



soléa



*The legendary rocker **Bruce Springsteen** wore Dubarry boots while performing at this spring's Glastonbury Festival in Somerset, England.*

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Dubarry of Ireland Boots
From the Boss to the Queen
by Paula McCooley, Ottawa Citizen

It's a stretch to say the Queen of England and Bruce Springsteen share the same sense of style, but look down at their feet and you'll see they have something in common. Both Her Majesty and the Boss wear the coveted Dubarry of Ireland boots, known as durable, yet fashionable outdoor and equestrian footwear.

Designed to be lightweight and waterproof, the boots are equipped to withstand harsh Canadian winters. They are made with high-quality leather and breathable Gore-Tex lining (which adds to the cost of the boot) to keep feet warm and dry.

Ian Colquhoun, owner of Solea in Ottawa, carries Dubarry leisure and riding boots, worn by the likes of the Queen and Bruce Springsteen. Shoe retailer Ian Colquhoun says Dubarry boots are "all the rave" in European fashion magazines, typically known to be the trailblazers of haute couture.

"Presently, it is the 'it' boot in Europe," says Colquhoun, who also wears Dubarrys.

"And the equestrian look is big as well. (These boots have) some cachet to them. And it's interesting because it is blending fashion with wearability, whether people are riding or gardening or just wading through snow and ice. "Your feet stay warm, dry and comfortable."

Word has it the Queen donned the elegant boots at an equestrian event after she had her assistant--who has the same foot size--shop for her, says Colquhoun. "The Queen is never personally fitted, but she sends one of her ladies-in-waiting with the exact same-sized foot and shape" to buy her boots, he says.

As for the Boss, the legendary rocker wore Dubarry boots while performing at this spring's Glastonbury Festival in Somerset, England.

Based in Ireland, Dubarry has been designing and making leather boots and shoes for men and women for the past 70 years.

Its roots, however, were in nautical wear, including deck shoes and sailing boots.

"Dubarry began really, as a nautical shoe company and then they went into the riding boot, and the equestrian boot and that city/country-style boot," says Colquhoun.