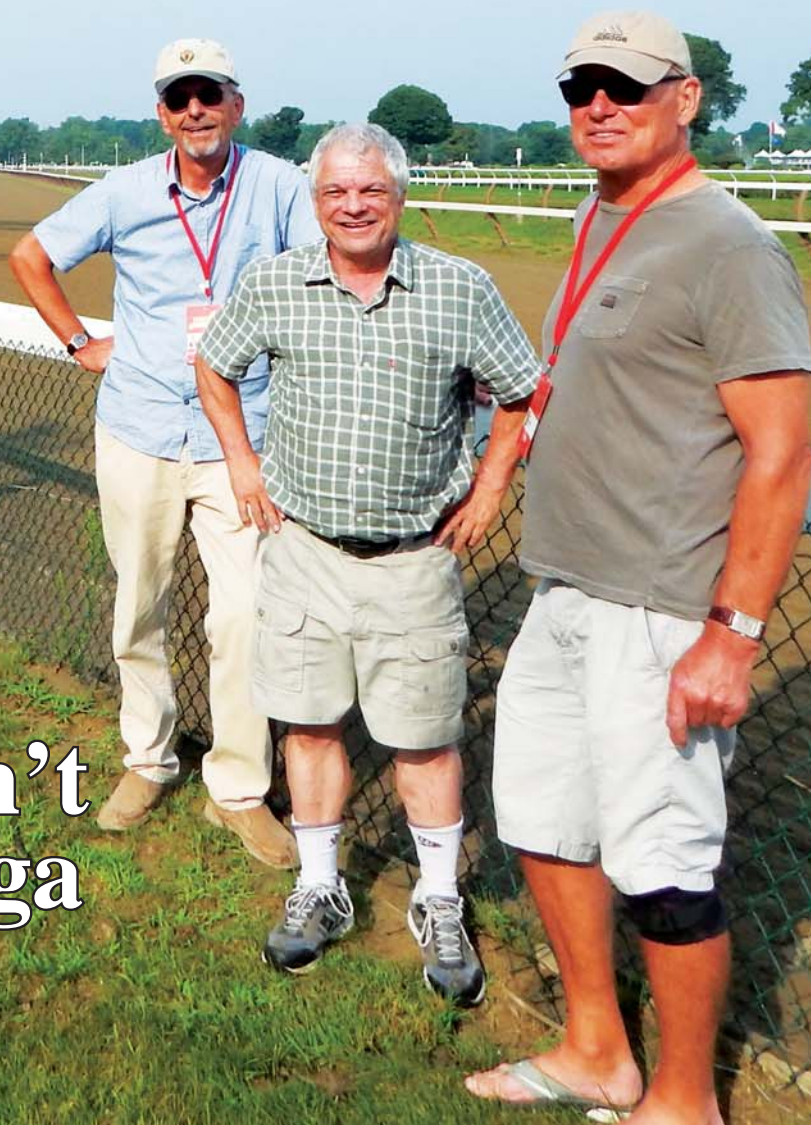


# DOWN THE STRETCH

CANADA'S MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING HORSE RACING NEWSPAPER

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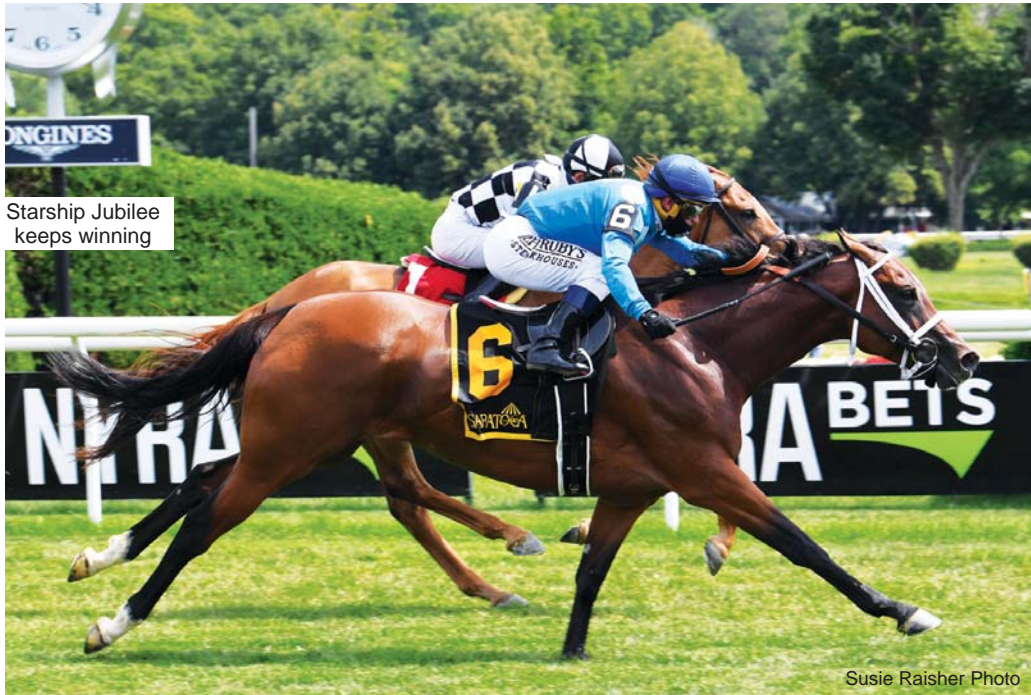
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# Kevin Attard checks one off the bucket list



Starship Jubilee keeps winning

Susie Raisher Photo

**T**rainer Kevin Attard had never won a Stakes race at Saratoga, but thanks to the sensational seven year-old mare, Starship Jubilee, that 0-for is now a 1-for. Starship Jubilee was one of just 5 fillies and mares in the Grade II \$200,000 Ballston Spa at Saratoga on July 25 and despite her wonderful record of 17 wins in 35 starts, the 2019 Canadian Horse of the Year was up against the very brilliant Sistercharlie, a six year-old mare who had won 10 of 15 races, while accumulating \$3,662,000. Starship Jubilee hadn't raced since taking down the Grade II Hillsborough Stakes at Tampa in March, but this was Sistercharlie's first contest since a third place finish in the Fillies and Mares Breeders' Cup Turf Mile at Santa Anita last November.

Jockey Javier Castellano had Starship Jubilee in third

down the backstretch of this mile and a sixteenth grass race as North Broadway (Tyler Gaffalione) opened up a 10-length lead. But after a mile in a swift 1:35.83, North Broadway was going south and Starship Jubilee was gathering momentum, despite a five-wide move at the head of the stretch. In the final half furlong, it was Starship Jubilee and Call Me Love (Joel Rosario) trading punches and Starship Jubilee stretched her neck out at the wire to win in 1:46.76. Bet down to 2-5 (with \$121,000 to place), Sistercharlie was a well-beaten third.

Attard was sending out horses at Woodbine and watched this one on a monitor. Hall of Famer Shug McGaughey saddled the horse at Saratoga.

"Going into the turn, you could see that Starship Jubilee and Sistercharlie were starting to gear up," said Attard

when asked to describe how he saw the race. "As they came to the quarter pole, I could see Johnny V going to work on Sistercharlie and she was wasn't really responding and I thought, 'Gee if she could just stay ahead of her, we might be able to outspurt her to the wire.' And sure enough, she switched leads and luckily she's got that heart and desire to win and she kept prevailing. I'll probably never come across another horse as good as her."

This was the fourth Stakes win aboard Starship Jubilee for Castellano whose journey to the winners circle was not uneventful.

"The horse broke sideways and my right foot hit the door," Castellano said. "It was painful. With the pain, I tried to rate the horse and I think I grabbed a little too much. It looked like the horse was keen, but she wasn't."

With his foot throbbing, Castellano had to exercise patience.

"I had to fight her a little bit. She's such a great horse; to beat Sistercharlie, she's one of the best fillies in the country," said Castellano. "I give all the credit to my horse. I like the way she did it. We had to take on a number one horse in the country like Sistercharlie. I think it was the right time today and the right place to beat her, not to take anything from my horse. I'm very satisfied with the way she did it today."

Sister Charlie was third in last year's Ballston Spa.

Starship Jubilee paid \$8.20 to win. She is owned by Blue Heaven Farm and has now banked over \$1.6 million. Don't forget she was claimed by Attard for \$16,000 three years ago. Now she's given her trainer a beautiful mark on his résumé.

"First Stakes win at Saratoga!" He exclaimed. "First win. First of everything there!"

That's four straight Stakes wins for Starship Jubilee. What's left for this horse to do, Kevin?

He answers immediately.

"The Breeders' Cup!"



Not so Improbable

Adam Coglianese Photo

## What happened to Tom's d'Etat was Improbable

**O**nly 5 horses ran in the \$750,000 Grade I Whitney Stakes at Saratoga on August 1, but even so, it was a great field; each of the 5 colts had won over \$1 million and each of them had finished first or second in more than half their races.

The 7 year-old Tom's d'Etat was installed as the even-money favourite and that affection by the bettors was well deserved. Tom's d'Etat came in a winner of 11 of his 18 races, including his last four.

But when the gates opened, Tom's d'Etat stumbled badly under Joel Rosario and that probably cost him 5 lengths. The race's longshot, Mr. Buff (Junior Alvarado), led the field for the first 6 furlongs and he wasn't overly aggressive, going a very reasonable 1:13.36 for the opening three quarters of a mile. Around the far turn, Irad Ortiz moved Improbable three-wide and took over the lead at the head of the stretch. By My Standards, under José Ortiz moved to second in the middle of the stretch, and Tom's d'Etat had a little late run for a third place finish. He was less than 3 lengths from the winner, Improbable, which suggests the poor start clearly doomed him.

