

The story of the Queen and Burnese is a Saskatchewan story . . . a love story . . . a story of pride and heritage.

Burnese, a pure black mare, was born in 1962 at the RCMP remount ranch at Fort Walsh in Saskatchewan's Cypress Hills. She was a small horse, but with special care grew to a height of 16.1 hands – and became a favourite of the RCMP members.

When the horse was two years of age, the RCMP shipped her from Fort Walsh to the Forcés Regina stables. At age three, she became a recruit equitation horse and fulfilled the hopes of many people who wanted to see her take part in the famous RCMP Musical Ride.

Burnese performed her duties well, even in adversity. In 1981 a young man fired a tarrer pistol at Burnese and Her Majesty during a parade. Burnese took a hop forward and continued walking. Her Majesty was unharmed in the incident.

Burnese became the Queen's favourite mount. Her Majesty rode her for many ceremonial duties, including 18 consecutive Birthday Parades. She also rode the well-tempered horse for pleasure.

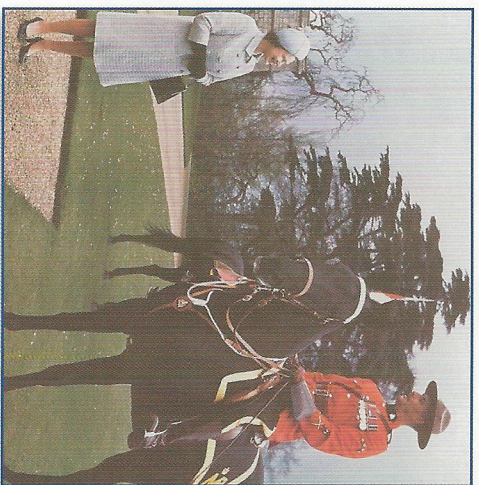


Photo: RCMP archives
Her Majesty is presented with Burnese at Windsor Castle in April, 1969.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the Throne on February 6, 1952, following the death of her father King George VI. Her Coronation took place on June 2, 1953.

In honour of the 50th Anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the Province of Saskatchewan established a Golden Jubilee Statue Committee. Its mandate was the creation of a bronze statue of Her Majesty The Queen riding her favourite horse, Burnese.

Saskatchewan sculptor Susan Velder was commissioned to create a larger than life bronze equestrian statue. The statue is located in the Queen Elizabeth II Gardens on the grounds of the Legislative Building in Regina. It was unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen on May 18, 2005, during the Province's Centennial Year.

"Burnese's (story) from prairie to palace reads like a fairy tale."

*The Horses of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
William and Nora Kelly, 1984*

In 1967, Canada's Centennial year, Burnese performed so well that she became the lead horse for the Musical Ride, ridden by the most experienced rider of the group.

Burnese was presented to the Honorary Commissioner of the RCMP, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, at a ceremony at Windsor Castle in April 1969. Only six weeks later the Queen rode Burnese in the Trooping of the Colour Parade.



Photo: Saskatchewan Provincial Secretary
Her Majesty The Queen unveiling her equestrian statue on May 18, 2005.

Burmese was the only horse the Queen rode for the Trooping of the Colour from 1969 until the horse retired in 1986. The Queen stopped riding a horse for her birthday parades and instead has ridden in a carriage ever since.

As soon as Burmese retired the Queen gave instructions that her favourite horse was to spend the rest of her life in a pasture at Windsor Castle. The Queen chose the particular pasture so she could see her long-time friend when she spent time at the castle. Burmese died in 1990 and was buried in the grounds of Windsor Castle at the request of Her Majesty.



Burmese was the lead horse in the 1968 RCMP Musical Ride.

The Golden Jubilee Statue Committee

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Mrs. Irene White, MVO, *former Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor*

The project of an equestrian statue of the Queen was announced in December 2001 by Lieutenant Governor Lynda Haverstock and Premier Lorne Calvert at Government House, Regina, Saskatchewan.

The Committee acknowledges the suggestion from Dr. Euan Nisbet of Great Britain that an equestrian statue of the Queen be created.

Thank you for viewing the equestrian statue of Her Majesty The Queen. We invite you to tell family and friends about it. If you are a visitor to Regina we extend you a sincere Saskatchewan welcome and hope that you will return again.



The Queen's Golden Jubilee Statue



Photo: Gary Robbins



A unique Saskatchewan story.