

DOWN THE STRETCH

CANADA'S MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING HORSE RACING NEWSPAPER

World's fastest harness horse
Page 6



(Lisa Photo)

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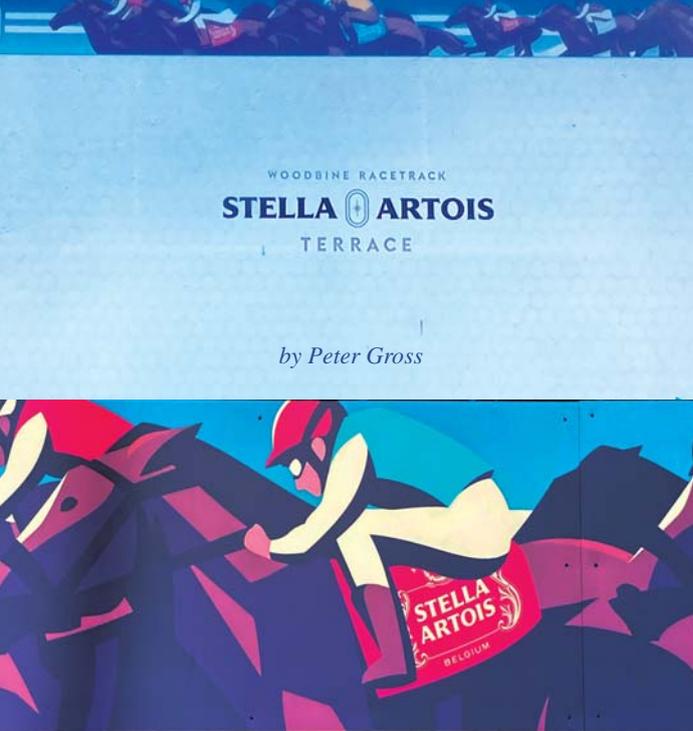
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On August 4, a warm afternoon at Woodbine, a few hundred lucky souls – the editor of this paper included – were treated to the grand opening of the Stella Artois Terrace at Woodbine. The renovated patio has three levels looking out over the finish line, and the idea, clearly, is to enjoy the races while imbibing and tasting great food.

Woodbine CEO Jim Lawson was beaming because he believes this is the future of the sport – a place for young people to experience horse racing, maybe for the first time, and have that experience heightened in a comfortable setting abetted by delicious refreshments.

“We’re doing a special launch today of this new patio at Woodbine,” said Lawson. “It’s been a collaboration between Labatt’s and their Stella Artois brand and Woodbine. The whole intent is to bring out a new group of

fans to Woodbine.”

When a new project is unveiled, a special onus falls on the shoulders of a precious few. How could any future visitor to Woodbine fully grasp the taste sensations offered at the Stella Artois Terrace if there wasn’t someone noble and altruistic enough to take the first bite – or bites?

So in my true humble fashion, I wheeled the giant shrimp and the oysters on a half shell. When the guy came by with the chicken and peanuts over a bed of thin Asian noodles, I keyed three plates just to assure I was working with a winner. A beautiful woman presented a plate of brisket sliders. Like Pink Lloyd inhaling his opponents in the final furlong, I swallowed two of them in near record time.

The menu offers more feasting opportunities – charcuterie and cheese, steaks, ribs, pasta, chicken wings, nachos, fish tacos, onion rings and lettuce wraps. Desserts include warm banana chocolate cake, hot fudge and hibiscus sundae, and double chocolate Godiva cheesecake.

“There’s no comparison,” insists Lawson. “This is the best patio in the city of Toronto, and we are very confident that we will market it, and we will bring a whole new set of fans to enjoy horse racing. What we are attempting to do here is build this sport for the future and the only way you’re going to do that is to expose the younger demographic to horse racing.”

Among the featured guests were Premier Doug Ford who is the elected MPP for Etobicoke North, which includes the Woodbine property, and Olympic 200 metre gold medalist, Andre de Grasse.





Olympic Gold Medalist Andre de Grasse and Participation Ribbon winner Peter de Grosse

Mark Twain has been famously quoted as saying “the reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.”

I’m not sure if that applies to horse racing, but since our last issue, many events and results prove just how resilient this sport can be. Virtually every page in this month’s version is part of the overwhelming evidence.

Of course, the 163rd Queen’s Plate went down at Woodbine on August 21 and once again, we saw a result that reinforces a theme of this paper – horse racing is the only sport in which females regularly defeat the males. Moira’s win in the Plate was not only awesome in scope, but it was also the fastest of all, eclipsing the 162 that went before. Our coverage is on page 4.

Moira’s win puts her several lengths ahead in Sovereign voting for Horse of the Year. She probably already clinched 3-Year-Old Filly honours with her massive crush job in the Woodbine Oaks (page 13).

The best metric for measuring where horse racing is at is the betting handle – it demonstrates both the level of

popularity and the relevance of the sport. Look at these recent totals from Woodbine:

Friday, July 15	\$4,425,236
Saturday, July 16	\$6,124,379
Sunday, July 17	\$5,705,533
Sunday, July 24	\$10,140,502 (Plate Trial & Oaks day)
Saturday, July 30	\$5,758,101
Saturday, August 6	\$6,115,441
Sunday August 21	\$13,619,069 (Queen’s Plate day)

Another indicator is how much money the horses run for. Since our last issue, several millions of dollars have been pursed out, not just in Stakes races, but in allowance, claims, and maiden special weights that all offered more than \$100,000.

We needed 3 pages (10-12) to fit in all the Woodbine Stakes of recent vintage. We give props there to Patrick Husbands, Kazushi Kimura, Emma-Jayne Wilson, Rafael Hernandez, Roger Attfield, Luis Contreras, David Moran, Justin Stein, Eswan Flores, Sahin Civaci and Antonio

Gallardo.

Harness racing has had a spectacular several weeks, the star of which has to be Canadian-owned Bulldog Hanover (page 6) who put together the greatest 4 races of all time, culminating in a world record victory in the Meadowlands Pace.

This paper has a journalistic obligation to cover the best in the sport – the winningest jockeys, trainers and owners, but it’s also pertinent to discover the next generation of talent. So enjoy the set of 5 “first-timers” that we document on pages 16-18: Micah Husbands, Miguel Nicholls, Nikki Hein, Amanda Vandermeersch and Paige Austin, all securing that important “first” moment in their careers.

What does that last paragraph tell you? In any given race, there’s more than a handful of jockeys who can win at Woodbine.

As in every issue, this one has our Owners of the Month. On the thoroughbred side, the wins don’t come often for Terry and Brandon Greer (page 19), but when they do, the tote board gets excited. Jim Bullock (page 20) gave an exciting interview after he was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame as a “builder” on the standardbred side. And Quarter Horse owner, Amélie Aubut (page 21) is having a great summer at Ajax Downs, even if she has to watch the races from Quebec.

Thanks to the pandemic, Canadian Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies were suspended last year, so this year was a double celebration. See page 14.

If only for the great jockey that the award is named after, winning the Avelino Gomez Memorial is a wonderful honour, and this year’s deserving recipient, Slade Callaghan expresses his gratitude on page 22.

Spectacular evidence of the growth of horse racing can be seen in the expansion at Woodbine, where a hotel and music hall and several thousand more square feet of gaming space are coming along nicely. *Down The Stretch* had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the Stella Artois Terrace (page 2), which takes over 3 levels right at the finish line at Woodbine. We recommend the brisket sliders and the peanut chicken.

Have a look at page 9. This is where we stock the most amusing side of the sport, but the pencil drawing of a harness horse by Jessica Hallett is brilliant and unusual.

And unusual is what we like to fill our Oddities and Entities with (page 26). Wiener dogs, ostriches and racing buffalos fit that bill, along with a trotter committing petty theft during a race.

And just to punch home our theme that horse racing is alive, breathing, and still thrilling, the Queen’s Plate is often referred to as North America’s longest continually run horse race. It has been conducted in each of the last 163 years, without succumbing to World Wars, pandemics, depressions, soaring gas prices, casinos, or dim-witted politics.

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The Fastest Plate Ever: Moira Was Awesome!



Michael Burns Photo

For a few moments, just before the field for the 163rd Queen's Plate started curving into the far turn, the filly Moira seemed too far out of it. She was 7th as Ironstone (Kazushi Kimura) and The Minkster ((David Moran) were involved in a duel, some 3 lengths ahead of the rest of the field. But it was at that point in time that Rafael Hernandez gave Moira her cue, and the filly's response was historic. By the time the field had straightened out, the leaders' advantage was gone, as Moira loomed up in the middle of the track. In the final 8th, it was an unfair fight as Moira danced away from the others and won by 7 lengths in 2:01.48 – the fastest Queen's Plate ever. Hall of Dreams (Patrick Husbands) was second and Plate Trial winner, Sir for Sure (Declan Carroll) came 3rd. Both of those horses are trained by Mark Casse.

The win assures that Moira will not only be voted the

Sovereign as best 3-year-old in Canada, she will also romp in the Horse of the Year poll. That tends to happen when you win the Oaks by 10 and the Plate by 7.

Owned by X-Men Racing LLC, Madaket Stables LLC, and SF Racing LLC, and trained by Kevin Attard, the bay, under Rafael Hernandez, was at the top of her game, posting a track and Plate record time of 2:01.48.

This was the 2nd Plate victory for jockey Hernandez. He won with Frank Stronach's Shaman Ghost in 2015, but that year he was recruited from south of the border for the assignment. Since then, Hernandez has ridden full-time at Woodbine and is now a Canadian citizen.

"It's unbelievable," said Hernandez. "You know, with good horses, you can get out of trouble so quick and always get a second or third gear like her. We sat off, saved ground, and when you want to get out of the horses in front of you, you just move out, and she gave me everything. She gave me another gear, and when we turned for home, she was unbelievable. She's something else. She is so special."

As Moira surged all alone to the finish line, Hernandez was thinking of a special person in his life.

"This win is for my grandmother, who died recently," he said. "Canada is my home now, and all my family enjoyed the moment," he continued. "And to be the first one for Kevin, it makes it so special."

Kevin, of course is Kevin Attard, and we have to wonder if finally winning the Queen's Plate will inspire Sovereign voters to place him ahead of Mark Casse in the Outstanding Trainer category at the end of the year.

Before this one, the closest Attard had come to a Queen's Plate win was in 2007 when Alezzandro finished 2nd to

Mike Fox."

"Been down this path with a few horses that I thought I've had chances with," said Attard. "Obviously, I was really excited today with this filly. But it's just such a hard race to win and you don't know. But you know, I'm here now and I got this trophy in my hand. I worked really hard. I have great staff. And it's just a great moment and I'm so happy right now."

With the win, Moira, bred by Adena Springs, became the eighth filly to notch the Oaks-Plate double, joining such greats as Dance Smartly, Flaming Page, Holy Helena, Inglorious, and Lexie Lou.

Moira has won all three of her races this year and is now 4-1-0 from five career starts. She is the 38th filly to beat the boys in the Plate. Tradition dictates that fillies get a 5-pound break in weight in the Queen's Plate, but in retrospect, that seems like an unnecessary advantage for such a great horse.

Donato Lanni is the point man for X-Men Racing and he gave props to Attard.

"You know Kevin. He's the best," praised Lanni. "I've known Kevin since '04, and he's an unbelievable trainer. His training staff is just phenomenal. Everybody employed is phenomenal."

As the second betting choice behind Rondure at 7-5, Moira paid \$5.60.

The \$400,000 Prince of Wales Stakes, a 1 ³/₁₆ mile race over Fort Erie's dirt oval on September 13, is the next race in the tri-surface OLG Canadian Triple Crown series, which concludes with the \$400,000 Breeders' Stakes at 1 ¹/₂ miles over Woodbine's E.P. Taylor Turf Course on October 2.

Wando, in 2003, was the last horse to sweep the series, and the seventh since its inception in 1959.

\$150,000 Sweet Briar Stakes

A field of 6 fillies and mares travelled 6 ¹/₂ furlongs on the Tapeta, and it was Hazelbrook sweeping past late for the win under Jason Hoyte, winning by about ³/₄ of a length in 1:16.14. Hazelbrook is owned by the True North Stable and is trained by Lorne Richards. This was her 5th win in 7 starts, good for a \$7 win ticket.

\$240,000 Canadian Stakes

This race at a mile and an 8th on the turf attracted 8 fillies and mares and it produced a wonderful finish. The favourite, Crystal Cliffs (Rafael Hernandez) came from off

\$240,000 King Edward Stakes



Filo Di Arianna

Michael Burns Photo

This one also had a compact field of 6 going a mile on the grass, and leading rider Kazushi Kimura notched his 2nd win on the card with a front-running strategy aboard Filo Di Arianna. The 6-year-old horse fired off the first 6 furlongs in 1:10.12 and just kept galloping, cruising home by 2 lengths in 1:34.69. Mark Casse trains for Gary Barber, Wachtel Stable and Peter Deutsch. Filo Di Arianna has raced 9 times and won 7. Based on that strike rate, the win price of \$4.40 was pretty good.



Michael Burns Photo

the pace to challenge the leaders Fev Rover (Patrick Husbands) with about ³/₁₆ this to go, and shortly before the wire, Crystal Cliffs got her head in front. At the wire, the heads bobbed, and Hernandez, believing his filly had bobbed at just the right moment, punched the air in victory. However, after examining the photo, the judges gave the win to Fev Rover by much less than a nose. Tracy Farmer is the owner and Mark Casse got his 2nd Stakes win of the afternoon, pointing out in the post race interview that he and Husbands have teamed up for about 1,500 wins. Fev Rover, a 4-year-old filly won for the 3rd time in 13 tries and paid \$11.10.

Woodbine Stars of the Month for June

The Woodbine Stars of the Month recognizes top performers in three categories (Horse, Trainer, Jockey/Driver) for live racing at Woodbine Racetrack and Woodbine Mohawk Park. The “Stars” are selected by the Woodbine Communications Team, and consideration for selection is based on statistics, significant wins, notable career accomplishments and milestones.

STANDARD BRED

Horse: Pebble Beach



A dominant victory in the 39th Pepsi North America Cup earned Pebble Beach the honours for the month of June. The Noel Daley trainee went a perfect three for three at Woodbine Mohawk Park in June, winning a division of the Somebeachsomewhere and the elimination/final of the Pepsi North America Cup.

Trainer: Shawn Steacy



Trainer
Shawn Steacy

Shawn Steacy’s barn was red-hot in June, posting 12 wins and 23 top-three finishes from 46 starts. Top performers included sophomore pacing filly In The Mood, who captured a \$199,900 OSS Gold on June 4, and three-year-old trotting filly Warrawee Xenia, who went a perfect three for three.

Driver: Doug McNair



Doug McNair

Doug McNair made 22 trips to the winner’s circle during the month of June. McNair led all Woodbine regular drivers in June by finishing in the top-three in 53% of his drives (68/129).

THOROUGHBRED

Horse: The Minkster



The Minkster

The Minkster, trained by Danny Vella captured the Queenston Stakes on June 12 in his season debut to stamp himself as a top contender for this year’s Queen’s Plate.