Improbable was timed in 1:48.65, which is 2 seconds slower than the Stakes record set in 2007 by Lawyer Ron. Improbable is trained by Bob Baffert and owned by Winstar Farm and SF Racing. The win price was \$8.50 and another all-Ortiz exactor was worth \$38.



# THE EDITOR WEIGHS IN



I don't want to be sitting here, slamming my fingers into my keyboard.

*I want to be in Saratoga!*

For 30 years, Jim McKenny and I have made the journey. Twice, actually, to Del Mar out west; all the other times to the Spa. We would formulate plans in late March, choose the dates, rent a house, buy the reserved seats on line. Everything else in our lives took second place. The job, the mortgage, the car, the children, the pets.

*We could think of nothing but Saratoga.*

Of course, this year, that was an impossibility. A 30-year streak knocked out by a virus.

*(waves of self pity)*

Jim would pick me up, sometimes at 3 am, if making first post that day was an issue. Other times, we would leave the day before Opening Day; betting horse races at Delaware, Finger Lakes, and Fort Erie in the car as we sliced along the interstate. We loved going to Saratoga. We loved betting the horses. We loved the amazing races. And not to get too sentimental, but we're fond of each other's company. McKenny is funny, irreverent, self-effacing and, as a horse player, daring and uninhibited. Neither one of us cries for very long after a bad beat. *Screw it!* Monmouth is going off

in a minute.

*I want to be in Saratoga!*

So, this year, all we can do is watch the races on HPIBET. It is very strange to see the horses come down the stretch with no one in the stands. Of all the racetracks not to have people, Saratoga suffers the most. A big part of the equation is the crowd – the rich guys in expensive suits with their trophy girlfriends, the families who come every year, the old timers who can tell you stories about Dr. Fager.

This issue is my consolation payoff. On pages 13-16, I unload 4,500 words that recall the thrill of being at Saratoga; much more about the losing, but some glorious scores that somehow compensate. It was the Saratoga Special, started by Joe and Sean Clancy in 2001, that inspired me to start my own newspaper. One of Joe Clancy's lovely pieces is on page 22.

There's a cool thing about horse racing. It's thriving in the pandemic. Thanks to our capacity to bet through phones and computers, it's not necessary to be at the track. The handles are up everywhere and great finishes abound. We have two pages (4-5) of Woodbine Stakes as the Queen's Plate and Woodbine Oaks pictures start to develop. The North America Cup is booked for Mohawk

on August 29, and the three year-olds keep cracking the 1:50 barrier in lead-up Stakes (pages 10-11). The big threat to Canadian pacers just might be a monster named Tall Dark Stranger, who took down the Meadowlands Pace (page 24) in 1:47.2.

We have stories of two incredible horses. Pink Lloyd won the Jacques Cartier and Shepperton Stakes (page 12) as he continues to enhance his status as the greatest sprinter in Canadian history. On page 2, it's Starship Jubilee in her impressive win at Saratoga; trainer Kevin Attard had never before sent out a winner at the Spa.

*Wish I was there to see it in person!*

It was very satisfying to hear that the Standardbred Breeders of Canada won their lawsuit against the Provincial Government (page 11). The judge agreed the government screwed horse people by cancelling the Slots at Racetrack Program without sufficient warning.

Did you know what you wanted to be when you were 18? I wanted to form the next Beatles, though I lacked any musical skill or voice to do so. Nathan Bain is just 18, and 19 year-old Nicholas Barnsdale tells us how Bain convinced the suits at Leamington Raceway to be their race caller (page 25).

We now have three Owner of the Month Features. On page 17, it's Elliott Logan, who sends out thoroughbred winners at Woodbine, even though he lives in Lexington. Jack Darling (page 18) has been in standardbred racing for many years and he's got a beauty named Beaumont Hanover. And our quarter horse Owner of the Month (page 19) is Anna Rosiak who, just a year ago, didn't even own a horse.

Want to know what the best horse racing story of the year is so far? It just might be Ed Walton. Walton is 57, almost 6 feet tall, and he leads all riders at Ajax Downs. At the end of the year, he will probably have more wins than his daughter, Nikki Alderson, who rides at Fort Erie. Both jockeys featured on page 21.

This is the 13th year of publication for **Down The Stretch**. In our third issue of year one (2008) we put a picture of harness driver Steve Condren on the cover. Artist Gord Steventon surrounded Condren with stacks of Canadian \$100 bills to illustrate that horses driven by Condren had paced and trotted past the \$100,000,000 mark. A couple of weeks ago, Condren found out he was going to be inducted into the Milton Sports Hall of Fame (page 24).

So, we have put together another all-encompassing issue of **Down The Stretch**. We still can't attend the tracks here, so all these stories appear on-line only. It has been a pleasure preparing another issue for your reading pleasure.

*But I wish I was at Saratoga!*

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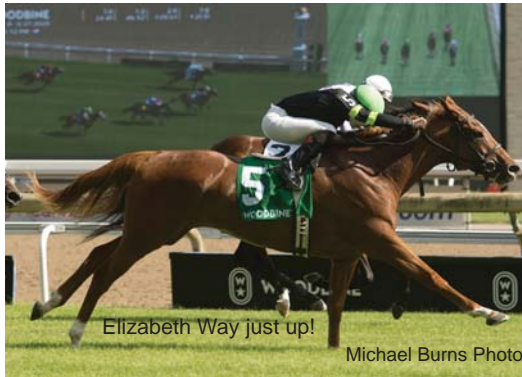
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# Woodbine Stakes

## Elizabeth knew the Way



The terrific start to the racing season continued for Emma-Jayne Wilson as she timed it perfectly with the four year-old filly, Elizabeth Way, to win the \$175,000 Grade II Nassau Stakes on June 27.

Wilson had Elizabeth Way close to the pace-setter, Another Time, for the first 6 furlongs of this mile grass test. As the field entered the stretch, Elizabeth Way confronted Another Time and the two battled the entire length of the turf course, with Elizabeth Way sticking her neck out at the end in 1:33.26.

After a 0 for 5 rookie year, Elizabeth Way now has 3 wins in 5 starts this year. A little pre-race studying gave Wilson the confidence that she could win.

"Watching the replays gave me a real understanding as to what she needed to do," said Wilson. "It was really about getting her into a good rhythm. She just galloped them down and she just kept on. She's a stayer."

Wilson notched her 15th win of the meet, which put her in a tie for first with Rafael Hernandez.

The Nassau is the first leg of Woodbine's Ladies of the Lawn Series, which offers \$75,000 in bonuses to the top performers, based on points accumulated in the designated graded turf routes for fillies and mares. Trained by Roger Attfield for John McCormack, Elizabeth Way earned 10 points for her win. She paid \$13.30 for each \$2 win bet.

## Hernandez dominates card, takes both Stakes



As Americans celebrated the July 4 holiday, it was leading jockey Rafael Hernandez with all the fireworks at Woodbine. Among his five wins on the day were both of the Stakes races.

Hernandez rode the Steve Asmussen-trained Halo Again to

a popular win in the 65th edition of the \$125,000 Queenston Stakes. Halo Again pressed the pace three-wide through panels of :23.35 and :46.29, then switched leads down the lane for a comfortable win by 1¼ lengths in 1:23.63.

"He's a big horse, he's got a nice heart, good stride. He does everything good," reported Hernandez.

Halo Again is now 3 for 5 for his owners, Winchell Thoroughbreds and Willis Horton. As the 6-5 choice, he paid just \$4.70.

The next race was the \$210,000 Grade II Eclipse Stakes for older horses and Hernandez was not on the favourite. He was aboard 17-1 shot Skywire. Those were strange odds, considering Skywire was the 2019 Queen's Plate favourite, trained by Mark Casse, and winner of 3 of his first 9 races.

And Hernandez gave Skywire a perfect ride. The pair galloped near the back while Uncle Bull (Kazushi Kimura), then Avie's Flatter, led the field through fractions of :25.16, :48.32, and 1:12.17 to the three-quarters. At the top of the stretch, it appeared Avie's Flatter would win, but Skywire came flying late on the far outside to finish 1¼ lengths in front. Time for the mile and a sixteenth was 1:44.12.

"You can't worry about the odds when you've got Casse in the race. He put him in there because he knows he belongs and he showed up," said Hernandez.

Skywire is owned by Lou Tucci and Gary Barber and he returned \$36.10.

## A Fury-ous finish



Six three year-old fillies contested the 7 furlongs of the \$125,000 Fury Stakes and the fans got a thrilling finish. Infinite Patience and Emma-Jayne Wilson led to the half in :46.59 at which point Justleaveitalone and Justin Stein took a narrow lead. The 6-5 favourite, Curlin's Voyage ridden by Patrick Husbands, watched this all unfold and, in the stretch, moved up to challenge Justleaveitalone. The duel transpired in the last furlong with Curlin's Voyage getting up by a neck in 1:23.91. Runner-up Justleaveitalone was 65-1.

"Going down the back, it was a lot of 'cat and mouse' game," said Husbands, who has won five previous editions of the Fury – all with Mark Casse trainees – including last year's race with Speedy Soul.

"About the three-eighths pole, I had enough of this, I just had to get in gear and get the job done."

