now...

Since 1998 I have tried to come back, and I even have a wonderful horse of my own, but I don't seem to have the time to ride.

In her spare time she likes to...

I ski on the weekends with my husband of twenty-three years, and my boys, and we try to golf. Mostly I like being with friends and family.

She doesn't like to leave home without...

I try to never leave home without my family and my five dogs but sometimes they have to stay at home when I am traveling.

Linda Southern-Heathcott on the grounds of Spruce Meadows
Photo courtesy of Spruce Meadows