Trainer: Mike Doyle



Captivating Art for trainer Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle sent out four winners in the month of June, and notably 12 of his 17 starters in the month finished in the top three (71%). Doyle’s winners in June were Blue Max, Entry to Heaven, Silent Flash and Captivating Art.

Jockey: Rafael Hernandez



Rafael Hernandez

Sporting a 20% winning percentage, Rafael Hernandez made 19 trips to the winner’s circle in June. Hernandez finished top-three in 39 starts and racked up earnings of \$814,350 from 94 mounts.

The Amazing Month of Bulldog Hanover



Bulldog Hanover: Fastest harness horse ever

On a steamy July 16 night at The Meadowlands, the 4-year-old Bulldog Hanover towed Dexter Dunn first over to the lead and simply paced away to victory in the \$500,000 William Haughton Memorial, stopping the clock in 1:45.4, the fastest mile ever paced.

This capped a remarkable stretch of 4 races in the span of 22 days, in which Bulldog Hanover won all 4. He was clocked in 1:47 on June 25, winning a leg of the Graduate Series. The next week, stomping rivals in a division of the Roll With Joe Stakes, Bulldog Hanover tied the existing record of 1:46. He followed that with an emphatic 1:46.1 win in the Graduate Final. With the 1:45.4 victory in the Haughton, Bulldog Hanover has put together 4 sensational and unprecedented miles.

The Bulldog's world record is even more special because of the way he did it. He didn't rally with cover from off the pace as front-runners faded. Dexter Dunn gunned Bulldog Hanover out from post 7, but Rockyroad Hanover (Todd McCarthy) left a little faster from the 9 slot. Bulldog had to grind it out and didn't clear to the front until just before

the half in a blistering :53. Rockyroad Hanover stayed brave in second, but when Bulldog Hanover paced his last quarter in a stunning :25.4, history was made, and the margin of victory was 2 lengths.

"There it is!" roared announcer Ken Warkentin. "The fastest mile in harness racing history. It doesn't get any better than that. Wow!"

Bulldog Hanover is owned by Canadians Jack Darling and Brad Grant. Darling is the regular trainer, but for the 4 races at The Meadowlands, Noah Daley prepared the horse and Daley easily conceded he'd never seen anything like it. "That's the amazing part of it. A lot of good horses can go a quick mile. To go four times in a row, four weeks in a row, is unbelievable," said Daley, "He's a special horse. We've only had him to look after for the month, which has been great. He came down in good order. Obviously, he's liked it down here. Just to be able to back up like he does is unbelievable."

Winning driver Dunn did not despair when he was forced to work the Bulldog first over for the opening half mile. "I knew there was going to be some speed inside and outside of us," Dunn said. "Todd came across in front of me in the first turn with Rockyroad, and I had a good helmet to follow all the way around the first turn and a hot first quarter. Once Todd crossed over, the big fella got clear air and was marching on after that."

It turns out Dunn was more concerned with a pesky horse in second than setting a world record. "I wasn't really fighting the timer," he said. "I was fighting off Rockyroad in the stretch. Then the time popped up. He's just an amazing animal. It's just a pleasure to sit behind

him. I just sit on my bum and enjoy the ride with him." Bulldog Hanover is a son of Shadow Play out of BJ's Squall. He was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms.

At the end of the year, voters for both the O'Brien Award in Canada and the Dan Patch trophies in the U.S. will not be able to avoid the incredible accomplishments of Bulldog Hanover in that 22 day span. There's a lot of racing left in 2022, but it says here that the Bulldog will be honoured on both sides of the border as Horse of the Year.

In fact, it was just one bad race in 2021 that cost Bulldog Hanover the O'Brien Award as Horse of the Year in Canada. He came into the \$1 Million North America Cup off 6 wins in 7 races and went off as the 3-5 favourite. He led into the stretch, but uncharacteristically slowed in the stretch, allowing 3 horses to pass him. Desperate Man was the winner and was subsequently anointed Horse of the Year.

"That was the most disappointing moment in my racing career," admitted Darling. "I really don't know what happened that night. The only thing I can come up with is that Bulldog Hanover doesn't like a loose track. That night it was windy, and it dried out the track. Jody (Jamieson) did say afterwards he was spinning his wheels afterward. It was one of those nights when the track was a little bit off and I think it affected him. That was the only time he disappointed me in a race. It was just bad timing."

Bulldog Hanover paid \$2.40 in the Meadowlands Pace. Three weeks later he crushed a field in the \$315,000 Dan Patch Stakes at Hoosier Downs in a leisurely 1:48.1. That was his 8th straight win and in the span of 59 days, Bulldog Hanover earned \$629,000, a tad more than the \$2.40 he returned at Hoosier.

Record Longshot in the Hambletonian



On a perfect August 6 summer afternoon at the Meadowlands, a spectacular card of racing culminated in the biggest upset in the 97 year history of the Hambletonian, the definitive race for 3-year-old trotters.

Cool Papa Bell went off at 52-1 for driver Todd McCarthy who delivered a patient drive. It was the filly, Joviality S with Brian Sears who took the field past the quarter pole in a nicely measured :28. Before the half, the 3-5 favourite Rebuff (Tim Tetrick) was on top, and the field reached the half mile mark in :55.3. At that point, Cool Papa Bell was 5th along the inside, but McCarthy was able to drift into the middle of the track, and in a mad scramble in the last 16th of a mile, Cool Papa Bell

passed all the leaders to win by about ¾ of a length over Joviality S with Temporal Hanover (Örjan Kihlström) in 3rd. Rebuff relented in deep stretch and finished 6th. The mile was timed in 1:51.3.

A \$2 win ticket was worth \$106, by far the biggest win price in Hambletonian history. The previous record was the \$57 generated by Amigo Hall in 2003. Even though Joviality S was the second choice at 2.90-1, the 6-2 exactor was \$640.40, and a \$2 tri kicked back \$3,106.60. There was a sensational pick-4 payoff ending with Cool Papa Bell. Anyone holding a \$1 ticket on the 4 winners cashed \$10,072.10.

Cool Papa Bell is owned by Scott Farber, who is a lifelong baseball fan. His Hambo champion is named after James Thomas Bell – the Cool Papa Bell of the Negro leagues who was famous for his blazing speed.

"Satchel Paige said Bell was so fast that he would flip a light switch and before the light was off, he would be in bed under the covers," joked Farber who dreamed of having a trotter with such exceptional speed.

The winning trainer, Jim Campbell has performed for many years in the shadow of his older brother John, who holds the record of 6 winning drives in the Hambletonian, among endless other racing accomplishments. But Jim had an amazing day at The Meadowlands. Three races before the Hambletonian, he sent out Fashion Schooner to win

the Hambletonian Oaks for fillies and she did it the hard way, leaving from post 10 and pulling Tim Tetrick all the way around to win by over 2 lengths in 1:51.2, which was actually about a length faster than Cool Papa Bell went. The only other trainers to win both the Hambletonian and the Hambletonian Oaks are Jimmy Takter (2014 & 2015) and Jan Johnson (1988).

"It's unbelievable," said Campbell. "It's something that I never dreamed could happen because it's so hard to get a horse to get into one of the races. To come out and win both of them, I'm just very blessed. I've gone out of here many nights when things didn't go good. I'd get in my truck and be mad. A day like today erases any bad day I've ever had in horse racing."

Campbell also won the Hambletonian in 1995 with Tagliabue, named for then NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue. John Campbell drove that winner.

Now let's get back to the owner, Farber. After his historic harness racing win, he was thinking out loud about pulling off an unprecedented double – winning the Kentucky Derby less than a year after winning the Hambletonian.

"I'm a goal-oriented guy, and I always said once I won the Hambletonian I'd move my focus to the Kentucky Derby," said Farber. "So I'll start rallying the troops and figure out how to do that."

From a long involvement in harness races, there have been many great thrills, but now we get to wake up every day, knowing we own the fastest horse in harness racing history.

RACE 10	
WIN	77,853
PLACE	22,831
SHOW	50,662
EX	122,525
TRI	98,050
PICK3	23,815
SPR	69,931
TOTAL	465,667

7 BULLDOG HANOVER
DRIVER: DEXTER DUNN TRAINER: NOEL DALEY
OWNER: JACK DARLING STABLES LTD, ON, CA & BRADLEY J GRANT, ON, CA

Bulldog Hanover - 1:45.4 at the Meadowlands to win the William Haughton Memorial on July 16, 2022

Jack Darling

Bradley Grant

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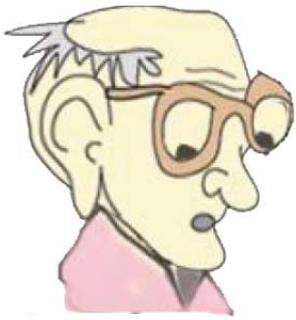
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That was anything but a cheesy smile driver James MacDonald gave Bob McClure after McClure got by at the finish line with Cheesy Smile to win a leg of the OSS Grassroots.



WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK

Garnet Barnsdale @gocashking · 4h
Great shot!
1 2

James MacDonald @Jamesomac26 · 4h
I don't care much for it myself! Lol
2 9

Doug McNair @Dmcnair12 · 1h
He's not used to losing.
1 3

Bob McClure @BobMcClure2
Replying to @Dmcnair12 @gocashking and 6 others
Didn't even answer when I asked if he hung on for second....

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JACOB CUTTING (21) **POMPANO BEACH** (4)
LAST 5 STARTS \$5,225
7-23 #111gnd 8700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-17 # 77gnd 8700 R 83 L W2-NMS 264 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-10 #102gnd 8700 R 78 L W2-NMS 271 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-3 # 77gnd 8700 R 83 L W2-NMS 289 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-12 # 77gnd 8700 R 73 L W2-NMS 274 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-5 # 67gnd 8700 R 73 L W2-NMS 274 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1

COREY BRADEN (20) **LUCKY RAMSEY** (2)
LAST 5 STARTS \$3,320
7-23 #111gnd 8700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-17 # 77gnd 8700 R 75 L W2-NMS 271 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-3 # 89gnd 5700 R 88 L W2-NMS 271 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-19 # 95gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 271 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-11 # 45gnd 5700 R 71 L W2-NMS 271 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1

JUSTIN HUCKABONE (21) **BEACHMASTER TWO** (3)
LAST 5 STARTS \$2,100
7-23 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-17 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-10 # 77gnd 5700 R 78 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-4 # 57gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-25 # 57gnd 5700 R 89 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-19 # 45gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1

BRANDON PARKER (21) **CHEESEHEAD** (4)
LAST 5 STARTS \$3,320
7-17 # 89gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-10 #113gnd 8000 R 71 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-4 # 81gnd 8000 R 71 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-5 #119gnd 5700 R 89 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
5-29 #147gnd 5700 R 73 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1

AANON BYRON (21) **ADAYON THE BAY** (5)
LAST 5 STARTS \$2,100
7-23 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-17 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-10 # 77gnd 5700 R 78 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-4 # 57gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-25 # 57gnd 5700 R 89 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-19 # 45gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1

WALTER COLLEVEY (21) **MY BLUEBERRY BUCK** (6)
LAST 5 STARTS \$2,100
7-23 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-17 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-10 # 77gnd 5700 R 78 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-4 # 57gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-25 # 57gnd 5700 R 89 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-19 # 45gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1

ANGART JR (21) **GO WITH THE FLOW** (7)
LAST 5 STARTS \$2,100
7-23 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-17 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-10 # 77gnd 5700 R 78 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-4 # 57gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-25 # 57gnd 5700 R 89 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-19 # 45gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1

ERIC DRIVING (21) **CENTURY ENFORCER** (8)
LAST 5 STARTS \$2,100
7-23 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-17 # 85gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-10 # 77gnd 5700 R 78 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
7-4 # 57gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-25 # 57gnd 5700 R 89 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1
6-19 # 45gnd 5700 R 83 L W2-NMS 291 5 4 1 4 1 3 7 1 3 2 1

TRACKMAN SELECTIONS: 4-7-3-6

J. Hallett

Did the bottom horse win by a ... tongue?



Some people fill their programs with endless scribbles, updated odds, notes on the side, exclamation marks and indecipherable numbers, but artist/photographer Jessica Hallett did this beautiful sketch on her program before the 8th race on July 31 at Tioga Downs. Her friends, Elizabeth and Cynthia Allers own the 4-horse, Cheesehead, a 4 year-old son of Betterthancheddar who was bred by Robert McIntosh. Cheesehead went off at 7-5 and was driven to victory by Brandon Parker. It was his 3rd career win in his 11th race and the Allers had a wonderful and original artistic souvenir from their horse's victory.

Woodbine Stakes

June 26: \$100,000 Ballade Stakes:



Artie's Princess

A big field of 12 fillies and mares contested this race at 6 furlongs on the Tapeta. The crowd felt strongly about Artie's Princess who went off at 75 cents to the dollar. Under Patrick Husbands, the 5-year-old mare took charge almost immediately and led after a quarter in :22.10. After a half in a brisk :44.49, the lead was a length, and Artie's Princess was not going to be caught. She opened up in the stretch, and with a final quarter of :12.51, she was 3 lengths clear of the runner-up, Lorena (Gary Boulanger). The race was timed in 1:09.35.

This was the 6th win in 10 starts for Artie's Princess who is trained by Gulfstream champion Saffie Joseph and owned by Ken Ramsay. Artie's Princess paid \$3.50.

July 1: \$180,000 Dominion Day Stakes:



Frosted Over

A field of 7 battled through a mile and an 8th on Canada Day. Defending Horse of the Year, Mighty Heart led most of the way for Justin Stein, but had little punch in the straight as Frosted Over and Kazushi Kimura converted a stalking trip into an authoritative win, powering away in the final 8th of a mile to win by almost 5 lengths in 1:49.46. Frosted Over is a 4-year-old colt, trained by Mark Casse for Gary Barber. This was his 4th win in 10 starts and he paid \$8.20.

July 2: \$180,000 Selene Stakes:

After the fact, you have to ask – how did Souper Hoity Toity go off at 8-1 in a small field at a mile and a 16th? Under Patrick Husbands, the 3-year-old filly overcame a 6-wide challenge into the first turn, relaxed down the backstretch, was 2nd coming into the stretch, and ground down the favourite, Catiche (Kazushi Kimura) late in the lane to win by ¾ of a length in 1:45.11. Factor in how many times Husbands and trainer Mark Casse combine for Stakes wins at Woodbine with the fact that Souper



Super Hoity Toity

Hoity Toity had already won 2 of her first 4 races – that makes the \$18 win price a gift. Souper Hoity Toity is owned by Live Oak Plantation.

July 2: \$210,000 Nassau Stakes:



Lady Speightspeare and Crystal Cliffs dead-heated

There was a rarity in this Grade 2 one mile turf race for fillies and mares – a dead heat for the win. Lady Speightspeare and Emma-Jayne Wilson did most of the heavy lifting, leading the field of 11 from the start, carving out decent fractions of :23.26, 45.85 and 1:08.46 for the first 6 furlongs. Lady Speightspeare led Our Flash Drive



(Patrick Husbands) by a contested neck entering the stretch, and Rafael Hernandez had Crystal Cliffs rallying from mid-pack. Neither Lady Speightspeare nor Crystal Cliffs were going to quit and the two hit the wire together. The stewards declared a dead heat, and that is how Lady Speightspeare's trainer, Roger Attfield recorded his 2,000th victory. Lady Speightspeare is owned by Charles Fipke, and she paid \$3.80 to win. Crystal Cliffs, owned by Michael Dubb, Madaket Stables and Wonder Stables and trained by H. Graham Motion paid \$4.20.