Curlin's Voyage is trained by Josie Carroll and is co-owned by breeder Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings and Windsor Boys Racing. She is eligible for the Oaks as well as The Queen's Plate. Carroll has two Queen's Plate wins - Edenwold (2006) and Inglorious (2011).

Curlin's Voyage paid \$4.60 to win.

## Silent Poet Connaught be caught

It was the \$210,000 Connaught Stakes on turf, July 11, and a compact field of six contested the 7 furlongs. Admiralty Pier (Jerome Lermyte) led until deep stretch and was hounded all the way by the 7-5 betting choice, Silent Poet, under Justin Stein. Admiralty Pier went a half mile in :45.60 and 6 furlongs in 1:10.17. Down the lane, Silent Poet out-dueled Admiralty Pier and fought on for a stubborn half length win in 1:23.62. Silent Poet is owned by Stronach Stables and was sent out by Nick Gonzalez. Those who backed the winner cashed \$4.90 for each \$2 win ticket.

## No catching Souper Escape



A bold front-running strategy from the four year-old filly, Souper Escape, was too much for her six opponents in the \$125,000 Trillium Stakes on July 19. Under jockey Luis Contreras, Souper Escape shot to the front in this mile and a sixteenth and called the shots throughout. Souper Escape hit the half in a gentle :48.65 and passed 6 furlongs in a friendly 1:11.76. Down the lane, Souper Escape was several lengths in front and a late run by the 5-2 first choice, Painting (Kazushi Kimura), could not prevent Souper Escape winning by 4½ lengths in the great time of 1:42.78, just off the course record of 1:42.16.

"When she came out from the gate, she was so nice and relaxed, it looked like it was kind of easy, but she was all game today," said Contreras. "When I turned for home, I had so much horse and she just kept rolling."

That's 5 wins in 15 starts for Souper Escape who is trained by Mike Trombetta for Live Oak Plantation. The win ticket was worth \$7.50.

## Lady Graces the winners circle

The second feature on July 19 was the 6 furlongs Royal North Stakes on the grass for fillies and mares with a purse of \$175,000. The bettors made Summer Sunday the 9-5 favourite, but on this summer Saturday, she had no response. Lady Grace, ridden by Kazushi Kimura, was well-rated in seventh early as Sister Peacock (Emma-Jayne Wilson) was setting torrid early fractions of :21.91 and :43.50. Around the far turn, Lady Grace was moving sweetly and starting to pass rivals. In the stretch, she found the front just before the





wire and won by three quarters of a length in 1:08.90, just 2/100ths of a second off the course record.

In a previous race, Kazushi had won with Lady Grace by taking her to the front, but he re-assessed his strategy for this one.

"Last time I went to the front, but today there were so many speed horses to the front side, I just changed my mind," he reported. "So, I sat behind, stalking from behind, then she came flying today."

Lady Grace has won 4 of 6 starts in 2020 and 5 of her 13 contests. She is trained by Mark Casse for owner Tracy Farmer and she paid \$14.80 to win.

#### Two Sixty was 100% the best in the Selene



Mark Casse had three of the seven horses in the \$150,000 Selene Stakes on July 25 and it was the one least regarded by the bettors that took the prize. Two Sixty, ridden aggressively by Emma-Jayne Wilson, went right to the top in the mile and a sixteenth and went completely around the track without a serious threat. Wilson was able to carve out beneficial splits of :48.81, 1:13.36, and the mile in a comfortable 1:38.26. In the stretch, 85-1 bomber, Saratoga Vision (Simon Husbands), came late but finished three quarters of a length behind. Time for the distance was 1:45.01. Casse's other two horses, Diamond Sparkles and American Tap, were fifth and seventh, respectively. The 6-5 favourite, Owlette (Luis Contreras), was third.

"Right off the hop, I wanted to get away and set myself at the front with conviction and that's what happened," said Wilson. "As we eased into the backstretch, I took a little bit of a hold of her. I glanced between my legs and saw that I had a length or so of daylight that I could ease back and have her take a breather. She pricked her ears as we came around the three-quarter pole top of the backstretch and it was great. And then I just waited to hear them. She dug hard, she ran fast and she held them off."

Gary Barber owns Two Sixty who paid \$21.20 to win. This was her fourth victory in eleven starts.

#### Shirl's Speight sped away

The six horses behind Shirl's Speight in the \$125,000 Grade III Marine Stakes on July 25 are grateful he's not eligible for the Queen's Plate. Shirl's Speight, a son of 2011 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf champion, Perfect Shirl,



showed he has a lot of his mother's talent with an emphatic win by almost 3 lengths at the end of a mile and a sixteenth. With Rafael Hernandez calling the shots, Shirl's Speight allowed Untitled (Emma-Jayne Wilson) to lead to the three quarters in 1:12.34, at which point, Shirl's Speight surged to the lead and galloped home an easy winner in 1:43.42.

Lucky Curlin did not harm his Queen's Plate credentials with a solid second place finish.

This was a fifth Marine Stakes win for trainer Roger Attfield.

"Once he got to the five-eighths pole, I was pretty sure he'd just keep galloping around there. He's a very nice horse, for sure," said Attfield. "I had to put him away because he got jarred up and he needed some time. I couldn't wait to get him back this spring because I've been thinking about this horse all winter."

Owned by Charles Fipke, Shirl's Speight cannot run in the Queen's Plate as he was foaled in Kentucky. He paid \$4.10.

#### It was Joy's Rocket, My Dear



The two year -old filly Joy's Rocket remained unbeaten with an authoritative win in the \$100,000 My Dear Stakes at 5½ furlongs on August 1.

Jockey Luis Contreras launched Joy's Rocket to the lead as soon as the gates opened and the pair sizzled past the first quarter in :21.94 and :45.44 for the half. That was too much for her six opponents and Joy's Rocket was the winner by 2¾ lengths in 1:05.10. She is now two-for-two; she won in the slop first asking at Churchill Downs on June 28.

"From the beginning of the race to the end, she was so professional and I was very confident with her," praised Contreras. "I saw the race at Churchill when she won. It was a muddy track and she just went to the lead. I wasn't too worried because horses with this kind of talent, I think it's easy to adjust to whichever track they go."

Steve Asmussen is the winning trainer for Team Hanley. The win ticket was worth \$5.50.

#### You couldn't see the trees for the Foresters

The reliable stallion Old Forester had to be proud with the finish of the \$150,000 Greenwood Stakes on August 1. Six horses were asked to gallop 6 furlongs on the turf and the top two at the wire were both sons of Old Forester. Forester's Turn, ridden by Kazushi Kimura, stalked the early leader Celebratory (Leo Salles), took the lead in mid-stretch, then repelled the late charge of Forester's Fortune (Daisuke



Fukumoto). Forester's Turn prevailed by half a length in 1:07.91.

Owned by Rolph Davis, Forester's Turn was supplemented for this race and that turned out to be a good gamble.

"He's very game, this horse, and that young fella that rode him, he's very game too," said trainer Bob Tiller of rising star Kazushi Kimura. "And he's young. It's a great thing to be young. I wish I was young again, but I'm not."

Considering this was his fifth win in 7 races, that win price of \$9.90 for Forester's Turn seems very generous.

#### Ready to Repeat was ready to repeat



It's not often a horse's name is also a tip, but the two year-old gelding, Ready to Repeat, did exactly that, romping to an easy win in the \$100,000 Victoria Stakes on August 2.

Trained by Gail Cox and ridden by Luis Contreras, Ready to Repeat had broken his maiden on the grass in his second career start three weeks earlier and went off as the 4-5 choice in this 5½ furlong dash. Ready to Repeat had the lead at the quarter pole in :22.32, sizzled to the half in :44.40, and opened up 3 lengths in the stretch en route to a stress-free win by 2½ lengths in 1:03.53, less than a second off the track record of 1:02.70.

"He's such a nice horse, he shows he can run anywhere," said Contreras. "It's a great feeling when down the stretch he's like a sports car."

"He's always trained well," said Cox. "I was really impressed with him after his first race and Luis said, 'You know, he was just kind of staying with the other horse like he was working in company.' When we put the blinkers on, it was quite a bit of a difference. Mentally, he's little bit immature. He plays around all the time; everything is a big game."

Ready to Repeat is owned by Cox, John Menary, Michael James Ambler, and Windways Farms. The win price was just \$3.60.

In the fourth race on August 2, Grazely, ridden by Rafael Hernandez, clipped heels with a horse in front of him and fell, causing a chain reaction with the four year-old gelding Ruggero. Jerome Lermyte, the rider on Ruggero, hit the track hard and had to be transported to hospital for further evaluation. Hernandez was not seriously injured, nor was Grazely, but sadly, Ruggero did not survive the incident.

# Queen's Plate dreams still alive By Brittney Mayotte

Sixty-one of the finest Canadian-bred three-year-olds remain on target for the 161st running of the \$1 million Queen's Plate, scheduled for Saturday, September 12.

The connections of 58 Queen's Plate hopefuls made the July 1 sustaining payment with an additional three supplementing to the 1 1/4-mile opening leg of the Canadian Triple Crown for a fee of \$5,000.

Recent Queenston Stakes winner Halo Again is among the top contenders after his triumphant return in the Queenston Stakes, a 7 furlong conquest over a field of fellow Queen's Plate hopefuls. Bred by Anderson Farms, the son of Speightstown and Halo's Verse has won three of his first five career starts, including last year's Coronation Futurity, while banking almost \$260,000 for owners Winchell Thoroughbreds and Willis Horton Racing. The bay colt will aim to pull off the rare Coronation Futurity and Queen's Plate double, last accomplished by Norcliffe in 1976. He is conditioned by top American trainer Steve Asmussen, whose first foray in the Canadian Triple Crown yielded a third-place finish in last year's Queen's Plate, followed by a pair of victories in the Prince of Wales Stakes and Breeders' Stakes, courtesy of Tone Broke.

Halo Again is the 8-1 fourth choice in the 2020 Queen's Plate Winterbook. Nine of the top 10 Winterbook selections remain eligible, including pre-season favourite Malibu Mambo, trained by Kevin Attard and owned by Stronach Stables.

The list of nominees includes 10 of the 36 fillies that are still eligible to the \$500,000 Woodbine Oaks presented by Budweiser, which will be contested on August 15.

Canadian Triple Crown-winning trainer and new Hall of Fame inductee Mike Keogh has a pair of contenders including Dr. Green, one of the three supplements. Other supplements include Canadian Pharoah, an unraced colt sired by the U.S. Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, and Ennis the Menace.

An additional \$10,000 payment or supplementary fee of \$25,000 is due upon entry to the Queen's Plate on Wednesday, September 9 by 8:30 a.m.

Ninety-two horses, including 14 fillies, were originally nominated to the 2020 Queen's Plate.

<b>ARTIE'S PRINCESS</b> b.f.3 by We Miss Artie(Artie Schiller) - Stormkeeper(Stormy Atlantic)	<b>Kenneth L. and Sarah K. Ramsey</b>	<b>Wesley A. Ward</b>
<b>AUBURN HILLS</b> ch.c.3 by Palace Mallice(Curlin) - Timeless Silver(Silver Deputy)	<b>Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stables LLC and LNJ Foxwoods</b>	<b>Josie Carroll</b>
<b>AWESOME TIGER</b> dk b./c.3 by Awesome Again(Deputy Minister) - Spun Lace(Hard Spun)	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>BELICHICK</b> b.c.3 by Lemon Drop Kid(Kingmambo) - Game (FR)(Montjeu (IRE))	<b>NK Racing and LNJ Foxwoods</b>	<b>Josie Carroll</b>
<b>BIG TIME GIZMO</b> ch.c.3 by Giant Gizmo(Giant's Causeway) - Coulson's Hill(Alumni Hall)	<b>Big Dreamers Racing Stable</b>	<b>John A. Ross</b>
<b>BOLD VICTORY</b> ch.c.3 by Flatter(A.P. Indy) - Victorious Ami(Victory Gallop)	<b>John C. Oxley</b>	<b>Mark E. Casse</b>
<b>CANADIAN PHAROAH (SUPPLEMENT)</b> ch.c.3 by American Pharoah(Pioneerof the Nile) - Gloat(Mr. Greeley)	<b>Nick Nosowenko</b>	<b>Nicholas Nosowenko</b>
<b>CAPILANO CANYON</b> b.g.3 by Abraaj(Carson City) - Remarkable Miss(Finality)	<b>Chan, Dr. Karl, Forster Stable and Cameron Hill Mortgages Ltd.</b>	<b>David Forster</b>
<b>CASANOVA KITTEN</b> ch.c.3 by Kitten's Joy(EI Prado (IRE)) - Spectacular Tale(Tale of the Cat)	<b>Kenneth L. and Sarah K. Ramsey</b>	<b>Wesley A. Ward</b>
<b>CHECKERBOARD FLOOR</b> b.c.3 by Souper Speedy(Indian Charlie) - Stormy Adieu(Silic (FR))	<b>Frank D. Di Giulio Jr.</b>	<b>Robert P. Tiller</b>
<b>CLAYTON</b> b.c.3 by Bodemeister(Empire Maker) - Smarthalf(Smart Strike)	<b>Donato Lanni</b>	<b>Kevin Attard</b>
<b>CURLIN'S THRILL</b> b.g.3 by Curlin(Smart Strike) - Catch the Thrill(A.P. Indy)	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	<b>Gail Cox</b>
<b>CURLIN'S VOYAGE</b> ch.f.3 by Curlin(Smart Strike) - Atlantic Voyage(Stormy Atlantic)	<b>Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc. and Windsor Boys Racing</b>	<b>Josie Carroll</b>
<b>DEVIANT</b> ch.g.3 by Daredevil(More Than Ready) - Alkmaar(Monashee Mountain)	<b>Red Lane Thoroughbreds LLC</b>	<b>Mark E. Casse</b>
<b>DOTTED LINE</b> b.g.3 by Signature Red(Bernstein) - Springledge(Outflanker)	<b>Norseman Racing Stable</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>DR. GREEN (SUPPLEMENT)</b> ch.g.3 by Rookie Sensation(Unbridled's Song) - Thats Our Princess(Curlin)	<b>The Estate of Gustav Schickedanz</b>	<b>Michael Keogh</b>
<b>EDGE OF FIRE</b> ch.c.3 by Curlin(Smart Strike) - Leading Edge(Tapit)	<b>Chiefswood Stables Limited</b>	<b>James A. Jerkens</b>
<b>ELUSIVE KNIGHT</b> dk b./c.3 by Ghostzapper(Awesome Again) - Blue Enzian(Street Cry (IRE))	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>ENCHANT ME</b> gr/ro.c.3 by Magician (IRE)(Galileo (IRE)) - Me Love(Giant's Causeway)	<b>York Tech Racing Stable</b>	<b>Santino C. DiPaola</b>
<b>ENNIS THE MENACE (SUPPLEMENT)</b> gr/ro.g.3 by Frac Daddy(Scat Daddy) - Kamalna Rose(Royal Academy)	<b>Gus Vlahos</b>	<b>Michael P. De Paulo</b>
<b>ENTRY TO HEAVEN</b> ch.g.3 by Point of Entry(Dynaformer) - Sky High Gal(Leroidesanimaux (BRZ))	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Michael J. Doyle</b>
<b>EXCELLING</b> b.f.3 by Hard Spun(Danzig) - Embur's Melody(Mr. Greeley)	<b>Theodore F. Burnett</b>	<b>Kevin Attard</b>
<b>F F ROCKET</b> ch.c.3 by Curlin(Smart Strike) - Mekong Delta(Stormy Atlantic)	<b>Frank Fletcher Racing Operations, Inc.</b>	<b>Albert M. Stall, Jr.</b>
<b>FAMISHED</b> b.c.3 by Uncle Mo(Indian Charlie) - Ravenist(Survivalist)	<b>Tobey L. Morton</b>	<b>John C. Kimmel</b>
<b>FINAL ECLIPSE</b> dk b./c.3 by Silent Name (JPN)(Sunday Silence) - Eclipse Bay(Hennessy)	<b>Chiefswood Stables Limited</b>	<b>Stuart C. Simon</b>
<b>FORT HOPE</b> b.g.3 by Fort Larned(E Dubai) - Sugar Swirl(Touch Gold)	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Michael J. Doyle</b>
<b>GALILEO'S WILDCAT</b> dk b./f.3 by Galileo (IRE)(Sadler's Wells) - Danish Wildcat(Danehill)	<b>Charles E. Fipke</b>	<b>Joseph Patrick O'Brien</b>
<b>GLORIOUS TRIBUTE</b> dk b./g.3 by Congrats(A.P. Indy) - Clare's Bernardine(Action This Day)	<b>Bruce Lunsford</b>	<b>Barbara J. Minshall</b>
<b>GOLDEN WAVE</b> b.c.3 by Atreides(Medaglia d'Oro) - Tidal Surge(Bernardini)	<b>Mickey Demers</b>	<b>Michael P. De Paulo</b>
<b>GUN SOCIETY</b> ch.f.3 by Society's Chairman(Not Impossible (IRE)) - Double Guns Girl(Langfuhr)	<b>Roger L. Attfield</b>	<b>Roger L. Attfield</b>
<b>HALO AGAIN</b> b.c.3 by Speightstown(Gone West) - Halo's Verse(Unbridled's Song)	<b>Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC and Willis Horton Racing LLC</b>	<b>Steven M. Asmussen</b>
<b>HANDSOME DEVIL</b> b.c.3 by Ghostzapper(Awesome Again) - Executive Allure(Bold Executive)	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Michael J. Doyle</b>
<b>HOLYFIELD</b> dk b./g.3 by Uncle Mo(Indian Charlie) - Nadeshiko(Honour and Glory)	<b>Kingfield Racing Stable, Ltd., Roderick Ferguson and Anderson Farms Ontario Inc.</b>	<b>Catherine Day Phillips</b>
<b>LAST AMERICAN EXIT</b> b.g.3 by Society's Chairman(Not Impossible (IRE)) - Where Oh Where(Where's the Ring)	<b>Frank D. Di Giulio Jr.</b>	<b>Robert P. Tiller</b>
<b>MALIBU EDGE</b> ch.c.3 by Malibu Moon(A.P. Indy) - Essential Edge(Storm Cat)	<b>Chiefswood Stables Limited</b>	<b>Claude R. McGaughey III</b>
<b>MALIBU MAMBO</b> dk b./c.3 by Point of Entry(Dynaformer) - Polyantha Rose(Tiznow)	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Kevin Attard</b>
<b>MERVEILLEUX</b> b.f.3 by Paynter(Awesome Again) - Breech Inlet(Holy Bull)	<b>Al and Bill Ulwelling</b>	<b>Kevin Attard</b>
<b>MIGHTY HEART</b> b.c.3 by Dramedy(Distorted Humor) - Emma's Bullseye(City Place)	<b>Lawrence P. Cordes</b>	<b>Josie Carroll</b>
<b>MUSKOKA GIANT</b> b.c.3 by Curlin(Smart Strike) - Finn's Jewel(Giant's Causeway)	<b>Conrad Farms</b>	<b>Mark E. Casse</b>
<b>MUSKOKA GOLD</b> b.c.3 by Lea(First Samurai) - Lunch Hour(Medaglia d'Oro)	<b>Conrad Farms</b>	<b>Mark E. Casse</b>
<b>MYSTERIOUS LOVE</b> dk b./c.3 by Elusive Quality(Gone West) - Fortheloveofnell (IRE)(Galileo (IRE))	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	
<b>NORTHERN THUNDER</b> ch.c.3 by Creative Cause(Giant's Causeway) - Samsal(Consolidator)	<b>Tucci Stables</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>OLLIEMYBOY</b> dk b./c.3 by Union Rags(Dixie Union) - Charming Thunder(Thunder Gulch)	<b>JMJ Racing Stables LLC</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>OWLETTE</b> b.f.3 by Frac Daddy(Scat Daddy) - Itstartswithadream(American Chance)	<b>Ten Broeck Farm Inc.</b>	<b>Wesley A. Ward</b>
<b>PALACE COUP</b> b.c.3 by Bernardini(A.P. Indy) - Eye of the Sphynx(Smart Strike)	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	<b>Neil J. Howard</b>
<b>PARMIGIANO</b> dk b./g.3 by Tizway(Tiznow) - Attract(Saffir)	<b>George Bigliardi</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>PERFECT REVENGE</b> b.g.3 by I Want Revenge(Stephen Got Even) - Ourperfectpastor(Pleasantly Perfect)	<b>Paul Braverman and Timothy Pinch</b>	<b>John Charalambous</b>
<b>PHANTOM DANCE</b> dk b./g.3 by Ghostzapper(Awesome Again) - Dance With Doves(A.P. Indy)	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	<b>Gail Cox</b>
<b>RED STORM RISEN</b> dk b./g.3 by Stormy Atlantic(Storm Cat) - Strike Red(Smart Strike)	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	<b>H. Graham Motion</b>
<b>SANSA'S VOW</b> dk b./f.3 by Broken Vow(Unbridled) - Mendocino Beano(Smart Strike)	<b>NK Racing</b>	<b>Josie Carroll</b>
<b>SEE FOREVER</b> gr/ro.g.3 by Langfuhr(Danzig) - Megavista(Medaglia d'Oro)	<b>The Estate of Gustav Schickedanz</b>	<b>Michael Keogh</b>
<b>SILENT CAUSEWAY</b> dk b./f.3 by Silent Name (JPN)(Sunday Silence) - Good Religion(Giant's Causeway)	<b>Krasauskaite Racing Stable</b>	<b>Laura Krasauskaite</b>
<b>ST. PADDY'S DADDY</b> b.c.3 by Frac Daddy(Scat Daddy) - Fleetwood Alexis(Afleet Alex)	<b>Gary Barber</b>	<b>Mark E. Casse</b>
<b>SWANKY KNIGHT</b> b.c.3 by Street Sense(Street Cry (IRE)) - Swanky Bubbles(Ascot Knight)	<b>Conrad Farms</b>	<b>Mark E. Casse</b>
<b>SYCAMORE RUN</b> b.c.3 by Street Sense(Street Cry (IRE)) - Dattt Echo(Stormy Atlantic)	<b>Scott and Evan Dilworth</b>	<b>Roger L. Attfield</b>
<b>TECUMSEH'S WAR</b> dk b./c.3 by Summer Front(War Front) - J's Hot Shot Lady(Badge of Silver)	<b>Ilium Stables LLC</b>	<b>Catherine Day Phillips</b>
<b>THE REIGN MAN</b> dk b./g.3 by Old Forester(Forestry) - Ourania(Double Honor)	<b>Gus and Jim Vlahos</b>	<b>Michael P. De Paulo</b>
<b>TOMCAT BLACK</b> dk b./c.3 by Bernardini(A.P. Indy) - Smartyfly(Smart Strike)	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	<b>Gail Cox</b>
<b>TORPEDO MAX</b> ch.g.3 by Silver Max(Badge of Silver) - Quality Diamond(Quality Road)	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Nicholas Gonzalez</b>
<b>TRUEBELIEVE</b> dk b./c.3 by Nephrite (GB)(Pivotal (GB)) - Gentle Words(Bertrando)	<b>Centennial Farms (Niagara) Inc.</b>	<b>Cole Bennett</b>
<b>TRUTH HURTS</b> b.f.3 by Tonalist(Tapit) - Witty Gal(Distorted Humor)	<b>Summers, Chad and J Stables, LLC</b>	<b>Chad Summers</b>