July 2: \$240,000 Highlander Stakes:



Bound for Nowhere

Eleven older horses lined up to go 6 furlongs on the E.P.Taylor Turf, though Voodoo Zip (David Moran), the 2-1 favourite, did not have sufficient zip and finished 5th. Fast early fractions of :21.84 and :44.25 allowed Bound for Nowhere and visitor Pablo Morales to rally from 5th at the half, parlaying a 4-wide move into the stretch into a 1-length win at the wire in 1:08.01. Bound for Nowhere shipped in for Wesley Ward who trains and owns. Now an 8-year-old mare, Bound For Nowhere has actually been just about everywhere. This was her 9th win in 20 starts. She has also won at Keeneland, Kentucky Downs, Belmont, and the Fair Grounds with a 3rd in 2018 in the Grade 1 Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Ascot. Bound For Nowhere paid \$13.

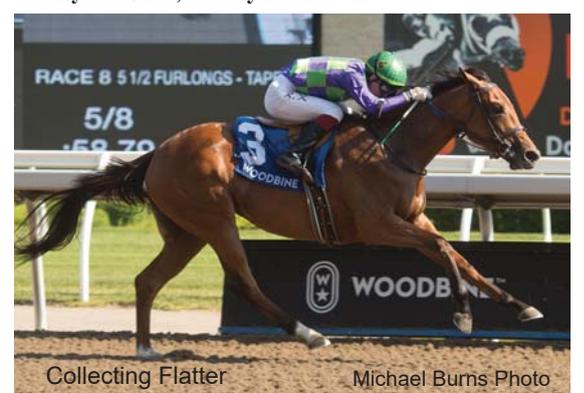
July 9: \$100,000 Alywow Stakes:



Majestic d'Oro

A field of nine 3-year-old fillies had to run 6 ½ furlongs on the grass in this one. The early pace was very brisk as Marie MacKay (Justin Stein) led through taxing splits of :22.54 and :44.61. That set it up for the come from behinders, and Rafael Hernandez rallied Majestic D'Oro from 7th down the backstretch to the lead as the field turned for home. Gal in a Rush (Kazushi Kimura) was also moving late, but had to settle for second, 1 ¼ lengths behind the winner, Majestic D'Oro. This was the filly's 9th career race, her 3rd victory, and her first appearance at Woodbine. She is trained by Brendan Walsh for Maribeth Sandford, and she paid \$13.40.

July 16: \$150,000 My Dear Stakes:



Collecting Flatter

Michael Burns Photo

Only five 2-year-olds contested this 5 ½ furlong Tapeta race, and Ivan Dalos was the owner of 2 of them – the favourite, Collecting Flatter and Speedy River. Dalos might have been concerned to see both his fillies go at it from the start. They were 1-2 through fractions of :23.36 and :45.73, but in the stretch, they were well clear of the rest of the field, as Collecting Flatter (Kazushi Kimura) was the strongest to the wire, winning by 1 ½ lengths in 1:05.22, with Speedy River and Luis Contreras in second.

That was Collecting Flatter's 2nd win in 2 starts. She is trained by Josie Carroll who notched her 3rd win on the card. Collecting Flatter paid \$5.80.

July 17: \$125,000 Victoria Stakes:



Michael Burns Photo

A field of six 2-year-olds contested this race at 5 ½ furlongs on the Tapeta. Luis Contreras realized early he had a ton of horse under him as Poulin in O T glided to the front down the backstretch, opened up more than 2 lengths on his rivals and stormed down the stretch, completely in command, defeating the even-money favourite, Battle Strike (Rafael Hernandez) by more than 3 comfortable lengths in 1:04.71.

Poulin in O T remained perfect in his career after a maiden-breaking score in his debut at 4½ panels. The 2-year-old gelding is named after Marie-Philippe Poulin who scored the overtime goal giving Canada the gold medal at the 2021 Women's World Hockey Championships.

Poulin in O T is trained by Steve Owens who shares the horse with Empress Stable. The win ticket was worth \$8.50.

July 23, \$210,000 Connaught Cup Stakes:

For this 7 furlong turf race, Luis Contreras picked up the mount on Filo Di Arianna because Kazushi Kimura had been injured in a fall the day before. Hopefully, Contreras will be taking his fellow jockey out for a steak dinner. Filo Di Arianna, a 6-year-old horse had the lead by the quarter, and with splits of :46.25 and 1:08.70 had plenty left for the final panel, winning handily by 2 ½ lengths in 1:20.36. That's just over a second off the course record of 1:19.22. Filo Di Arianna is trained by Mark Casse and owned by Gary Barber, Peter Deutsch and Wachtel Stable. He won his first 3 races in Brazil, ran the win streak to 4 when he shipped into Woodbine last June, and improved to 6 wins in 8 races with the Connaught win. Filo Di Arianna means the thread of Arianna and maybe with the \$6.80 win ticket, someone bought a spool of thread.

July 31, \$120,000 Niagara Stakes:

A field of 11 contested this at a mile and a quarter on



Michael Burns Photo

the E.P. Taylor Turf, and halfway through the race, the prospects for Who's the Star under Emma-Jayne Wilson did not seem favourable. The 4-year-old gelding was last and trailed the early leader Town Cruise (Daisuke Fukumoto) by more than 13 lengths. But as the field turned for the home, the long stretch offered the late running Who's the Star the opportunity he needed – Wilson had him on the extreme outside and he was running faster than all the rest. Despite losing her whip in mid-stretch, Wilson rallied Who's the Star to the lead and found the wire ½ a length the best in track record time of 1:59.77. Who's the Star is trained by Mark Casse for M Racing Group. This was his

4th win from 13 starts, and he returned \$29.50 to win.

August 6, \$180,000 Ontario Colleen Stakes:

This one had nine 3-year-old fillies going a mile on the



Michael Burns Photo

turf. The 8-5 favourite, Ladywearsthering (Justin Stein) had the lead as the gang turned for home, and those who bet on Souper Hoity Toity could not possibly be feeling optimistic. Under Patrick Husbands, she appeared disinterested in the turn and was no better than 6th as they turned for home. But as Husbands weaved between horses, Souper Hoity Toity changed gears and was running much the best in the final 16th, passing Vergara (David Moran) just before the wire to win by a head.

Trained by Mark Casse for Live Oak Plantation, Souper Hoity Toity improved to 2 for 2 this year. She opened her season with a win in the Selene Stakes in July. As the second betting choice, she paid \$10.30 to win.

August 12, \$100,000 Lake Huron Stakes:

A small field of five 3-year-old colts and geldings went



Michael Burns Photo

5 furlongs on the inner turf. Silent Runner under David Moran went off as the even-money favourite and ran accordingly, stalking the pace down the backside, taking the lead at the head of the stretch, and winning with authority by 1 ½ lengths in 56.78, just over a second off the course record of 55.40. This was the 4th win in 10 races for Silent Runner who is trained by Mike Doyle and owned by Scott Abbott Racing Stable. The win ticket was \$4.30.

August 12, \$100,000 Lake Georgian Stakes:

The 3-year-old fillies negotiated 5 furlongs on the in-



Michael Burns Photo

ner turf and did it faster than the boys. Justin Stein had the mount on Breathing Fire, the 3-5 choice in the field of 9. Stein watched the pace evolve from 6th down the backstretch, and when he asked for late run, he got lots of it as Breathing Fire shot up the inside with momentum, split rivals in mid-stretch and raced away to win by almost

3 lengths in 56.66. Breathing Fire is owned by Norseman Racing Stable and trained by Sid Attard. She has now won 4 of 8 starts and produced a \$3.40 win price.

August 13, \$180,000 Trillium Stakes:

A field of 12 fillies and mares went a mile and a 16th on



Michael Burns Photo

the Tapeta, and it was the heavy favourite Lady Speightspeare and Emma-Jayne Wilson who did it the best. Wilson had Lady Speightspeare 4th at the half and moving sweetly around the far turn. The 4-year-old filly had the lead as they straightened for the wire, and she got there handily by 1 ¼ lengths in 1:45.75. Lady Speightspeare is now 6 for 11 in her career. She is trained by Roger Attfield for Charles Fipke, and she paid \$4.10

August 13, \$182,000 Bold Venture Stakes:

A large field of 13 contested this one at 6 ½ furlongs on



Michael Burns Photo

the Tapeta, and there were multiple lead changes. In the final furlong, Secret Reserve and Eswan Flores came out of the pack and withstood a late challenge from 2 others to win by ½ a length in 1:16.19. This was the first Woodbine Stakes victory for Flores and the 5th win in 10 tries for Secret Reserve. The 4-year-old gelding is trained by Mike Mattine and owned by Stacey Van Camp and Carlo D'Amato. That was a nice price for a horse that wins half the time – \$22.70 to win.

August 14, \$180,000 Seagram Stakes:

Frosted Over went off as the 3-2 betting choice but



Michael Burns Photo

War Bomber won the battle. Jockey Sahin Civaci put 18-1 shot, War Bomber on the front end, and even through a pretty sharp 6 furlongs in 1:11.74, the 3-year-old was strong to the wire, winning the mile and 16th race by ¾ of a length in 1:43.26. War Bomber has won 5 of 11 races, which doesn't quite explain the \$38.40 win price. He is trained by Norm McKnight for Bruno Schickedanz.

August 14, \$250,000 Bison Stakes:

A compact field of just five 3-year-old fillies contested



Sister Seagull

Michael Burns Photo

this one at a mile and a 16th. Sister Seagull, a winner of just 1 race previously was bet down to 8-5 and she got a timely ride from Antonio Gallardo, powering through the stretch to win by a neck in 1:44.48. Catherine Day Phillips trains for Sean and Dorothy Fitzhenry, and with her second win in 7 tries, Sister Seagull returned \$5.40.

August 20, \$150,000 Catch A Glimpse Stakes:



Philip My Dear

Michael Burns Photo

It might have been hard to catch a glimpse of Philip My Dear early, but at the end of 6 ½ furlongs on the grass, Kazushi Kimura had the 2 year-old colt flying, rallying from 8th of 10 down the backstretch to win by ¾ of a length in 1:16.31. Philip My Dear is trained by Kevin Attard for Raroma Stable and this was his 2nd win in 2 tries. He paid \$4.30.

August 20, \$150,000 Soaring Free Stakes:



Michael Burns Photo

Antonio Gallardo gave Cairo Consort a well-timed ride, surging from 7th in the field of 12 after a half to gobble up rivals in the stretch for a 2 ½ length win in 1:16. The 2 year-old filly is now 2 for 4 in her career for trainer Nathan Squires and her owner William Thompson. She paid \$11.20 to win.

Like father...almost like son



The 1st race at Kawartha Downs on August 20 was a legends race, a trot with a purse of \$5000 featuring iconic drivers, Ron Waples, Randy Waples, Reg Gassien, Doug Brown, Carmen Hie, Doug Hie, Mike Saftic, Paul MacDonell and Murray Samons.

Ron Waples, 78, took the lead down the backstretch with Courious Joan and held that advantage

to the wire as son Randy roared up late with Zip Me Up to grab second.

This was Ron's first win in 5 years and the 6,924th of his Hall of Fame career. Courious Joan paid \$15.10 to win and with Hall of Famer Randy Waples coming second, the all-Waples exactor paid \$138.80.



AJAX DOWNS RACETRACK

LIVE QUARTER HORSE RACING WEDNESDAYS, ONE SUNDAY A MONTH & THANKSGIVING MONDAY

Race days: ■ First Race: Summer Wednesdays at 1:30pm
Sundays & Fall Wednesdays at 12:55pm

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Events For The Whole Family!

WEDNESDAY RACE DATES 2022

- Wednesday May 11 & 18
1:30pm First Race
- Wednesday June 1, 8, 15 & 29
1:30pm First Race
- Wednesday July 6, 13, & 27
1:30pm First Race
- Wednesday August 3, 10, 17, & 31
1:30pm First Race
- Wednesday September 14, 21, 28
12:55pm First Race
- Wednesday October 5, 19, & 26
12:55pm First Race

SUNDAY RACE DATES 2022

- Sunday May 22
Fan Appreciation Day
12:55pm First Race
- Sunday June 19
Father's Day
12:55pm First Race
- Sunday July 17
Craft Brewery Day
12:55pm First Race
- Sunday August 21
Family Fun Day
12:55pm First Race
- Sunday September 4
United Way Day
12:55pm First Race
- Monday October 10
Pumpkin Day
12:55pm First Race

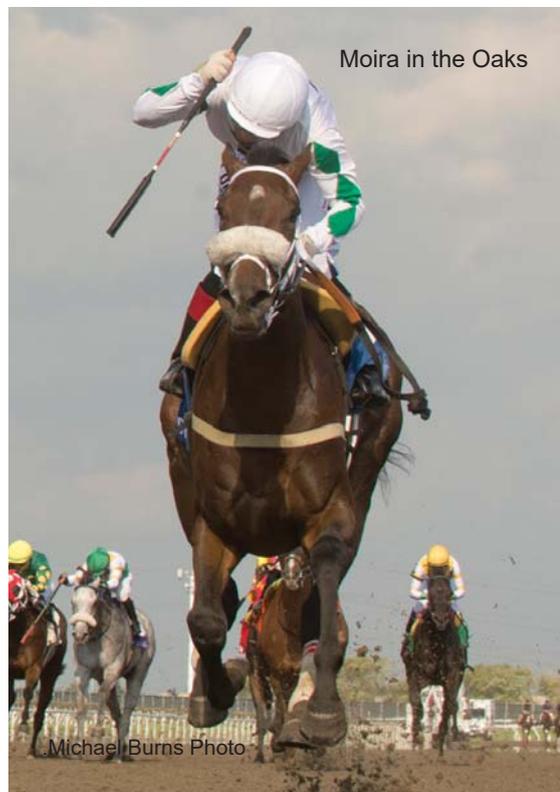
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Moira Crushes In the Oaks

The 67th Woodbine Oaks was a tour de force for the even-money favourite, Moira. Under Rafael Hernandez, Moira surged from 6th around the far turn, and



suddenly opened up 5 lengths coming into the stretch. She then galloped away with disdain from 9 other outclassed fillies to win by about 11 lengths in 1:49.78. The track record for a mile and an 8th at Woodbine is 1:48.24 set by Global Access in 2019.

As Moira hit the finish line, Hernandez pointed in celebration at his winning filly, emphasizing just how special she is. This was Moira's 3rd win in 4 lifetime races – she came 2nd in her other assignment. "She was push button in the first turn," said Hernandez. "We just sat there and saved as much ground as we could and made our move down the backside. I knew horses were going to be stopping in front of me, so I just tried to get her away from them. By the three-eighths, I was already where I wanted to be. Turning for home, I just talked to her and said, 'Come on Moira, it's all about you. Go get it.' And she just exploded. From the first day I got on in the morning, I was impressed. Today, she showed up. She just played with the rest of the field."