# Thirty-six fillies remain eligible to the Woodbine Oaks

By Brittney Mayotte

On July 7, Woodbine Entertainment released an updated list today of Canadian-bred three year-old fillies eligible to the 65th running of the \$500,000 Woodbine Oaks presented by Budweiser, set for Saturday, August 15.

A total of 36 fillies, including four supplements, have been nominated to the 1 1/8-mile opening leg of the Canadian Triple Tiara following the July 1 sustaining payment deadline.

Sovereign Award winner Curlin's Voyage stamped herself as an early favourite for the mid-August affair following her Fury Stakes triumph at Woodbine. The Curlin-Atlantic Voyage filly has won half of her eight career starts, including the Grade III Mazarine and Ontario Lassie, while earning nearly \$365,000 for breeder Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings and co-owner Windsor Boys Racing.

Owlette was impressive in her season's debut, capturing the Star Shoot Stakes over Curlin's Voyage on June 13 for trainer Wesley Ward and Ten Broeck Farm. The daughter of Frac Daddy and Itstartswithadream has finished no worse than third in seven career starts while earning just over \$300,000 and she boasts additional Stakes wins in the Shady Well and Victorian Queen.

Other Stakes-winning fillies that remain eligible to the Oaks include Princess Elizabeth champion Cool Shadows, a Chiefswood Stables homebred trained by Stuart Simon, and Roger Attfield's South Ocean Stakes winner Gun Society.

The high-profile filly Infinite Patience, co-owned by NHL star Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and breeder William DeCoursey, was a gutsy third in the Fury after going five-for-five in her freshman campaign at Hastings Racecourse. The Sungold-Montero filly has been supplemented to the Oaks for \$2,500 along with Curlin's Tiger, Lasting Union, and River of Pearls.

The list of eligibles includes Ann of Cleves, who is a half-sister to 2015 Woodbine Oaks champion Academic. Ricky Griffith trains the Verrazano-Awesome Lass filly for Racing Canada and John Phillip Brown.

NK Racing's contender Sansa's Vow is a full-sister to Tone Broke, winner of two-thirds of last year's Canadian Triple Crown (Prince of Wales and Breeders' Stakes). Unraced at two, the Broken Vow-Mendocino Beano miss broke her maiden when making her second career start in a 1-1/16 mile-turf race on June 21 for trainer Josie Carroll.

Sam-Son Farm, owner and breeder of last year's Oaks champion Desert Ride, has three nominees including Raven's Song. The Medaglia d'Oro-Song of the Lark filly is a half-sister to multiple graded Stakes champion Up With the Birds, who was a close runner-up in the Queen's Plate and winner of the Breeders' Stakes during his 2013 Horse of the Year campaign.

Another filly with Triple Crown pedigree is Itskathiesluckyday, trained by Mike Keogh for The Estate of Gustav Schickedanz. Sired by Itsmyluckyday, the maiden filly's dam Half Sister is in fact a half-sister to Triple Crown winner Wando.

Fifty-eight fillies were originally nominated to the 2020 Woodbine Oaks.

<b>AFLEET KATHERINE</b> b.f.3 by Afleet Alex(Northern Afleet) - Include Katherine(Include)	<b>Terra Racing Stable</b>	<b>Kevin Attard</b>
<b>AMERICAN TAP</b> b.f.3 by Tapiture(Tapit) - American Castle(Quiet American)	<b>Gary Barber</b>	<b>Mark E. Casse</b>
<b>ANN OF CLEVES</b> b.f.3 by Verrazano(More Than Ready) - Awesome Lass(Awesome Again)	<b>Racing Canada, Inc. and John Phillip Brown</b>	<b>Ricky Griffith</b>
<b>ARTIE'S PRINCESS</b> b.f.3 by We Miss Artie(Artie Schiller) - Stormkeeper(Stormy Atlantic)	<b>Kenneth L. and Sarah K. Ramsey</b>	<b>Wesley A. Ward</b>
<b>ATTENTIONSEEKER</b> ch.f.3 by Head Chopper(Mutakddim) - Don't Call Me Tory(Trust N Luck)	<b>Paul Mouttet</b>	<b>Nigel R. Burke</b>
<b>AVIE'S SAMURAI</b> dk b./f.3 by First Samurai(Giant's Causeway) - Avie's Sense(Street Sense)	<b>Ivan Dalos</b>	<b>Josie Carroll</b>
<b>BALLROOMS OF MARS</b> dk b./f.3 by Mr Speaker(Pulpit) - Grey Pride(Mizzen Mast)	<b>Sean &amp; Dorothy Fitzhenry</b>	<b>Catherine Day Phillips</b>
<b>COOL SHADOWS</b> dk b./f.3 by Munnings(Speightstown) - Cool Faith(Pulpit)	<b>Chiefswood Stables Limited</b>	<b>Stuart C. Simon</b>
<b>CURLIN'S TIGER (SUPPLEMENT)</b> ch.f.3 by Conquest Curlinate(Curlin) - Yes Imatiger(Roar of the Tiger)	<b>Control Stable</b>	<b>Katerina Vassilieva</b>
<b>CURLIN'S VOYAGE</b> ch.f.3 by Curlin(Smart Strike) - Atlantic Voyage(Stormy Atlantic)	<b>Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc. and Windsor Boys Racing</b>	<b>Josie Carroll</b>
<b>EXCELLING</b> b.f.3 by Hard Spun(Danzig) - Embur's Melody(Mr. Greeley)	<b>Theodore F. Burnett</b>	<b>Kevin Attard</b>
<b>GALILEO'S WILDCAT</b> dk b./f.3 by Galileo (IRE)(Sadler's Wells) - Danish Wildcat(Danehill)	<b>Charles E. Fipke</b>	<b>Joseph Patrick O'Brien</b>
<b>GUN SOCIETY</b> ch.f.3 by Society's Chairman(Not Impossible (IRE)) - Double Guns Girl(Langfuhr)	<b>Roger L. Attfield</b>	<b>Roger L. Attfield</b>
<b>HOLY SELENA</b> b.f.3 by Ghostzapper(Awesome Again) - Holy Cargo(Holy Bull)	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>INFINITE PATIENCE (SUPPLEMENT)</b> b.f.3 by Sungold(A.P. Indy) - Montero(Louis Quatorze)	<b>Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and William Decoursey</b>	<b>Lorne Richards</b>
<b>ITSKATHIESLUCKYDAY</b> ch.f.3 by Itsmyluckyday(Lawyer Ron) - Half Sister(More Than Ready)	<b>The Estate of Gustav Schickedanz</b>	<b>Michael Keogh</b>
<b>LASTING UNION (SUPPLEMENT)</b> ch.f.3 by Union Rags(Dixie Union) - Happy Vale(Distorted Humor)	<b>Hidden Creek Farm</b>	<b>Michael R. Matz</b>
<b>LEAN ON E</b> b.f.3 by Wilko(Awesome Again) - Crystal Halo(Halo)	<b>Entourage Stable</b>	<b>Robert P. Tiller</b>
<b>LIVIN IN THE SIX</b> b.f.3 by Society's Chairman(Not Impossible (IRE)) - Quinnderella(Vindication)	<b>Zilli Racing Stables</b>	<b>Michael P. De Paulo</b>
<b>MAGIC FLUTE</b> b.f.3 by Point of Entry(Dynaformer) - Romance Is Diane(In Excess (IRE))	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>MERVEILLEUX</b> b.f.3 by Paynter(Awesome Again) - Breech Inlet(Holy Bull)	<b>Al and Bill Ulwelling</b>	<b>Kevin Attard</b>
<b>MIZZEN BEAU</b> gr/ro.f.3 by Mizzen Mast(Cozzene) - Donna Getyourgun(Stormy Atlantic)	<b>Daniel Investment Holdings</b>	<b>Norm W. Casse</b>
<b>NOVEMBER FOG</b> gr/ro.f.3 by Frac Daddy(Scat Daddy) - Molly Maguire(Whiskey Wisdom)	<b>Richard Moylan and Sarah Ritchie</b>	<b>Sarah Ritchie</b>
<b>OUT ATTHE SPEEDWAY</b> b.f.3 by Souper Speedy(Indian Charlie) - Yolie(Menifee)	<b>Frank D. Di Giulio Jr.</b>	<b>Robert P. Tiller</b>
<b>OWLETTE</b> b.f.3 by Frac Daddy(Scat Daddy) - Itstartswithadream(American Chance)	<b>Ten Broeck Farm Inc.</b>	<b>Wesley A. Ward</b>
<b>PILOT EPISODE</b> gr/ro.f.3 by Speightstown(Gone West) - Original Script(Malibu Moon)	<b>Chiefswood Stables Limited</b>	<b>Claude R. McGaughey III</b>
<b>RAVEN'S SONG</b> dk b./f.3 by Medaglia d'Oro(EI Prado (IRE)) - Song of the Lark(Seeking the Gold)	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	<b>Gail Cox</b>
<b>RIVER OF PEARLS (SUPPLEMENT)</b> b.f.3 by Pioneerof the Nile(Empire Maker) - Pearl Turn(Bernardini)	<b>Braconcrest Inc., P. Mosakos, P. and J. Peters</b>	<b>Catherine Day Phillips</b>
<b>SANSA'S VOW</b> dk b./f.3 by Broken Vow(Unbridled) - Mendocino Beano(Smart Strike)	<b>NK Racing</b>	<b>Josie Carroll</b>
<b>SILENT CAUSEWAY</b> dk b./f.3 by Silent Name (JPN)(Sunday Silence) - Good Religion(Giant's Causeway)	<b>Krasauskaite Racing Stable</b>	<b>Laura Krasauskaite</b>
<b>SILVER DAHLIA</b> gr/ro.f.3 by Silver Max(Badge of Silver) - Blue Dahlia(Giant's Causeway)	<b>Realm Racing Stables, RCC Racing Stable Ltd. and Joanne Mattine</b>	<b>John Mattine</b>
<b>SWEET BON BON</b> dk b./f.3 by Silver Max(Badge of Silver) - Intangaroo(Orientate)	<b>Stronach Stables</b>	<b>Martin Hinckson</b>
<b>SWEET UPROAR</b> dk b./f.3 by Candy Ride (ARG)(Ride the Rails) - Forest Uproar(Forest Wildcat)	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	
<b>TEACHER'S PET</b> b.f.3 by New Year's Day(Street Cry (IRE)) - Plenty of Honour(Thewayyouare)	<b>George Biogliardi</b>	<b>Sid C. Attard</b>
<b>TRUTH HURTS</b> b.f.3 by Tonalist(Tapit) - Witty Gal(Distorted Humor)	<b>Summers, Chad and J Stables, LLC</b>	<b>Chad Summers</b>
<b>WITCH MOON</b> dk b./f.3 by Malibu Moon(A.P. Indy) - Magic Broomstick(More Than Ready)	<b>Sam-Son Farm</b>	

# DOWN THE STRETCH PODCAST

## June 29: #24

If there's something excitingly cool happening in horse racing, it's in this episode of the **Down The Stretch Podcast**, hosted by **Peter Gross**. We have the amazing Pink Lloyd kicking off his season with another impressive Stakes win. His regular rider is now Rafael Hernandez who is taking his best shot at winning the riders title. We interview him as well as his chief rival Emma Jayne Wilson. Lots of jockeys in this podcast. Thirty three year-old Jason Hoyte has morphed from a top notch exercise rider to a professional jockey and he now has a win under his belt. Maybe our most thrilling discussion is with 65 year-old Perry Ouzts. Ouzts won 5 races last at Belterra Park and continues to carve out one of the more amazing stories in professional sports. Garnet Barnsdale tells us about the latest innovation at Mohawk – putting microphones on the drivers during a race. Race calls from Woodbine, Mohawk, The Meadowlands, Belterra Park, and Ajax Downs. It's all there in the **Down The Stretch Podcast**.

## July 6: #25

Host **Peter Gross** has filled this **Down The Stretch Podcast** with a buffet of races, including the three weekend Stakes events at Woodbine and at least 8 OSS Gold Series tussles from Mohawk (we may have lost track). **Walter Parkinson** is the President of the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario and he explains how the breeders sued the government and won. Veteran driver **Jody Jamieson** looks back on his career, which includes more than 8,000 wins. We also have stories about a very proud broodmare who saw her kids sweep the late double and a harness horse in Pennsylvania who has a back-up job. There was a huge day at the track for leading jockey **Rafael Hernandez** and we also have a beautiful tribute to **Don Seymour** that you get to hear, thanks to the generosity of Woodbine Entertainment.

## July 13: #26

It's a star studded **Down The Stretch Podcast** as host **Peter Gross** interviews trainers **Josie Carroll**, **Mark Casse**, **Roger Attfield**, **Sid Attard**, and **Kevin Attard**. Also on board are jockeys **Justin Stein** who is lighting up the board at Woodbine; **Ed Walton**, who at 57 is the leading rider at Ajax Downs; and **Nikki Alderson**, who at 27, is Ed Walton's daughter and the race she won last week at Fort Erie had announcer **Frank Salive** almost falling out of his booth. This podcast also has race calls from Woodbine, Mohawk, Ajax Downs, and a call from Charles Town in which the race favourite took a 7 length lead into the stretch and then ...well let's just say things went horribly wrong. And why does this podcast keep sampling that 80s hit Turning Japanese by **The Vapors**?

## July 20: #27

This episode of the **Down The Stretch Podcast** is proof that a lot happens in horse racing in a week. Host **Peter Gross** has stretch calls from Woodbine, Mohawk, Ajax Downs, Saratoga, Monmouth, and The Meadowlands. He talks with jockey **Darryll Holland** who was nursing some bruises after a scary fall. Harness driver **Phil Hudon** was a little more lucky. He tells us what happened when the bridle on his pacer fell off just before the start of a race. Quarter horse jockey **Cassandra Jeschke** talks about the best day she ever had at Ajax Downs, and trainer **Dr. Ian Moore** assesses the chances of Tattoo Artist in next month's North America Cup Pace. Shadow Play, Goalie Jeff, Natural Image, Tall Dark Stranger, and Authentic make dramatic appearances, and our host makes the point that this podcast hit the airwaves on the last day of his 60s.