As easy as this win appeared, it was not without drama, considering what occurred just before race time. Moira is not the calmest of horses, and when she acted up in the paddock, she damaged her footwear. This created a certain amount of stress for trainer Kevin Attard.

"It was crazy," said Attard. "She's always been a little bit kind of antsy in the paddock. She just kind of had a little episode and unfortunately stepped on her hind foot and knocked off the one shoe and bent the other shoe. The paddock blacksmith tried to adjust it and fix it, but we elected to run her without the hind shoes. I wasn't too concerned with it being a synthetic surface. But obviously you're not accustomed to doing it, so it's always a little bit in the back of your head anyways. She's a class horse and I've always thought highly of her, and she obviously ran to that today."

Apparently, footwear is highly overrated.

After the race, Attard did not appear committed to running Moira in the Queen's Plate. Neither was Danato Lanni, one of the owners of X-Men Racing. The filly's fitness would be a major factor, but a couple of items would certainly make the Plate a tempting destination.

First of all, the Plate Trial winner, Sir For Sure was

timed in 1:50.62, or about 4 lengths slower than Moira's time. And in the past eleven years, 4 fillies have captured the Queen's Plate. Inglorious (2011), Lexie Lou (2014) and Holy Helena (2017) all did it after winning the Oaks. Wonder Gadot won the Plate in 2018 after a 2nd place finish in the Oaks.

Moira paid just \$4 to win and, of course, was brilliant in the Queen's Plate as we document on page 4.

Huge Upset In the Plate Trial



The crowd sent The Minkster off as the 9-5 favourite in the field of 9 colts contesting the Plate Trial Stakes at a mile and an 8th, but it was 21-1 longshot, Sir For Sure that confounded the bettors.

With Declan Carroll calling the shots, Sir For Sure was 5th after 6 furlongs as Causin' Mayhem (Eswan Flores) led the field through strong fractions of :48.54 and 1:12.62. Carroll was forced to take Sir For Sure 4-wide into the far turn, but the son of Sligo Bay had a ton of momentum as he passed tiring rivals. At the head of the stretch, there was some mild bumping as Sir For Sure surged to the lead. He maintained a comfortable advantage, winning by 2 lengths in 1:50.62. In the past 20 years, that time would rank 7th and it was slower than the 1:49.78 posted by Moira in the Woodbine Oaks, which was also 9 furlongs.

The stewards posted the inquiry sign regarding the physicality as the field turned for home, but they decided there was insufficient evidence to change the outcome.

This was the 2nd win in 5 races for Sir For Sure. He broke his maiden at a mile and 70 at Gulfstream in February and came into the Trial a well-beaten 6th in the 7-furlong Queenston Stakes 6 weeks earlier. "I knew my horse had a good kick when he won at Gulfstream, so I just bided my time, and then when I had to make room, I was able to push out," said winning rider Carroll. "You know, that's how racing is sometimes, it gets a little rough but I'm happy to come away with a win. Honestly, it was a very easy ride. He traveled beautifully throughout the race." Sir For Sure is trained by Mark Casse and owned by René and Darlene Hunderup who operate Norse Ridge Farm and race under the name of Heste Sport Inc.

"Thankful to Mark for the preparation, thankful to my wife for having bred this incredible beast, and he just came through as a real classy horse," said René. "It's wonderful to be the owner of such a classy horse."

Sir For Sure paid \$45.70 to win.

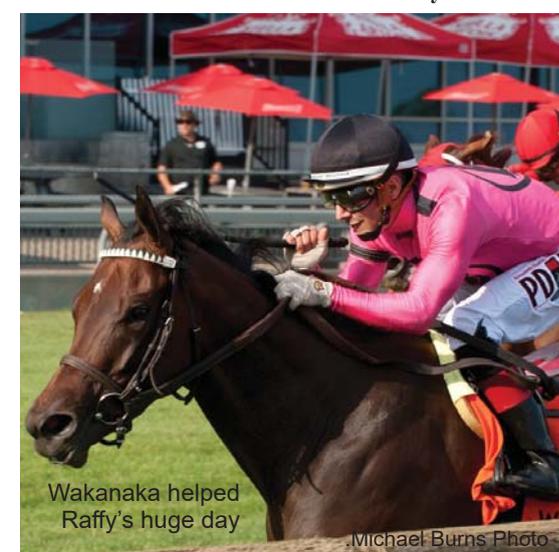
A Longshot According to Hoyte



On a day full of big payoffs, it was 26-1 bomber, Hazelbrook under Jason Hoyte pulling off the stunner in the \$180,000 Grade 3 Hendrie Stakes, a 6 ½ furlong test for fillies and mares. Boardroom (Rafael Hernandez) was the even-money betting choice, but the board had no room for Boardroom, who finished 4th. Hoyte had Hazelbrook a comfortable 5th after a sizzling half of :44.23 which augured well for a come from behind effort. That's exactly what Hazelbrook did, surging past 4 opponents with a 3-wide move at the top of the stretch and maintaining a short lead all the way to the wire to win by a head over Amalfi Coast (Justin Stein). The time for the race was 1:15.68.

Hazelbrook is trained by Lorne Richards for True North Stable. The 4-year-old won for the 4th time in 6 races which makes that \$54.10 win price very attractive.

Wakanaka Danced Smartly



The 10th race on Woodbine Oaks day was the \$240,000 Dance Smartly Stakes at a mile and a 16th on the turf. Rafael Hernandez, having a superior day at the track, gave the 4-year-old filly, Wakanaka an ideal trip, surveying the pace from 4th down the backstretch, circling the leaders as the field turned for home and proving much the best to the wire to win by 1 ¾ lengths in 1:39.46. It was the first win in 5 races in 2022, but the 7th in 13 lifetime races for Wakanaka, who won her first 6 races in Italy. Trained by Bill Mott and owned by Gary Barber and Team Valor International, Wakanaka paid \$4.60 to win.

Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame:

Two Years of Inductees

There was a huge celebration at the Mississauga Convention Centre on August 3, as wonderful horses and people from both 2020 and 2021 were ushered into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Hosts Jim Bannon, Kelly Spencer and Robert Geller moved the proceedings along with speed and wit, at one point “warning” recipients that a trap door would spring open underneath them if any speech went past 3 minutes.

Eight humans were honoured, all deserving, all of whom have made huge contributions to the sport.

Jockey Gary Boulanger, now 54 and still delivering winners at Woodbine is remarkable not only for his extraordinary riding record (3668 wins as of this column), but his unparalleled resiliency. Boulanger figures he has come back at least 5 times from injuries that would have discouraged most lesser athletes. He has suffered a ruptured spleen, broken ribs, a blood clot on the brain, and major knee surgery in 2020.

Did he even think he would live long enough to enjoy this moment?

“I never imagined this moment ever,” Boulanger said. “I never thought I would be recognized as a Hall of Famer. I just wanted to be as good as I could be. After countless injuries, I never knew when it would be done, when I would be taken out. I’m just blown away by this.”

As if to emphasize the deserving nature of his induction, 3 days after the ceremonies, Boulanger won consecutive



Sue Leslie

races at Woodbine.

Sue Leslie has been a formidable force for decades in horse racing. Before assuming the Presidency of the HBPA, she guided the OHRIA and has served on many other racing organizations. She is also an owner, trainer and breeder.

“What an honour and privilege this is,” said Leslie. “I have been blessed with two families. My number two family – the Landrys. And my birth family – my mum and dad, brothers and sisters, who have blessed me with godchildren. When I think of them my heart just melts.”

There was extra applause when Vickie Pappas was summoned to the podium. A room full of racing people knows better than anyone what Pappas has done for the amazing animals who perform for us. Robert Geller introduced Pappas by calling her “the conscience of racehorse aftercare.” Pappas, of course, founded and runs LongRun, which provides homes for horses when their athletic careers end.

“I think it was because I have a lot of friends here with me,” laughed Pappas when reminded of the cheering she received from the crowd. “I am certainly no more deserving than anyone else here tonight.”

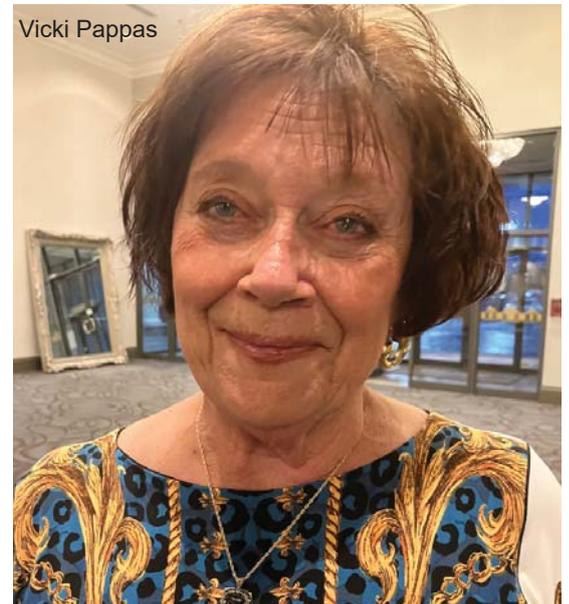
Many might disagree.

Paul MacDonell has driven the winners of more than 5,700 standardbred races, and his career dates back to 1981. In every year from 1986 through 2019 – that’s 34 years –horses steered by MacDonell earned more than \$1million. Even so, he will always be associated with the great Somebeachsomewhere, whom he drove to each of his 20 wins (from 21 starts) in 2007-2008.

“Everybody recognizes me through that horse,” said MacDonell. “He was one of kind, one of the best ever. When you’re associated with that horse like that, it means everything.”

If Randy Waples has a serious psychological impairment, it is his inability to admit how good he is. The guy has rolled up over 6,640 wins through a 38 year career in the bike. Horses driven by Waples have earned in excess of \$131,900,000. He owns the record for most wins during the years harness racing was conducted at Woodbine. Even so, he refuses to consider that he belongs with other greats of the sport.

“It’s exhilarating,” said Waples about being inducted.” And it’s humbling. But at the same time, I have trouble wrapping my head around it. The people that went in before – my father, Doug Brown, Steve Condren, Bill



Vicki Pappas

Gale, Dave Wall – all these guys I looked up to. I have a hard time putting myself in the same locker room with them. I keep pinching myself since they told me.”

Also honoured with Hall of Fame Induction: Mike Keogh, who prepared Wando to win the Canadian Triple Crown in 2003 and Langfuhr to Grade 1 victories.

“Training for the Schickedanz family changed my life,” said Keogh. “I am a lucky man to have trained some very good horses. Everything good that has happened in my life has been because of horses.”

Ben Wallace has put in close to 50 years as a harness racing trainer and owner. He prepared 1999 Triple Crown Champion, Blissfull Hall and Breeders Crown winners Totally Western and Pans Culottes. From more than 1,900



Randy Waples

winners, his horses have earned more than \$39,000,000.

Jim Bullock was inducted as a Builder, which is appropriate because he got into horse racing after building the Woodbine Centre across Rexdale Road from Woodbine Racetrack. He would then serve on the board of the Ontario Jockey Club for 15 years, after which, he and his wife, Pat launched Glengate Farms in Campbellville. Bullock has had a string of successful stallions, including Balanced Image and Angus Hall. He would then serve on the board of the Ontario Jockey Club for 15 years, after which, he and his wife, Pat launched Glengate Farms in Campbellville. Bullock has had a string of successful stallions, including Balanced Image and Angus Hall. Jim Bullock is our Standardbred Owner of the Month (page 20).



Paul MacDonell



Gary Boulanger

CANADIAN HORSE RACING HALL OF FAME HONORS

Paul MacDonell

McWicked

Rambling Willie

Benjamin Wallace

Jim Bullock

Randy Waples



Congratulations from
The Hambletonian Society



Congratulations

to these
Canadian Horse Racing
Hall of Fame
Inductees

Jim Bullock
Paul MacDonell
Ben Wallace
Randy Waples
Amour Angus
Great Memories
McWicked
Rambling Willie

FROM YOUR
**DIRECTORS,
STAFF and
MEMBERS of COSA**

*We also extend our Congratulations to the
Thoroughbred inductees:*

Gary Boulanger, Mike Keogh, Sue Leslie,
Vicki Pappas, Heart To Heart,
Not Too Shy, Play the King, Tepin



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Congratulations to
fellow jockey
Gary Boulanger

on your induction to
the Canadian Horse Racing
Hall of Fame



Jockeys' Benefit
Association Canada

Micah Husbands – Winning First Time Out!



On July 3, the 6th race at Woodbine with an attractive purse of \$101,200, was an optional claimer at 7 ½ furlongs on the inner turf. The 7-year-old mare, Rosebud's Hope came into the race off a stunning win at a mile on the grass 3 weeks earlier. Under Slade Jones, Rosebud's Hope had sizzled home in 1:33. Trainer Kevin Attard elected to put 19-year-old Micah Husbands on the horse. Micah is the nephew of Patrick Husbands, and this would be his first pari-mutuel ride.

Apprentice jockeys are not allowed to carry a whip for their first 5 assignments, and Rosebud's Hope was stuck in post 12. Despite that, Micah was able to rocket Rosebud's Hope to the lead before the first turn and opened up a few lengths on the rest of the field. Rosebud's Hope was able to cut appropriate fractions of :46.99 and 1:11.26, and when the field turned for home, the veteran mare had a 5-length lead. At the wire, Micah Husbands found himself a winner by almost 2 lengths. Those who bet on a jockey winning in his first race were rewarded with a \$11.40 win ticket.

There are many horse people who believe that Micah Husbands has unlimited potential in the saddle. His DNA is certainly predisposed to get him to the winner's circle. His father is Fazal Racazk, who rode in Trinidad and Barbados. His mother, Selena, is the sister of Patrick Husbands, who has won more than 3,500 races.

"I started riding when I was 11 years old," says Micah. "I grew up watching races back home, watching my uncle come in for the Gold Cup. He was my idol from the beginning."

Although Patrick Husbands has been instrumental in his nephew's direction, Micah identifies another guy who was also important.

"My uncle's best friend was Robert Pierce," he says.



"He showed me more complicated stuff that I should know. He was a jockey, but then he became a trainer."

Micah has been working for Kevin Attard for at least 4 years. That seems like a long time to put in hours before finally getting into a race.

"It was," Micah shrugs. "But at the same time, I was trying to learn before I went out and made silly mistakes. It was a long learning process, but I took it that way. I didn't think I was impatient."

"He's been at the barn on weekends and in the summer, learning how to work horses," says Attard. "His uncle Patrick brought him to me when he first came to Canada and asked me to look after him. He has paid his dues. I thought he was ready to ride, and I thought we would start him off with a bang."

Attard has serious responsibilities to the owners of horses he trained. Rosebud's Hope belongs to his important clients, Al and Bill Ulwelling. What was their response when told a first time whipless rider would be



guiding their horse in a \$100,000 race?

"We had a conversation," says Attard. "I recommended that we use him. It's their call, but they are great sportsmen. They understand the game and they were willing to give the kid a chance. It was a great opportunity that they gave him, and he rewarded them with a win. He will never forget that the Ulwellings gave him his first lifetime win."