## July 27: #28

What do **Pink Floyd**, **Pink Lloyd**, **Fred Astaire**, **Josie Carroll**, **Kevin Attard**, **Robert Geller**, **John Imbriale**, **Frank Ferrari**, **Kenny Middleton**, **Tony Calo**, **Jack Darling**, **Dr. Ian Moore**, **Antoinetta Culic**, **Justin Stein**, **Rafael Hernandez**, and **Ed Walton** have in common? They are all in this week's **Down The Stretch Podcast**. Host **Peter Gross** has big race calls from Woodbine, Mohawk, Ajax Downs, Saratoga, and a bizarre result from Delaware Park. How did Fort Erie end up with a Massachusetts Stakes race? Leamington Park Raceway has hired an 18 year-old boy to be its fulltime announcer, so we talk with **Nathan Bain** who knows exactly what he wants to do with the rest of his life.

## August 3: #29

Imagine everything that could happen in all genres of horse racing and imagine it's in the same podcast and you would have this week's **Down The Stretch Podcast**. Host **Peter Gross** has races from Woodbine, Mohawk, Saratoga, Ajax Downs, and Del Mar. Driver James MacDonald got mic'd up during a harness race, had a career night at Mohawk, then got banged up in a bizarre spill at Mohawk Saturday night. Jockey Emma-Jayne Wilson won aboard a 44-1 shot and we have the call. Also in this podcast, the Whitney Stakes went Saturday at Saratoga; a chat with Woodbine Chaplain Shawn Kennedy; and how a couple of former NHL stars took a 'hot tip' and parlayed it into a nice payoff.

## Owners allowed to attend races at Mohawk Park

On July 27, Woodbine Entertainment released the protocols and procedures for owners to start attending live racing at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

As of July 28, an owner (plus one guest) would be allowed to attend the races at Woodbine Mohawk Park during a card in which they have a horse competing. The owner and their guest must be 16 years of age or older.

All owners will be required to pre-register prior to attending, as only 100 spots are available due to current COVID-19 capacity limits. Every owner and guest attending live racing will undergo screening and a temperature check prior to gaining access to the facility.

In addition to pre-registering, all owners and their guest are asked to fill out Woodbine's online daily COVID-19 screening questionnaire prior to attending live racing. Completion of the questionnaire will avoid lineups at the entrance.

Owners and their guest will only have access to the apron for viewing the races and will not be permitted in

the paddock, race office, or Level 2 of the grandstand. Self-serve wagering terminals will be available for use on the apron. There will be no food and beverage service at this time.

All owners are asked to review and comply with the following protocols for attending live racing at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

- Owners are to access the property through the second laneway off Guelph Line and park on the west side of the parking lot.
- Owners are to enter the Grandstand through the employee entrance, which is located at the West end (Paddock side) of the building.
- All owners and their guest must be pre-registered in order to gain access to the facility.
- Owners must accompany their guest into the facility.
- Each person entering will undergo screening

and a temperature check.

- Owners are to go directly to the apron upon completion of screening process.
- A mask must be worn at all times while on the property, including on the apron.
- Owners may access the Winner's Circle, but physical distancing must be maintained from the racing participants.
- Owners may arrive starting at 6 p.m. and are required to leave following completion of the last race.
- Owners are to exit the facility through the doors at the Main Entrance.

A link to each day's registration form can be found at [www.Woodbine.com/Mohawk/Mohawk-Insider/Owner-Registration/](http://www.Woodbine.com/Mohawk/Mohawk-Insider/Owner-Registration/).

Owners are reminded to regularly check [www.WoodbineMohawkPark.com](http://www.WoodbineMohawkPark.com) and @WoodbineSB social media platforms for the latest updates.



# RACETRACK HUMOUR



Perry & Mooch



It's the weirdest thing. One day this place was filled with people, then suddenly - no one!

Do you think they all lost interest at the same time?

Who do you like in the third?





# Mohawk Stakes:



## July 2:

Three year-old trotters opened the Gold Series season at Mohawk. In the first \$73,067 division it was Princesspartyants who got a fine drive from Roger Mayotte to win in a personal best 1:54.4. As the field of eight went down the backstretch, the favourite Wine Rack Hanover broke stride, inconveniencing a couple of horses behind her. Princesspartyants, starting from post eight, was not bothered, and though she was about 6 lengths from the lead around the far turn, Mayotte had her trotting smartly into the stretch and she took command for a 2 length margin of victory.

"From the outside post and first OSS start, we just decided to play that route and it worked out. She's very versatile that way," said Mayotte. "I was following Susies Lady there and she was throwing quite a bit of dirt up at my filly and my filly just wasn't real smooth, because the dirt was hitting her and it was obviously bothering her, stinging her. As soon as I tipped off her back, she just smoothed right out, just changed gears."

Mayotte is the winning trainer and Princesspartyants is owned by the Just In Time Stable, R A W Equine, and Big Als Stable. The win ticket was worth \$6.50.

In the second division, Doug McNair parlayed a front-running effort from Warrawee Vicky into an authoritative win. Warrawee Vicky cut out comfortable fractions of :28, :57.2, and 1:26.2, and stopped the clock in 1:54.2, despite drifting somewhat in the final sixteenth of a mile.

"She seems to be good right now, we've got to do a little fine tuning to keep her straight," said trainer Scott McEneny. "But you know, she's got such good gate speed that she gets spotted pretty good."

Owned by Brad Grant, Warrawee Vicky, paid just \$4.00, who also had one prep race under belt, heading into the Gold Series season opener.

The third OSS division went to Gp Dreamin, who looked much the best on paper and on the track. Jody Jamieson took her to the front in :27.4, hit the half in :56.1, the three quarters in 1:24. and with a final quarter of :29.3 was a commanding 5 lengths clear at the finish line in 1:53.1.

"She was monster kid tonight, really," said Jamieson.

Jared Bothwell trains Gp Dreamin for Carolyn Polillo. Gp Dreamin has won all three of her starts in 2020 and didn't make her backers rich, creating a \$2.70 win ticket.

## July 3

It was the two year-old colt pacers' turn on Friday night with two divisions of the OSS Gold Series. In the first division, with \$104,800 up for grabs, only six horses started and Desperate Man, driven by Trevor Henry, went off as the even-money favourite.

Not at all appearing desperate, Desperate Man got away fourth as Vino Louie (Scott Young) zipped through the first quarter in :26.2 and the half in :55.4. By the time

the field reached the three quarters in 1:24.4, Henry had Desperate Man hounding Vino Louie on the outside. That was discouraging for the long-time leader, who retreated to fifth as Desperate Man fired home with a :26.3 last quarter to win by almost 3 lengths in 1:51.4. Nice way to start a career – this was Desperate Man's first race. He is owned by Kathy and John Cecchin and Paul Davies, and trained by Kathy Cecchin.

"He is probably the nicest two-year-old I have sat behind. Very smart and professional," said Arthur resident Henry. "I'm so glad for John and Kathy and their kids. It's really well deserved."

Desperate Man paid just \$4.10.

When seven two year-old colts approached the starting gate for the next OSS Gold division, the purse was \$105,600 and, once again, the bettors got it right. First time starter, Springbridge Duel, and Bob McClure were hammered down to even-money and McClure did not have an easy time getting Springbridge Duel to the top. From post 6, they left forwardly, but others also wanted the lead. Springbridge Duel opened up a 2-length lead at the three quarters in 1:24.4 and, with minimal urging, paced a final quarter in :26.4 to win by an expanding 6 lengths in 1:51.3.



Trainer Casie Coleman had reason to be concerned as, apparently, the young horse had been a very difficult student in qualifiers.

"I couldn't believe how good he was," said Coleman. "Like I said, his manners are getting so much better no doubt, but I've got his very first video on my phone still from where he ended up laying on the ground."

The happy owners are West Wins Stable, Steve Heimbecker, and Mark Kantrowitz.

The happy bettors had to be satisfied with a \$4.20 win price.

## July 4: Fast times at Mohawk High



There were two OSS Gold Series races on Saturday night and each one produced a sizzling time. In the first one, worth \$106,400, Jody Jamieson gunned Beaumont Hanover to the top in :26.4 and stayed there through fractions of :54.4 for the half and 1:22.2 for the three-quarters. When Beaumont Hanover paced a :26.4 final quarter, he found the finish line 3 lengths the best in 1:48.1, the fastest mile in Canada this year.

"He's just a really nice horse. It's kind of an honour to have a horse like that, he just seems perfect in every way," said

owner-trainer Jack Darling. "He was always our best colt. You're always hoping for it, but you never expect them to be this good."

The son of Sportswriter was worth just \$3.30 on the win ticket and his Canadian season's mark lasted just three races. The second OSS Gold test of the night (\$107,200) gave the fans a sensational performance by Tattoo Artist. With Louis-Philippe Roy in the bike, Tattoo Artist intimidated his eight opponents with front-pacing splits of :25.3, :54.1, and 1:21.3. A final quarter of :26.4 produced a 3 length romp at the wire in 1:48.2.

"He certainly stepped up tonight. I knew he was a fast little boy when we trained him down this spring, but that's pretty good to go that fast this time of year," said Dr. Ian Moore, who trains Tattoo Artist for Frank Cannon and Let It Ride Stables. Tattoo Artist paid \$4.20.