"I was thankful because the horse had won last time out on the grass," says Micah about when he learned he would be the rider. "I knew I had a good horse and a chance to win."

Those of us who have never ridden in a professional race can not grasp the skill it takes to get a horse to the lead from post 12 before the first turn, without exhausting the animal. Micah was able to do that.

"I knew I could get out of there and get to the front and make it all the way," he says.

With a sizeable lead in deep stretch, Micah knew he was moments away from a remarkable accomplishment. He turned his head to see where his closest pursuers were. There was no danger.

"I was just looking to see if they were coming," he says. "I had no whip, but I had lots of horse. I was confident and when I knew we had won, I was happy and celebrated."

There are always certain consequences at Woodbine when a jockey breaks his "maiden." After the winner's

circle picture, Micah was subjected to a variety of projected substances.

"They threw ice water on me, and it was really cold," he laughs. "Then there was a bucket of the tapeta, and then in the jockeys' room they sprayed shaving cream, powder, ketchup, mustard – everything."

Micah's agent is Leroy Trotman, who also represents Uncle Patrick and Sahin Civaci. Trotman could officially be the kid's agent once he started riding in races, but he's known Micah for 8 years and is anticipating lots of action.

"We're getting a lot of calls," says Trotman. "He has to ride 5 horses before he gets his whip. He has a lot of potential. His father was a good jock, and from his mother's side, you have Patrick, Simon, and Terry."

According to the rules of racing laid down by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, once an apprentice jockey wins 5 races, he/she loses the 10-pound "bug" allowance. If an apprentice pauses before the 5th win, several months can be added to the apprenticeship in the next racing year. This means we may not see a lot more of Micah Husbands the rest of the summer.

"Once he wins 4, we're going to stop," advises Trotman.

But after that, the future should be bright for Micah Husbands.

"In this business, you have to dream big," says Trotman. "The potential that we think he has – he only has to show it."

Jockey Miguel Nicholls Rides First Winner at Ajax Downs

By Jennifer Morrison



NewImage Media Photo

July 13 was a day of “firsts” and plenty of longshots at Ajax Downs, on the 10th day of the 2022 Quarter Horse racing season. The afternoon began with jockey Miguel Nicholls winning a race for the first time. It was his 9th career mount, and he guided Wayne and Carol Procter’s Caraways Angels Lane to victory in the first race of the day. It was also the first career start for Caraways Angels Lane, an Ontario-bred for the Procters, who have been racing and breeding Quarter Horses for more than 30 years.

“It was wonderful,” said Nicholls, who came from Barbados to Canada only two years ago. “She gave me

her best run. When I asked her, she just kept going and going. I’m just so excited right now.”

Nicholls, 31, exercised horses in his native Barbados and rode one race before he came to work at Woodbine racetrack, galloping thoroughbreds in the morning.

“I always wanted to be a jockey,” said Nicholls. “My weight gave me some trouble, but in Quarter Horse racing the (maximum) jockey weight is a little more, so I wanted to give it a shot.”

Caraways Angels Lane, a 12-1 shot, has been prepared for her debut by the Procters and Nicholls, and the daughter of Sycamore Lane won by three-quarters of a length.

One race later, first-time Quarter Horse owner Magen Finnessy watched her grey gelding Azures Royalty win race two on the afternoon as a 12-1 longshot under jockey Neil Husbands. Azures Royalty was making his second start for Finnessy, who purchased the Ontario-bred from owner and trainer Craig Spada last month. Sean Slater trains.

In race three, jockey Rachel Isaacs won her first race of the season aboard Down Sullivan Street, for owner John Wilson and trainer Scott Reid. Incredibly, Down Sullivan Street was also 12-1, setting up a Pick 3 payoff from races one through three of almost \$500 for a 20 cent wager. Isaacs would come right back to win race four on Kitsawinner, the first winner for trainer Paul Garrison in

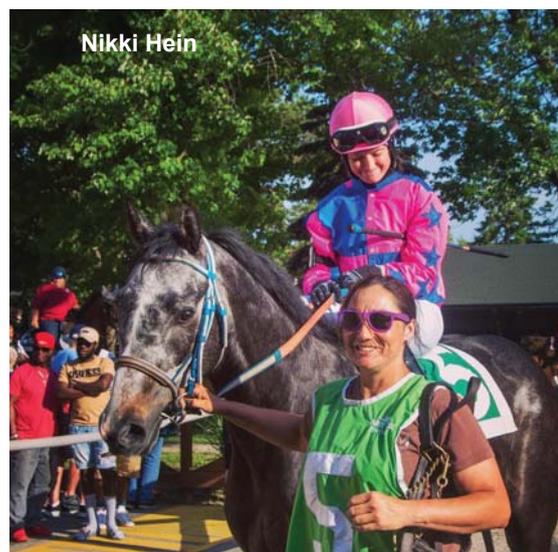
2022.

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NewImage Media Photo

Winless at Woodbine now Hein-sight for Nikki



Nikki Hein

The 4th race at Woodbine on July 29 was at a mile and a 16th for \$14,000 claimers, and it had a purse of \$39,000. Nikki Hein, 27, was on a 10-1 shot by the name of Society Joe, a 5-year-old gelding owned and trained by Tedston Holder. Hein did not share the bettors’ opinion of her horse. She took him to the lead down the backstretch and was able to control the pace with comfortable splits of :50.09, 1:14.17 and 1:39.69 for the mile. Down to the wire, it got close as the favourite, Trinity Gold (Luis Contreras) appeared dangerous on Society’s Joe’s outside. But at the rail, Nikki Hein kept her horse’s head in front.

It was Hein’s first win at Woodbine in her 11th ride at Canada’s most important track. As a 5 pound “bug”, Hein had the advantage of carrying just 116 pounds, 9 pounds less than the second place horse. Society Joe paid \$22.90 to win.

Hein, who is 5’2’ and can tack at 113, started riding at Marquis Downs in Saskatoon, but circumstance dictated

she should come east.

“The track at Saskatoon closed permanently,” she says. “I had no choice but to move and I decided Ontario was my best shot – lots of races, lots of horses and lots of opportunities to ride.”

Hein got the chance to ride Society Joe after putting up with the horse’s bad behaviour in the mornings.

“I had been galloping Joe since March,” she says, then laughs. “Joe was a pain in my butt. He is an older one-eyed horse, and he is set in his ways. He would give me a hard time in the morning. When he was in a bad mood, he would put his head down and go, and you’re scrambling to hold on to him. After a while, I seemed to get him to relax. He doesn’t do any of that stuff from March. We seem to get along.”

Hein found that on July 29, Society Joe was able to funnel his aggressive nature into a strong performance.

“He was really sharp and in a bad mood because he hadn’t run for a month,” she says. “I sent him up in front and he relaxed, and I was able to slow it down. It all worked out.” As the field came to the wire, with a threat in the 2-path, what was Hein thinking as her first Woodbine win appeared to be a possibility?

“Gee I hope Joe realizes there’s a horse on his right side!” she exclaims. “You can’t get to the wire fast enough when you are in that position. I didn’t really believe it until I pulled up. I had to ask the outrider because I wasn’t 100% convinced that I got it.” The Equibase charts say Society Joe won by a nose.

“It seemed so surreal to do it with Joe,” she says. “Because I had never finished anywhere near the front at Woodbine. It seemed too good to be true.”

Hein was spared the sophomoric indoctrination

reserved for first time winners because she won for the first time at Marquis Downs, and the Woodbine win – her first in Rexdale – was her 17th career victory.

“They missed their opportunity,” she says. “I got a bucket of ice water back in Saskatchewan, so I’m done with that.”

Hein uses the word “opportunity”, and she just may be in the right place at the right time. She has recently switched agents and is now booked by Pram Seebah, who has good connections at Woodbine. As a bug, she can offer trainers and owners less weight on their horses. Recently Micah Husbands recorded his 4th win and elected to take the rest of the season off so that he can retain his apprentice status in 2023. That leaves Hein, Amanda Vandermeersch and Slade Jones as the only apprentices available for horse people who believe weight can make a difference.

As for finally winning at Woodbine, it’s a bucket list check off for Hein.

“I need to get going more at Woodbine,” she says, “I work here in the mornings and there’s more days of racing. I can do both tracks. I can be at Fort Erie and Woodbine, so why not capitalize? Now we know I can find the winner’s circle at Woodbine. I got the monkey off my back.”



Nikki Hein and Society Joe (inside) just got there

Michael Burns Photo

Vandermeersch's First

Amanda Vandermeersch winning with Tiz My Right



The 4th race at Fort Erie on August 1 at a mile and 70 yards had a modest purse of \$12,687. It had a field of 8, all eligible to be claimed for \$5,000. It was not a remarkable race at first blush, but the outcome was notable in multiple ways.

Amanda Vandermeersch, 31, was aboard the longest shot, Tiz My Right, the only mare in the field. It was Vandermeersch's 14th career ride – she still gets a 10-pound apprentice weight allowance, and she was still seeking her first win.

Tiz My Right was galloping comfortably down the backstretch and was 3rd, maybe 2 ½ lengths off the lead as Vandermeersch urged her around the far turn. Into the stretch, the favourite, Breathlessnthesand (Keveh Nicholls) took a brief lead, but Tiz My Right moved up alongside and the pair battled for the final 8th of a mile. At the wire, Tiz My Right was a neck the best and Vandermeersch had her first pari-mutuel win.

Owned by Drew Duncan Greening and trained by Howard Keen, Tiz My Right, now 7, paid \$66.80.

Vandermeersch certainly took a relaxed journey to professional race riding.

"It started years ago," she says. "I was riding hunters and

jumpers. There was a lady at a farm where I was training a horse for pleasure riding, who asked me to leg up one of her racehorses and get him ready for the upcoming season. She then introduced me to a Woodbine trainer which led me to helping him with babies and older horses."

All it really took was to have the feel of a thoroughbred under her for Vandermeersch to know what she really wanted to do.

"My first racehorse – I think his name was Rock Barton. When I let him loose, I was hooked. After that first breeze, you feel that real horse power, and it sticks with you."

It is rare for a jockey to record the first win at the age of 31. Vandermeersch's first professional ride didn't occur until she hit 30.

"Last year I had 3 starts," she says. "Now this year being 31, I have had a few more starts, mainly at Fort Erie and a couple at Woodbine. I will be 32 in November."

Vandermeersch's agent is Steve Roberts, and it's a safe assumption that owners and trainers aren't begging him to use his 10-pound bug.

"It is a little tricky," she admits. "Stevie does wonders. He works hard for me. I have heard a lot of criticism – 'you're old, what are you doing, what are you thinking?'"

In fact, Vandermeersch gave up the security of full-time employment as a nurse to pursue the dream. Many would ask why.

"I've got a passion for horses," she shrugs. "Ever since I was little, I always wanted to be around them. I knew I wanted a career with them. I saw an opportunity and I took it."

As for the first win, Vandermeersch enjoys the pleasure of describing the race.

"A lot happened," she starts. "When she broke out of the gate, she had her head a little bit down. Going into the first turn, I wanted to get a little bit closer. She was travelling great, moving up so comfortably. Coming past the ¾th turn, I

saw the 8-horse dropping back and I thought, 'It's game on!' I knew it was between me and the # 1 horse. In the stretch, it felt good to pass him because he caught me the week before – he took first and I took second last week, so it was good to actually catch him this time."

Of the 8 horses in the race, 7 carried 122 pounds, but because of her apprentice status, Vandermeersch was a featherweight 110 aboard Tiz My Right. The winning margin was a neck. She agrees the 12 pounds probably made the difference.

"I have had this argument a couple of times," she says. "Some people say it doesn't really matter but this might be one of the circumstances where it does matter."

Vandermeersch's face lights up when she is asked about the post-race celebration, or more accurately, the post race indoctrination.

"I was met with a nice ice bucket of cold water," she laughs. "Two, actually – one by Christopher Husbands and one by Keveh Nichols. I thought that was it, then when I got closer to the jockeys' room, I was met with more buckets of water – both hot and cold and baby powder. Then I got egged."

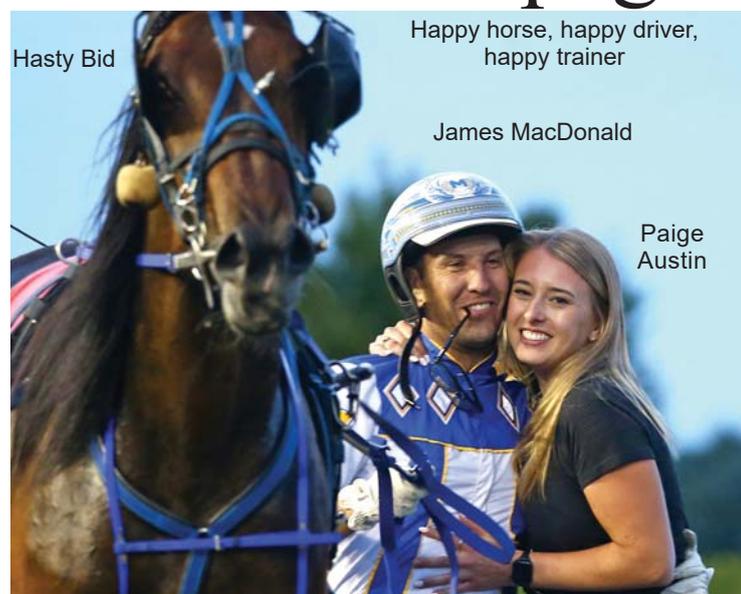
Ugh. Sounds awful. Surely that was unpleasant?

"It was great!" she exclaims. "It was a once in a lifetime thing."

When Patrick Husbands rides a Mark Casse horse to a Stakes win at Woodbine, his share of the purse is often between \$6,000 and \$20,000. Vandermeersch's cheque from the 4th at Fort Erie that day was probably less than \$600.

"For my first one, it felt like a Stakes win," she says. "I don't really look at the purse money. It's not what I am taking home at the end of the day. If I can come back to the jocks' room safe, and the horse comes back safe, and everyone is happy, and I can come and try again – that's the main thing for me."

It was page one when Paige won



Hasty Bid

Happy horse, happy driver, happy trainer

James MacDonald

Paige Austin

Her Early Attempt for a Training Win Came With Hasty Bid

Horse racing is a tough game. For a rookie trainer, it can sometimes take weeks or months before that first win is recorded. That was not the case for 24-year-old Paige Austin. Her first horse is a 2-year-old trotter named Hasty Bid. After finishing a late-moving 3rd in his debut race at Clinton on July 3, Hasty Bid looked good pulling away from the field to win at Mohawk Park on July 19.

It doesn't hurt that Austin is well connected. She is the girlfriend of James MacDonald, and the leading driver in Canada steered Hasty Bid confidently in the maiden breaker. A comfortable 4th down the backstretch, Hasty Bid came out just before the ¾, and even with a first over move was able to get the lead easily as the field turned for home. The margin at the wire was over 3 lengths in 1:58.2.

From the stabling area just past the finish line, Austin could see her horse was much the best.

"I thought he looked pretty good," she says. "Coming around the last turn, he came first up there, but he looked pretty strong, and then when James kicked out the plugs, he was just gone. He was really good."

Austin, like so many in this game, grew up around harness horses.

"My dad was Mark Austin," she says. "He passed away a few years ago. He had a big stable – Fool Me Once, Sparky Mark and other good horses. I was always around the horses with him."

Mark Austin's record on Standardbred Canada shows he sent out 837 winners over 33 years, and horses he trained earned more than \$9,000,000.

Paige is not diving into the deep end to start her training career. Right now, one horse at a time is the ideal situation for her.

"I actually got my trainer's licence last year," she says. "But I never really got a horse back then. Then we bought Hasty at Harrisburg and he was training down good so James said, 'You can go down as trainer,' and we decided to do that."

The 2-year-old Hasty Bid is an excellent horse for a trainer's first experience.

"He's pretty easy," she says. "I will work him twice a week. He qualified twice. He's kind of an easy keeper. He doesn't worry about things too much."

You have to wonder about the dynamic of Canada's best harness driver getting the assignment for a trainer who has a total of 2 starts on her resume. Does Austin give him specific instructions and order him to follow them precisely or else?

"Oh no," she laughs. "I let him do whatever he wants. He knows the horse really well. And come one, he's a great driver. So I have faith in him."

One reason that Austin won't be challenging the Moreaus and Auciellos at the top of the trainers' standings for awhile is that she has a day job.

"I work a full-time job as a nurse at a dermatology clinic, so I like just having the one," she says. "We'll see, I guess maybe we could get another baby in the fall. See how things play out."

Paige Austin understands the business side of harness racing. There's no danger of her getting overly attached to Hasty Bid.

"My dad always told me, 'If you want a pet, get a dog,'" she says. "So, not really, no. Right now, it's fun to race him. It was a pretty cool feeling the night that he won and knowing that my dad was watching over us. So we were pretty excited, but I would sell if the opportunity arose."



Brandon and Terry Greer do not own many racehorses, and son Brandon admits, “We don’t win very often but we’ve always had enough to just keep going.”

But when they do win, wow!

Case in point: in 2021, the only horse they raced was the 6-year-old gelding Town Cruise. This one took down a pair of allowance races early in the season. A sharp second place finish at a mile on the turf in the King Edward Stakes in August prompted the Greers to send Town Cruise to the \$1,000,000 Ricoh Woodbine Mile on September 18. Under a confident ride from Daisuke Fukumoto, Town Cruise went right to the front and, through comfortable splits of 47.10 and 1:10.41, carried a 2-length advantage into the stretch. When others in the 10-horse field thought they’d make a late charge through the long E.P. Taylor stretch, Town Cruise completed his mile with disdain for those behind him, finding the wire much the best by 2 ¼ lengths in 1:35.14. Town Cruise paid \$19.30 and the winner’s cheque for \$720,000 was by far the most the Greers had ever cashed from a horse race. Almost a year later, Brandon still confesses to a certain emotional overload.

“It was a little difficult to enjoy, simply because of the size of it all,” says the younger Greer. “This is the race that I was watching since I was a kid, and my dad would always say, ‘That’s where the most significant horses are.’ It was his favourite Canadian race, for sure. And that the horse that we had bred and raised was not only in it, but actually won it – it was a strange sensation. This horse was simply incredible. This is the horse that I have a picture in my phone of him at 3 weeks old.”

Although Equibase identifies Brandon, 44, as both the trainer and owner of Town Cruise, the son insists that’s just a technicality, and that Dad Terry, 78, is, in every way, a partner.

“Everything that is here and everything at the farm – it’s him and me,” Brandon says. “We’ve been a pop and son thing since the late ’90s. It’s always been the two of us. There’s nothing that’s mine that isn’t his as well.”

With the significant winnings from the Woodbine Mile, the Greers were able to satisfy a very long itch.

“Dad did something that he has wanted to do for so long,” says Brandon. “He went down to Kentucky and bought himself a broodmare and he also picked up a weanling as well. He hasn’t been able to do it since the late 70s or early 80s. He was real happy to finally be able to get something that he really, really liked. He is



an extreme pedigree man – I don’t think there’s anybody better.”

The broodmare is Windward Sands. As a racehorse, she ran just once – a 10th place finish in a maiden special weight in 2019 at Belmont. But as a daughter of Scat Daddy, she does have some appealing bloodlines. The Greers bought her in foal, but this had a sad result.

“Tragedy did strike,” says Brandon. “The foal was born but she was born deformed. She couldn’t survive. That was a big hit to Dad. He was so looking forward to that one and it was a beautiful foal, but it just couldn’t survive.”

From something as devastating as that followed something much more hopeful – Windward Sands is carrying again.

“She has been bred back to a Canadian sire,” says Brandon. “American Guru, a Stronach horse is the sire.”

The Greers’ star horse, Town Cruise has had one start in 2022. It was the \$100,000 Niagara Stakes on July 30 at 1 ¼ miles on the turf. Fukumoto had Town Cruise on the front for the first mile, but the horse tired and finished 8th. Greer was not particularly disappointed with that.

“He ended up having way too much to do with the first half,” he says. “But he came out of it well, and I’m impressed with his effort.”

Coming into August, it had been almost 11 months since the Greers got to run down to the winner’s circle for a picture. Then on August 11, there was a surprising and exhilarating win.

Greer sent out Quiet Intent in a \$23,500 maiden claim race at 7 furlongs. With Fukumoto aboard, the 4-year-old gelding ignored his 24-1 odds, circled the field coming into the stretch and parlayed a 6-wide move into victory by 1 ¾ lengths in 1:23.03. It was Quiet Intent’s first race and the son of Frac Daddy paid \$50.90.

“We bred him,” says Greer. “His mother, Extra Quiet

was a mare that was bred by some friends of ours and we actually raced her. I trained that filly, and she got 3 wins for us – nothing special, just \$15,000 claimers. She was very much an honest horse and she always tried hard. We retired her and even though she does not have outstanding pedigree, we couldn’t let her go so we ended up breeding her.”

Both of the winning Greer horses that we have documented here were ridden to their wins by Daisuke Fukumoto, a jockey that Brandon Greer very much admires.

“I like his composure and he makes good decisions out there,” says Greer. “I put him on horses for workouts in the mornings and he gets to know the horses very well. His way of doing things matches everything else that we do with these animals. He lets them think, he keeps them calm. He doesn’t force them into anything. He stays in sync with them. For such a young rider to have that composure is wonderful.”

Does Brandon ride the thoroughbreds at the farm?

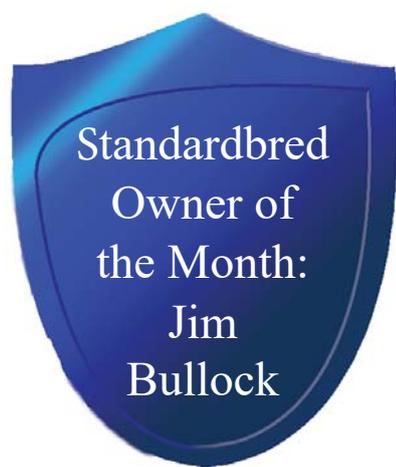
“No, I stay on the ground like a sane person,” he replies.

His 78-year-old father, Terry used to ride.

“He comes from the hunter and jumper side,” says the son. “He and his father bred hunters and jumpers from the 60s to the mid 90s. He’s too old now, but he was fantastic at breaking.”

At the end of the day, the Greers and thoroughbred racing will always be inseparable.

“Dad has always had that passion,” says Greer. “He’s been actively working with thoroughbreds since the early 80s. I was born into it and we were watching the Queen’s Plate, and the Triple Crown on a 14-inch, black and white TV screen in my room when I was 6 years old because that was the one that had the best reception. It’s always been that. It’s always been a part of our lives.”



On August 3 at the Mississauga Convention Centre, Jim Bullock, 78, was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Bullock's honour came in the "Builder" division. This portion of the Hall is for people other than drivers, jockeys, and trainers, who make a significant contribution to the sport and may not be visible to the average fan. That Bullock gets in as a builder is interesting because career-wise it's exactly what he is. Over four decades ago, his company, Cadillac Fairview liked a piece of property just north of Woodbine Racetrack.

"Around 1977, I optioned the land from the Ontario Jockey Club," he says. "They owned the 48.3 acres. I spent about four years processing through Toronto, and what was at the time, the city of Etobicoke for rezoning. After getting approval, we built Woodbine Centre. So at that time, I spent a lot of hours with people from the interior of the Jockey Club. In 1986, I was having lunch with Jack Kenney who was the President and I said, 'Oh, I just bought a farm north of Milton,' and he said, 'You will have to get into the horse business.'"

Being the Ontario *Jockey Club*, it was assumed that Bullock would purchase a thoroughbred, but:

"I had a cottage at Chemong Lake by Peterborough," says Bullock. "And we used to go to Kawartha Downs, and I really enjoyed the standardbred racing."

So Bullock was introduced to Pat Crowe, who had campaigned for the great Cam Fella from 1982 to 1984.

The first horse Bullock would own, in partnership with Crowe, was named Renrag Curly.

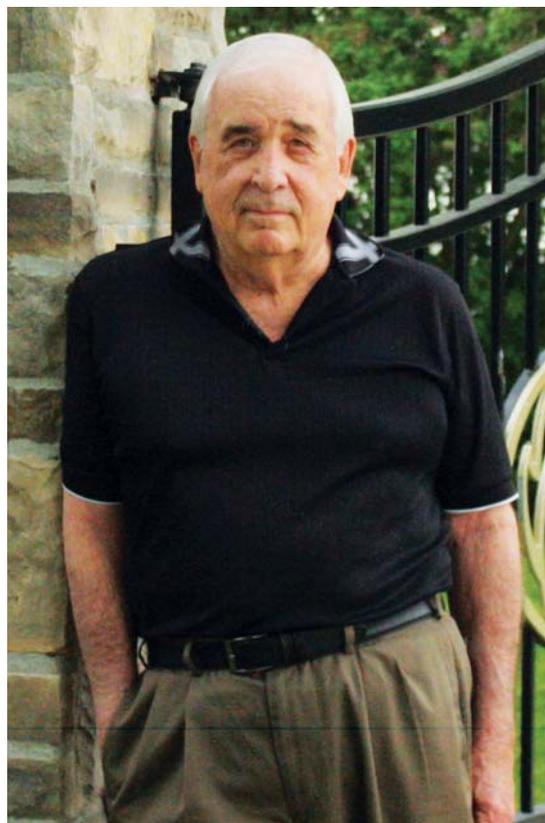
"The mistake I made is that the horse won in his second start," jokes Bullock. "I was hooked."

That meant he needed another horse.

"The second horse I bought was named B Crafty that Pat Crowe and I picked out. We bought him as a 3-year-old at a mixed sale at the Meadowlands. He ended up winning about \$400,000. That was my first really good horse."

There would be many "really good horses" as Bullock's investment in harness racing grew. The creation of his Glengate Farms in 1992 would be a fundamental injection of greatness into the sport.

"From '92 to 2006 we were – behind Armbro Farms – the largest Standardbred breeding operation in Canada," he says. "We stood stallions, and we bred mares. In some years, we bred as many as 900 mares through semen transportation. We were the first farm from Canada to 'dual hemisphere' a stallion, sending Albert Albert to Australia, which was unique at the time. We also got



into freezing semen with horses like Balanced Image and Angus Hall and selling that to Sweden and Italy."

Glengate Farm became home to three exceptional stallions, all owned partly by Bullock.

"Angus Hall and Balanced Image were owned by syndicates," he says. "It was 40 shares with Balanced Image, and 120 shares for Angus Hall. The 40 shares in Balanced Image gave you 3 breedings. I owned 8 shares as well as getting breedings to him. I was the largest share owner of Angus Hall. At my peak, I probably had 15-16 shares. And I think I owned 40% of Apaches Fame and Bob Chapple of Chatham owned the rest."

All three of those horses are in the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Balanced Image died in 2004, but not before arguably changing the direction of the trotting breed in Canada. He sired 10 millionaires, including the brilliant Arch Madness (\$3,632,393), Goodtimes (\$2,243,416) and Glorys Comet (\$2,057,695).

The trotter, Angus Hall sired over 1700 horses over a 20 year stallion career. His sons and daughters include 6 millionaires – Peaceful Way, Majestic Son, Elusive Desire, Winning Mister, Frenchfrysnvinegar and Laddie.

Apaches Fame, a pacer passed away in 2013. His offspring won more than \$38 million and include Odies Fame, Legacy Of Fame as well as Twin B Champ, Stonebridge Galaxy and Twin B Warrior.

Bullock has had a long relationship with horseman John Bax. Juanita's Fury was a successful trotting mare trained by Bax.

"She made about \$400,000," says Bullock. "Her peak performance was probably a 2nd place finish in the Peaceful Way. I have had horses with John Bax going back to 1994. I had a number of successful trotters with him. Pepi Lavec was one of them. She made about \$800,000. More recently we had one called Southwind Cacha who was a really good horse. We had her in the Hambletonian Oaks 3 years ago. Unfortunately, she had a ruptured aorta a few races after that, and she died. Earlier, I had a number of pacing mares with John Kopas, The Patriot, Style, and Westcoast Lady were all successful horses for us. The vast majority of my racehorses were fillies, and that's how I

built my broodmare band."

Bullock agrees that he is more partial to trotters than pacers.

"I enjoy the trotters except when they run," he says laughing. "We had great success on the breeding side with Balanced Image and Angus Hall. If you look at the history of Glengate Farms, we probably did better at the yearling sales selling trotters than we did with the pacers. At this point, I have 27 broodmares and 26 of them are trotters and one is pacer."

Bullock gets a little self deprecating when the subject of Art Official is raised.

"Not only did I breed him, I sold him as a weanling. How's that for genius?" he says. "For all of \$10,000. I had 30 yearlings that year and I decided I was going to keep 10 and sell the other 20. The 10 I kept didn't come close to making what Art Official made."

Not to extend Bullock's pain on this transaction, but Standardbred Canada shows that Art Official won 8 of 54 starts, earned more than \$2,000,000 and recorded an historic 1:47 mile on July 19, 2008. It was historic because it came in the Meadowlands Pace when he handed the great Somebeachsomewhere that horse's only defeat.

"At the Hall of Fame Induction night, I mentioned to Paul MacDonell that I wasn't going to bring up Art Official tonight," jokes Bullock. "I thought it was a tremendous race. That was his night to be the star. Pretty exciting."

Bullock seems to get a little twisted pleasure recounting the mistakes he has made. Like Odies Fame.

"I remember going out in the field with my farm manager looking over the weanlings," he says. "I saw that a front leg was turned. I said 'We have to get rid of this one. She's crooked in the front.' So I sold her in a mixed sale at Woodbine for \$3,500 and she went on to make \$1.7 million. No one told Odies Fame she was crooked. It takes something special to be in the breeding business since 1992 to have the 2 horses that made the most money to be sold as weanlings."

Bullock's deep commitment to standardbred racing led to him being elected to the Board of Directors of the Jockey Club of Canada. He served in that position from 1989 to 2004. His late wife, Pat was appointed by the Harris government to the Ontario Racing Commission and held that post for 6 or 7 years.

As the health of Bullock's wife deteriorated, he began to reduce his involvement.

"When we first became aware of my wife's problems with early stage Alzheimer's in 2006, that was when I downsized the farm and got out of the stallion business," he says. "That was the year we sold Art Official. I continued to own horses at Glengate, and I always had a few broodmares. After a couple of health challenges myself that I got past, I decided that I really enjoyed it, so I got back into it and started to ramp up the

broodmare band again. Day-to-day my farms are operated by a lady named Sue Zammitt, who I've had mares boarded with since 2006."

Bullock's long association with harness racing continues unabated. Just hours after this interview for *Down The Stretch*, trainer John Bax sent out the 2-year-old trotting colt, Darbyshire in a \$22,000 OSS Grass Roots race. Darbyshire is part-owned by Bullock and with James MacDonald in the bike, he picked up cover out of 4th just before the far turn, found his best stride in the final 200 yards and won by a length in 1:58.2 This was Darbyshire's 3rd win in his 4th race and another win for a trotter bred by Glengate Farms. Darbyshire paid just \$3.30 to win.

Quarter Horse Owner of the Month: Amélie Aubut



Winning From Afar

Amélie Aubut has a very long-distance love affair with quarter horse racing. She lives in Pont-Rouge, approximately 45 kilometres west of Quebec City That's about an 8 hour drive and over 760 kilometres to Ajax Downs if she wants to see her horses race.

"I was doing barrel racing," says Aubut, 42. "I always dreamed to race quarter horses and every year I told my husband, 'One day I will have one,' and finally I met Jason Pascoe. I needed to pick up a barrel horse at his farm. A year after, he asked me, 'Do you want a partnership on a quarter horse?' That was Classic Courage. That was the first horse I owned and after that, it's like a drug. You want more and more, and I'm there now."

Classic Courage raced just 4 times, never won, and produced just \$1,034 in purse earnings. Aubut was hardly discouraged.

"The next horse I owned was one I shared with Jason's girlfriend, Bryanne Sheppard," she continues. "He was Sw Hail to the King, and this horse did really good for us."

Sw Hail to the King raced from 2017 through 2020. He started 34 times, won 7 races, and earned \$39,862. He had a 3 race win streak from September 16, 2019, to June 17, 2020. That streak started with a win under jockey Shanley Jackson at 330 yards, good for a 92 speed index, then it was Oscar Andrade Jr. steering Sw Hail to the King to victory at 250 yards and an 86 speed index. The 3rd win came courtesy of Ed Walton, also at 250 yards in 13.365, a 91 speed index.

Aubut's next equine purchase was the one she considers the most important – a filly named Silky Senator.

"She's now the best mare that I own," she says. "She was a yearling when I bought her. She was the fastest one. I still have her. She's a broodmare now. She's very special to me."

Silky Senator won 5 of her 16 starts and piled up \$36,727. Like Sw Hail to the King, she also won 3 in a row. She took down a 350 yard dash on July 15, 2018, earning a dazzling 101 speed index, and came back 2 weeks later to score over 400 yards for a 98 figure. Six weeks after that, she won at 330 for a 99 speed index.

Silky Senator's excellent genes give Aubut great optimism for her future in the game.

"I have a yearling now from her," she says. "I bred the mare to Maryland Magic."



Maryland Magic is one extraordinary quarter horse. Owned by Ajax Downs' leading owner, Milena Kwiecien, the now 8-year-old has won 15 of 48 starts and is still racing, even as he has produced, along with Aubut's baby, 3 fillies and a colt, all of whom are also competing parimutually.

"So the mother has the speed index of 101 and the father is 103," says Aubut proudly. "This colt is huge and beautiful. I'm really proud. I'm really excited about this year, but also about next year. I will send him to Jason Pascoe at the end of the season and he will probably go to Oklahoma for the winter, and we'll be back next summer to race at Ajax."

This will be the second colt that Aubut has bred. A mating of the broodmare, Sassy Shades of Grey with the stallion Cold Hard Dash produced A Shades of Cold, and this one could not have opened his career any better. On July 6, the 2-year-old wired 4 others at 250 yards, winning under Ismael Mosqueira by 2 lengths in 13.688. The purse was \$14,000.

"He was supposed to race in the Ontario Futurity, but he acted up in the gate in the trials and was scratched," says Aubut. "I am one of the owners of this stallion who has been standing for a couple years in Ontario."

Two other horses owned by Aubut raced at Ajax Downs on August 3. Vf Exact Return, a 3-year-old colt was second, beaten by a head in a \$16,000 allowance race at 250 yards. Mi Khaleesi, a 3-year-old filly tried for the 10th time to break her maiden but finished 3rd at 300 yards.

Right now, Aubut's top money earner is Down In Carolina.

"This is a real special horse for me," says Aubut. "I bought this horse for \$7,000. I started to play with him at home as a yearling and when he was supposed to go to Jason, he had colic and he was really, really sick. The vet

told me, 'We have to put him down.' But I said no, and we saved him. He didn't run as a 2-year-old because of that, and as a 3-year-old he was ok, but he started last year to run really good. He's not the fastest one, but he always gives 110 percent."

Down In Carolina had an excellent 2021. He started 11 times, won 3 races, finished 2nd 3 times, and came 3rd twice. Through his first 21 races, he sports 4 wins, and earnings of \$47,618.

If you get a chance to work with Amélie Aubut, you're lucky. She shows great loyalty to the people involved with her horses. With Jason Pascoe as her trainer, Aubut knows her horses are headed in the right direction.

"I will not ever change my trainer," she says. "I am so far from Ajax Downs; I have to close my eyes and trust him. He is perfect. He is always texting me, giving me news, sending pictures. He is very good with his owners."

Veteran jockey Ismael Mosqueira rides a lot of the Aubut speedsters and that pleases the owner.

"He is a true gentleman," she says. "He always sits well with my horses. He gives them the attention they need. He always seems to fit every horse he rides for me. He is very quiet. I really like this jockey."

Aubut works for the Quebec government. For 14 years she has worked full-time as a supervisor of the office that issues driver's licences and sets up driving lessons.

"I think what I love the most is my horses," she says. "They are my life, like my baby, kids. Sure it's good when you win, but if your horse is honest and tries, that's fine for me. It's even more exciting when you have the mother and the father, and you have made the baby. When they're yearlings, I play with them. I start to put the saddles on them, so that when they leave to go to Jason, I know they are ready for the next stage of their careers."

Slade Callaghan named 2022 Avelino Gomez Memorial Award recipient



On July 19, Slade Callaghan, who has recorded nearly 850 career wins, including 31 stakes, was named the 2022 recipient of the Avelino Gomez Memorial Award.

The coveted Gomez Award is given to the person, Canadian-born, Canadian-raised or regular rider in the country for more than five years, who contributes notably to the sport.

It is named in memory of one of the sport's most successful and revered performers. The Cuban-born Gomez died of complications after a three-horse accident in the 1980 Canadian Oaks.

To commemorate his contributions to the sport, a life-size statue of Gomez, who called Toronto home and raised a family there, keeps watch over Woodbine's walking ring. A replica is presented to each year's honouree.

"I was really humbled," said Callaghan, upon receiving the news he was this year's recipient. "I've been here at Woodbine 28 years and every year I've been here I've seen so many great riders, who have had amazing careers, receive this award. For me to be added to this list is overwhelming. It's also gratifying. I don't know

where the time has gone. It's been about 10 years since I was what I'd call semi-retired, riding a few horses, but definitely not full time. I love this racetrack and I love the people. I'm glad I made the decision to ride here."

Callaghan, 51, has enjoyed great success over a riding career that began when he was just 16.

A natural sportsman – he excelled at tennis and squash – Callaghan launched his life in the saddle in his native Barbados, winning his first race in 1986, but a serious shoulder injury, the result of racing accident, sent him to the sidelines for nearly a year.

The setback didn't diminish Callaghan's affinity for horse racing or his determination to get back in the irons. Ten months after the accident he was in the winner's circle again.

In 1994 he made the decision to come to Canada with the hope of becoming a regular at Woodbine, a place where his brother, Brett, had also competed.

His first Canadian victory came at Fort Erie that same year. In 1999, Callaghan won 60 races, including six stakes. A fractured vertebra kept him out of action for only a month, and he returned to win the New Providence Stakes in 2000 when he teamed with the aptly named Matter of Courage.

After a 48-win campaign in 2000, Callaghan posted 43 victories in 2001 and 54 in 2002. One year later, he topped the \$2 million plateau in purse earnings, marking the fifth straight year he reached that number. In 2004, he posted a career-best 64 wins.

Highlights include winning the 2002 Breeders' Stakes, third jewel in the Canadian Triple Crown series, aboard Portcullis, the 2006 Incitatus Cup aboard Archeress on Barbados Day at Woodbine, as well as the 2008 Grade 1 Woodbine Mile, and 2008 Grade 3 Connaught Cup, both with Rahy's Attorney. Another special triumph came in 2004 when he returned to ride in his homeland and won the country's most prestigious race, the Barbados Gold Cup.

"I've never been a top three, top five rider, but I've always been a solid, hard-working rider. To be recognized with this award is truly one of the best things that I've experienced in my career. It really is nice and I'm very grateful for it. But for me, when I look back on my career, everything comes back to the horses and

the people. That's what's it all about. The grooms, the hotwalkers, the valets, the gate crew, exercise riders, trainers, owners, my fellow riders, and everyone who works hard to make the races happen, I'm very appreciative of everyone and what they do. I was also extremely fortunate to have had one agent, Daren Gomez, throughout my career. I can't think of any rider and agent in more recent times who have had that long of a relationship at Woodbine."

Callaghan, who still picks up the odd mount at the Toronto oval, maintains his connection to the horses and horse racing by working in the barn of his wife, trainer Kelly Callaghan.

As for what the future holds, the veteran rider isn't quite sure. The one certainty is that it will involve Thoroughbreds.

"The horses keep me coming back every day. It's that love of horses. From the time I was a kid, I've had horses in my life. It will remain that way even if I leave Woodbine. Buying and selling horses, that's what I'm leaning towards down the road. I especially love the young horses. I've always enjoyed working with them and they will stay a big part of my life in the next chapter."

"To put on the races, it takes a village. You have to thank everyone. I was thinking about my speech on Oaks day, and the one thing that I want to acknowledge is all of the people who work to make racing at Woodbine so great. And I want to thank the horses. They are really the most amazing animals and I really appreciate the connection I have with them."

Callaghan joins Ron Turcotte, Johnny Longden, Sandy Hawley, Don MacBeth, Chris Rogers, Jeff Fell, Lloyd Duffy, Hugo Dittfach, Robin Platts, Larry Attard, Don Seymour, David Gall, Richard Grubb, Irwin Driedger, David Clark, Jim McKnight, Chris Loseth, Richard Dos Ramos, Robert Landry, Francine Villeneuve, Sam Krasner, John LeBlanc Sr., George Ho Sang, Jack Lauzon, Robert King Jr., Stewart Elliott, Emile Ramsammy, Steve Bahen, Mickey Walls, Patrick Husbands, Quincy Welch, Gary Stahlbaum, Gary Boulanger, Emma-Jayne Wilson, Frank Barroby and Eurico Rosa da Silva as Gomez recipients.



Phoebe Hayes
@PhoebeHayes20

OMG - Race horse Name of the Day. How did this get past the Jockey Club registry? 5th race at Laurel. Look at the sire and dam and say the name out loud in two syllables 🤔🤔

2 White	Waldorf Racing Stables LLC KHAKE, dog emblem, brown cuffs on sleeves, brown cap	Marya K. Montoya	8
	Blome MD 2y.o. (Feb) Ch. f (MD) by Blofeld - Clever Me by Not For Love Bred in Maryland by Amy H Daney Bloodstock	120	Horacio Karamanos

First Cold Wave Powers to Ontario Derby Victory

4-win Day for Trainer Pascoe *By Jennifer Morrison*



First Cold Wave (#7) under Brian Bell by a neck

New Image
Media Photo

In the 8th and last race on Wednesday, July 27 at Ajax Downs, Robert Bailey's First Cold Wave showed why he was voted the 2021 Ajax Downs Horse of the Year with a gritty victory in the \$51,480 Ontario Bred Derby.

After breaking sharply under regular rider Brian Bell, First Cold Wave, trained by Jason Pascoe, was quickly in an early battle with rival Night Leader in the 300-yard dash for 3-year-olds. Night Leader, owned by John Wilson and trained by Scott Reid, dug in under jockey Carly Furlonger, but First Cold Wave won by a neck in a time of 15.463 for a solid speed index of 92. Another Pascoe trainee, Kold Kinda Star, owned by Milena Kwiecien, finished third, and his stablemate Blazing Magician was fourth.

Bell, who broke the son of Ontario stallion Cold Hard Dash to saddle as a yearling, has ridden First Cold Wave for all six of his career wins and was impressed with the gelding's determination in the final stages of the 11th edition of the Derby.

"The race went as good as I could have expected," said Bell. "He broke hard, and I know Carly put us to running a little bit and I started sweating a little. But he gave me that extra stride, which made the race."

Bailey, from Oakwood, Ontario, is a long-time owner and breeder in Quarter Horse

racing with partner Belinda Taggart.

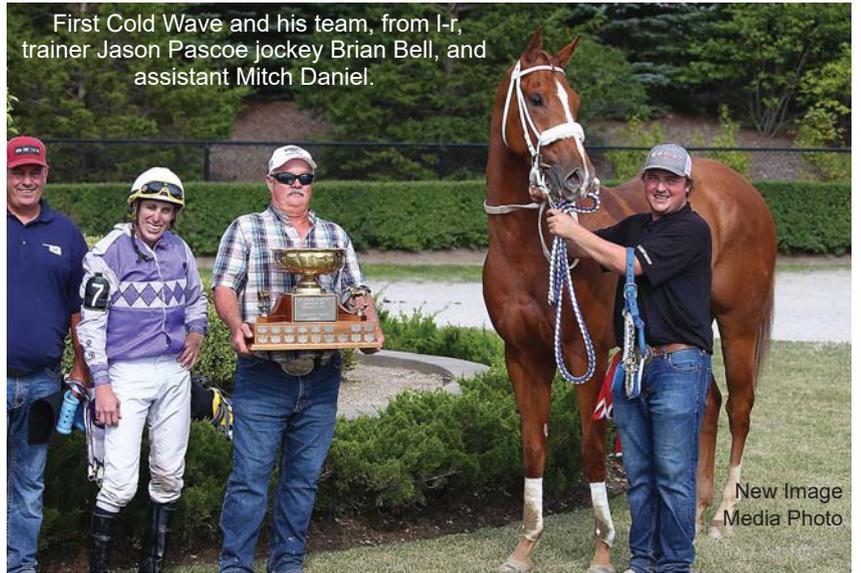
"He was a bit of a character as a foal," said Bailey. "But he has shown a lot of class." Bailey and Taggart are part of the syndicate that stands Cold Hard Dash at stud in Port Perry.

The Derby win pushed First Cold Wave's career earnings to almost \$140,000.

Wednesday was a big day for leading trainer Pascoe who saddled four winners on the eight-race card. He also sent out Milena Kwiecien's Daz Cold (\$5.90) in the 1st race, and Maximize for Belinda Taggart in the second. Both of those winners were ridden by J.B. Botello. Pascoe also trains the 5th race winner, Maryland Magic, owned by Kwiecien and ridden by Ed Walton.

The 4 wins simply made Pascoe even more uncatchable in the trainers' race. That brought him up to 24 victories, several furlongs ahead of Scott Reid who is second with 8.

Follow Quarter Horse racing from Ajax Downs on social media and keep up on race dates and events at www.ajaxdowns.com.



First Cold Wave and his team, from l-r, trainer Jason Pascoe, jockey Brian Bell, and assistant Mitch Daniel.

New Image
Media Photo



THE HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE that an Annual General Meeting of the Horsemen's Benevolent Protective Association of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as the "Association") will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, September 24th, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. for the following purpose:

1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held September 25th, 2021;
2. To receive the report of the auditors for year ended March 31, 2022; and the pension plan for year ended December 31, 2021
3. To appoint the auditors for the Corporation;
4. To report on the activities of the Association;

DATED at the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Barker, Executive Assistant

MEMBERS ONLY—RSVP IS REQUIRED BY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19th, 2022

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Neil's Diamond and His Hit Record

Neil's Diamond re-united with Franz and Danielle Crean



There are a lot, too many really – stories of horses who get lost in the system, stumble into the lowest claiming races and then meet a dreadful fate.

This is not one of those stories. This is about a horse named Neil's Diamond and the people who loved him.

In 2013, Franz Crean purchased a mare named Cherry Grove. Cherry Grove had a dalliance with the stallion, Where's The Ring, producing an attractive baby colt.

Franz and his wife, Danielle put the colt into the Woodbine Yearling Sale.

"We actually tried to sell him," says Danielle. "But he didn't reach his price, so Franz bought him back and decided to race him instead."

Now that they owned the colt, Danielle and Franz needed to give it name. Many racehorses acquire their names from a combination of the mare and stallion that produced them.

"The mare, Cherry Grove was kind of difficult go with," says Danielle about the naming process. "So we looked at the sire, Where's the Ring. And I said, 'Maybe we should do something with a stone, like a diamond ring.' And Franz said, 'Let's call him Neil's Diamond,' because Franz loves Neil Diamond."

While in the care of the Creans, Neil's Diamond wasn't quite the rock star that Neil Diamond was, but not a complete flop on the track.

Danielle and Franz were dreaming big for Neil's Diamond's first race. It was the \$150,000 Clarendon Stakes at Woodbine on July 5, 2015. Under Emma-Jayne Wilson, Neil's Diamond went off at 16-1 and ran nicely, finishing 3rd in the 5 ½ furlong sprint, about 2 lengths behind the winner.

Three weeks later, in a \$55,900 allowance race, Neil's Diamond picked up the second place cheque, losing by a

length at 6 furlongs.

After running 7th in the Simcoe Stakes in September, Neil's Diamond was given the winter off, and he came back nicely as a 3-year-old. His first start of 2016 was in a \$45,000 maiden special weight at 6 ½ furlongs against 10 others. With Justin Stein aboard, Neil's Diamond rallied from 4th at the half to win by a length in 1:17.86, paying \$16.60 to win. The owner and trainer are listed as Robert F Crean, which Franz says is the name he uses for official racetrack purposes.

Neil's Diamond would not win any of his next 14 races.

Despite that, there was something about the horse, at least in Franz's mind, which was irresistible, even charismatic.

"He had such personality, and he was tough," says Danielle. "He was a bit of a biter, and he did not respond to rough treatment. So if you were disciplining him, he would just turn around and take a chunk out of you. He bit me several times. But he loved Franz. Franz always galloped him, and Franz loved him because he always ran hard."

There's an important business side to the races, and when horses don't make money, decisions must be made.

"Franz is also pragmatic," continues Danielle. "And when Neil's Diamond wasn't winning, he had to be dropped into easier company. And eventually he was claimed by someone in Fort Erie."

On May 25, 2018, Neil's Diamond produced his second win for the Creans, surging late in the stretch for jockey David Moran and winning by 2 ½ lengths at a mile and a 16th. From that race, he was claimed for \$10,000 by trainer Julie Mathes for owner Joy Elkins.

Over the next 30 months, Neil's Diamond would change hands several times.

On September 16, he was claimed for \$4,000 out of a 5 furlong turf race at Fort Erie by Claudia Rabstein for

owner Zig Grinstein.

On December 12 that year, he finished 12th in a \$6,250 claim race and was haltered by Norm McKnight for Racer's Edge. McKnight raced the horse a couple of times at Oaklawn and twice more at Churchill Downs. In that second race at Churchill Downs, Neil's Diamond was claimed by owner/trainer Luis Cotto.

Through all of this, the Creans never lost track of a favourite son. There was always a plan for Neil's Diamond.

"Franz thought, if he ever came back, if he was still sound, he wouldn't mind making him a riding horse," says Danielle.

The guy who claimed Neil's Diamond at Churchill did so on behalf of SJ Farm PR, which belongs to a gentleman named Carlos Javier Casillas. Maybe it was the easier competition. Or the difference in the soil on the Camarero Race Track. Or the beneficial blend of the humidity and heat of the island. Or very possibly the fine work of the trainers, Sammy Garcia, or Eric Betancourt. Whatever it was, Neil's Diamond was in his happy place.

"They took him to Puerto Rico, and we kept an eye on him," says Danielle. "He was just amazing. He was a superstar in Puerto Rico. Initially he was in high claiming and then he was running for allowance, and then he even won an important Stakes race down there."

Between July 28, 2019, and February 5, 2022, Neil's Diamond ran 20 times at the Camarero track. He won 12 races and was second 5 other times. In one stretch, he won 6 in a row, culminating in a 3 ¾ length triumph in the \$37,017 Clasico Mister Frisky Stakes, in which he covered a mile and an 8th in 1:51.18 under jockey Javier Santiago.

The last race of his career came on February 5, 2022. He went off at 7-2 in a \$14,000 claim race at 6 furlongs. Jockey J.C. Diaz Jr. had him placed 4th down the backstretch and then the pair rallied past the leaders to win by a head in 1:12.36. In his 54th and final race, Neil's Diamond notched his 17th win and paid \$9.20. That's when the owner, Casillas made a wise decision. It was time for Neil's Diamond to retire. Just about everyone who had ever met Neil's Diamond had benefitted. The horse had won \$233,523.

That's where LongRun comes in. The LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society does amazing work making sure that horses find new homes when their racing careers end. The Creans wanted Neil's Diamond back, but it would be a complicated plan to bring Neil's Diamond to Ontario. Vicki Pappas is the chairperson and founding member.

"Franz and Danielle contacted us asking if we would watch out for the horse," says Pappas. "The Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare made all the arrangements to come back up. Franz and Danielle very generously helped out. The horse shipped from Puerto Rico to Ocala and then came up to LongRun and stayed with us for a few weeks. Danielle and Franz picked him up and he is now living his comfortable life of retirement on their farm." What a terrific story of people loving a horse. And there's still one little appealing anecdote to this one.

"The owner, Mr. Casillas was really happy to have retired him, knowing that he was coming back to his breeders," says Danielle. "They loved the horse and apparently he has a 9-year-old, son and they're planning to come up here to visit Neil's Diamond."

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2022 SALES

CANADIAN PREMIER YEARLING SALE (Ont Division)
August 31 CTHS, Woodbine Sales Pavilion

SEPTEMBER YEARLING SALE
September 12 – 23 Keeneland, Lexington, KY

MIDLANTIC FALL YEARLING SALE
October 3 – 4 Fasig-Tipton, Elkton, MD

SELECTED SALE OF YEARLINGS
October 11 OBS, Ocala, FL

OPEN SALE OF YEARLINGS
October 12 OBS, Ocala, FL

KENTUCKY OCTOBER YEARLING SALE
October 24 – 27 Fasig-Tipton, Lexington, KY



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ODDITIES & ENTITIES

They must be doing something right at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg. This is the crowd they attracted on Canada Day



Wiener dog races at Grand River Raceway. The winner was a foot-long the best

Very interesting....

Trotter steals driver's helmet during race



So cool , comparison of strides for these legendary race horses.

When ostriches race, they always win by a neck



On March 4, 1989, the racing buffalo Harvey Wallbanger made his California debut at Golden Gate Fields. Ridden by his owner and trainer, T. C. Thorstenson, Harvey Wallbanger defeated Two Eyed Burt, a quarter horse ridden by "Cowboy" Jack Kaenel, by a half-length in a 110-yard dash down the Golden Gate Fields stretch. The 8 year-old, 2,000-pound buffalo posted a time of 9.4 seconds while recording his 21st victory in 26 starts.

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June 27, Episode 127:

A great cast of characters in this week's podcast. Jockey **Patrick Husbands** won the Sunday Stakes at Woodbine, then used his winners circle interview to give props to broadcaster **Jason Portuondo**, who was working his last day with a microphone before becoming a steward. How about **Isabelle Wenc's** karma? Wenc organized a softball tournament to raise necessary funds for her best friend, **Sheena Ryan** who is recovering from a devastating injury. The day after the tournament, Wenc won a race at Fort Erie. This podcast has 3 huge milestones – **Dave Palone** steering his 20,000th winner, Bob McClure with # 3,000 and **Doug McNair** cruising past the \$70 million mark. We have a lot of **Neil Diamond** in this podcast, because we have a story about Neil's Diamond, a horse loved so much by **Franz and Danielle Crean**, they shipped him up from Puerto Rico when his racing career ended.

July 4, Episode 128:

Wow – did all this happen in just one week? 4 wins for **Trevor Henry**, 5 wins for **James MacDonald**. Big moments for **Ismael Mosqueira** at Fort Erie and **Ricardo Moreno** at Ajax Downs. The sale of **Jimmy Freight**. A world record-tying win by **Bulldog Hanover**. **Roger Attfield's** 2,000 win came with a racing rarity. **Tim Tetrick's** bizarre and unlikely Friday night. And 6 minutes of the most valuable marketing tips that horse racing has ever heard!

July 11, Episode 129:

Trainer Katarina Vassilieva tells us how thrilled she is that her 3 year-old Rondure is a likely Queen's Plate favourite. We meet jockey **Micah Husbands** whose career got off to a wonderful start. **Kevin Attard** and agent **Leroy Trotman** tell us why the sky is the limit for this kid. The Stakes race at Woodbine was the Alywow on Saturday. There were some big pots in OSS Gold races at Mohawk on Monday and there was nothing cheesy about the payoff that Goudawon created in an OSS Gold Friday night. We check out last week's card of quarter horse racing at Ajax Downs and we ask the question, how does almost 10,000 wins, a Little Brown Jug, a North America Cup, a Meadowlands Pace and a Breeders Crown not get **Jack Moiseyev** into the US Harness Racing Hall of Fame? **Emma Christoforou** and **Bill O'Donnell** weigh in on this.

July 18, Episode 130:

We have the Victoria Stakes and the My Dear Stakes from Woodbine and the first two legs of the Women's Driving Championship from Hanover and Dresden Raceways. Owner **Jack Darling** talks with us about **Bulldog Hanover** whose last 4 mind-blowing races include a world record-setting mile last Saturday at the Meadowlands. Harness drivers winning in bunches...4 for **Louis-Philippe Roy** on Monday then 6 for **Sylvain Filion** on Friday. We've got Moncton, New Brunswick's **Ailsa Morrison** winning on opening day at Colonial Downs. Opening Day? The Saratoga meet got underway and **Jon Stettin** of Past The Wire tells us he is not a fan of the new location of the starting gate for 1-mile races. Jockey **Miguel Nicholls** broke his maiden at Ajax Downs and didn't mind getting soaked for it. We talk with **Darren Dunn** who tells us why the thoroughbred racing at Assiniboia Downs is producing great betting numbers, and have you ever wondered why racetracks don't pay off to the penny?

July 25 Episode 131:

They ran the Woodbine Oaks and the Queen's Plate Trial on Sunday. Two days before that, leading jockey, **Kazushi Kimura** was injured in a fall. So when Jockeys Benefit Association President **Daren Gomez** justifies a significant increase in riders' fees, he knows what the stakes are. Veteran **Slade Callaghan** talks with us after receiving the Avelino Gomez Memorial Award. Powerhouse owner, **Brad Grant** revels in the thrill of owning **Bulldog Hanover**, the world's fastest harness horse. Trainer **Paige Austin** didn't need long to send out her first winner and her guy, **James Macdonald** is making a travesty of the drivers' race at Mohawk. And the multi-talented race caller, **Jason Beem** makes us laugh with his brilliant parody of **Don McLean's** American Pie.

August 1, Episode 132:

This week, **Emma-Jayne Wilson's** electric ride in the Niagara Stakes from Woodbine. **Sylvain Filion's** 5-bagger at Mohawk Park. Jockey **Nicole Hein** scratching one off her bucket list, winning for the first time at Woodbine. Trainer **Jason Pascoe** crushing it at Ajax Downs. **Linda Rainey** of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame on this year's inductees and the enticing prizes up for bid in a virtual auction. A 12 year-old harness horse in Nova Scotia won a race after being off for 4 years. Ever heard of a betting prop that kicks back an ROI of over 150%? We've got one and **Rafael Hernandez** has a dilemma all of us would like to have.

August 8, Episode 133:

This podcast includes the Ontario Colleen Stakes from Woodbine and a night at the Horse Racing Hall of Fame Inductions. We talked with **Gary Boulanger**, **Sue Leslie**, **Paul MacDonnell**, **Vicki Pappas** and **Randy Waples**. **Garnet Barnsdale** was at the Meadowlands Saturday night to witness the biggest upset in the 97-year history of the famed Hambletonian. Jockey **Amanda Vandermeersch** talks about the first win of her career and agent **Brandon Fairlie** is working on a riding resurgence for the career of veteran **Omar Moreno**. Canadian quarter horse champ **Had To Be Ivory** pulled off another win at Ajax Downs. We've got an exactor from Mohawk – the biggest payoff in 59 years and **Peter Gross**, the host of this podcast does the hard work at the official opening of the Stella Artois Lounge at Woodbine, because if someone doesn't eat the giant shrimps, the Asian chicken and the brisket sliders, how would anyone know what it is like?

August 15, Episode 134:

As we heat up for next week's Queen's Plate, trainer **Katerina Vassilieva** reveals that imported jockey **Flavien Prat** will ride Rondure and Prat's agent, **Brad Pegram** tells us what a good call that is. We feature 6 Stakes races from Woodbine and the Dan Patch from Hoosier Downs which was another tour de force from the world's fastest harness horse, **Bulldog Hanover**. There's free music from **The Reklaws** who will perform at Woodbine on August 21. Jockey **Daisuke Fukumoto** had his best day of the year with 3 wins and we play all of them. Two eliminations in Charlottetown for the Prestigious Gold Cup and Saucer - **James MacDonald** drove the winners of both, then gave us quite the scoop. At Ajax Downs, there was an upset in the final leg of the Quarter Racing Owners Sprint Series and trainer **Lauren Spada** won with the first horse she ever sent out. We have a nice chat with longtime harness horse breeder and owner **Jim Bullock**, who recently was ushered into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame...and a race at Rideau Carleton with an outcome that was... 6,000-1.