Both Beaumont Hanover and Tattoo Artist are eligible for the North America Cup in August.

## July 9



In the first of three \$73,067 OSS Gold for two year-old colts and geldings, Tokyo Seelster was crushed down to 15 cents on the dollar and driver Sylvain Filion operated knowing he had much the best horse. Tokyo Seelster went right to the top from post 8 and carved out easy fractions of :29.2, 1:00.2, and 1:30. His seven opponents just gave him too much respect and, with a final quarter of :28.1, Tokyo Seelster scored by 2½ authoritative lengths in a leisurely 1:58.1. Owned by Michael and Sam Sergi, Tokyo Seelster paid just \$2.30.

In the second OSS Gold, Walkonthemoon looked the best to the bettors and went off at 3-5. Mario Baillargeon had Walkonthemoon leading all the way into the stretch, but Bob McClure gave Macho Martini a perfect trip, tipping out in mid-stretch and easily overhauling the leader to win by a good length in 1:57.2, thanks to a last quarter of :27.1. Owned by Determination and trained by Luc Blais, Macho Martini was a \$16.80 winner.

The final OSS Gold, race 8 on the card, went to a gutsy Royal Tyrone, steered by Robert Shepherd. Royal Tyrone led to the three quarters in 1:28.3, but halfway through the lane, it looked as if Mystic (Chris Christoforou) would go trotting by. Royal Tyrone battled back and repelled Mystic as well as a late charge from Logan Park (Louis-Philippe Roy) to survive by a neck in 1:57.1. Royal Tyrone is owned by a numbered company and trained by Isabelle Darveau. All the win bettors got was \$3.80.

## July 17





There were two \$106,000 Gold Cup Divisions at Mohawk for three year old fillies.

In the first one Lauras Love was sent off as the favourite by the bettors, but it turned out Lauras Love wasn't sexy enough, but Sex Appeal was, winning for Trevor Henry in a career best 1:50.2. Sex Appeal is now 2 for 2 in 2020 and 6 for 14 lifetime. She is trained by Robert McIntosh who shares ownership with Al McIntosh. The win ticket was worth \$8.80.

In the second division, Alicorn was hammered down to 30 cents on the dollar, but didn't hit the board. It was Rose Run Victoria pulling off the 9-1 upset for driver Robert Shepherd and trainer Rod Boyd. Rose Run Victoria now has 2 wins in 9 starts. She paid \$21.80 to win.



July 25



There were two \$104,800 OSS Gold races for three year-old colts on July 25 and both featured horses gearing up for a sensational North America Cup.

In the first OSS Gold, Tattoo Artist was hammered down to 1-2 and, until the final strides, appeared to be home free. Bob McClure had intimidated 5 opponents with powerful front-end fractions of :26.4, :54.2 and 1:21.4. Tattoo Artist had a 3 length lead coming down the Mohawk stretch and certainly appeared ready to put some more Stakes ink on his record, but

Beach Blanket Book (Doug McNair) was flying in the middle of the track, and Tattoo Artist needed to be saved by the finish line, winning by a diminishing neck in 1:49.1. Trainer Ian Moore had the opinion that Tattoo Artist might not have been completely sharp as he was racing for the first time in 3 weeks.

"I think that hurt him a bit," conceded Moore. "I think that good horses have got to be trained or raced pretty well right to where they're going to go, or else they may struggle a little bit. And he certainly got a little tired on the end there tonight, which is uncharacteristic of him."

Owned by Frank Cannon and Let It Ride Stables, Tattoo Artist has carved out a four-race win streak, each one faster than the one before (1:50, 1:49.3, 1:49.2, 1:49.1). His \$2 win ticket returned just \$3.



It was a somewhat easier win for Beaumont Hanover in the second OSS Gold. Driven by Jody Jamieson, Beaumont Hanover sat second for the first quarter, then surged to the lead by the half in :54.2. Allowed a reasonably comfortable third quarter of :28.2, Beaumont Hanover sprinted home in :27 and was 1½ lengths the best at the wire in 1:49.2.

Beaumont Hanover is owned and trained by Jack Darling who admitted he got a break in the draw.

"He caught the softer division, so I thought if everything goes right, he should win it," said Darling. "It all worked out good. Jamieson was just kind of sitting there chilly through the lane."

Beaumont Hanover has won 3 straight and 4 of 6 races in 2020. He didn't do much for the bettors, paying the minimum \$2.10 to win.

The two year-old trotters competed in two \$108,000 OSS Gold Series races on July 31 and while the winning horses scored nice cheques for their peeps, those who bet were counting dimes and quarters.

Macho Martini, off his perfect two-for-two record was battered down to .15 on the dollar and though he did win, it wasn't without a little aggravation. Bob McClure left with Macho Martini from post 8 and when Royal Tyrone broke into a gallop, Macho Martini had to go four-wide to avoid disaster. However, once McClure got his trotter to the front, the others could only watch and weep. Macho Martini took the field to the half in :58.3 half and was cruising past the three quarters in 1:28.2. Macho Martini threw a :28.2 final quarter at his overmatched rivals and won by over 3 lengths



in 1:56.4

"What a fun horse to be a part of. Every week he just goes out and does his job," said McClure. "His personality off the track too, he's just a big, cocky kid, just a lot of fun."

The winning trainer is Luc Blais for Determination of Montreal. All the bettors got was \$2.30 for each \$2 win ticket.

In the second division Tokyo Seelster left smartly from post 7 and was sitting third when Highland Mowgli reached the quarter in :29. Regular reinsman Sylvain Filion soon had Tokyo Seelster on the move and the fan favourite hit the half in :58.2. Harry mounted a challenge heading for the 1:29.1 three-quarters and got a head in front of Tokyo Seelster, but the colt kicked it into another gear and powered away to a 3½ length victory in 1:57.

The routine win was predicted by the gamblers. Tokyo Seelster, like Macho Martini, won for the third time in 3 career starts. His trainer is Richard Moreau and he is owned by Michael and Sam Sergi of Canton, NY.

## Breeders Win Lawsuit

It took a long time, but a collection of standardbred horse breeders have been declared the winner in a six year lawsuit against the Provincial Government. In a Superior Court decision issued on June 29, Justice Michael Emery accepted the breeders' argument that the province had breached a valid contract.

This all stemmed from the action of the Ontario Liberals who, in 2012, announced that the Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP) would be terminated. They gave the industry a one year notice.

That was catastrophic.

Walter Parkinson is the President of the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario. He is also the assistant manager of Seelster Farms in Lucan, Ontario. As such, he bore witness to the disaster that was inflicted on the industry.

"It happened right at the beginning of the breeding season," says Parkinson about the cancellation of the lucrative program. "So right away, mares were cancelling from stallion books. We had two new stallions that year. One was Big Jim and the other was Up The Credit. Big Jim already was fully booked for between 100 and 150 mares and his book was cut in half right away. So, it hit the breeding season right off the bat. And then, that moved right on down to sales season from which we saw almost a 50% decrease in yearling averages from about a \$30,000

average to approximately \$15,000 for basically the same quality of horse."

There were 37 breeding operations that joined the lawsuit and their argument was pretty straight forward.

"We understood that the Slots Racetrack partnership could not be ended at a moment's notice," says Parkinson. "Any changes would have to come out with meaningful consultation, none of which had occurred."

This was critical to the argument from the breeders because of the process of deciding which mare to bring a stallion to and the time it takes to produce a horse that can compete for purses.

"The breeding industry had no ability to respond to this decision, given that we're on a basically a five year production cycle," Parkinson points out. "We had no ability to deal with that sudden impact. The argument of the breeders was that the program could not be ended on a moment's notice but instead only through meaningful consultation with the industry that would address losses and the five-year production cycle."

Justice Emery appreciated the breeders' argument. In his decision, he stated:

*"The plaintiffs are members of the horse racing industry who bred horses to race at Ontario racetracks during the period of time revenues shared under SARP enhanced the value of race purses."*

*As horse people, it was reasonable for them to expect that Ontario would recognize their right to reasonable notice as an express or implied term of the LOI (letter of intent) when SARP ended."*

The breeders sued for \$60 million.

"That will have to be quantified accurately through a trial or through just meaningful discussion between both parties to come up with an accurate number," he says. "It might have to be decided through a trial or, optimistically, through negotiation."

The province was given 30 days to appeal the decision. In the meantime, this was very good news for those in Ontario involved in creating harness race horses.

"It compensates the breeders for the damage that was incurred at the time," says Parkinson. "It certainly helps to quantify those losses and pay compensation for the unfortunate consequences to an overall industry."

To be fair, when Kathleen Wynne took over as the Premier, she made a concerted effort to undo some of the damage of her predecessor.

"We've been able to sort of get on a better track over the last few years," agrees Parkinson, "with the long-term funding agreement and with a commitment to horse racing and horse breeding within the province. It is a more positive industry now than it was in 2012, when this announcement was made."

# Pink Lloyd does it again

By Brittney Mayotte



Pink Lloyd - the gift that keeps on giving

Michael Burns Photo

Canada's reigning three-time Champion Male Sprinter, Pink Lloyd, kicked off his eight-year-old campaign with a record fourth straight victory in the \$125,000 Jacques Cartier Stakes and recorded his 20th Stakes win overall on June 25 at Woodbine Racetrack.

Jockey Rafael Hernandez, who partnered with Pink Lloyd for his previous 1:08.05 track record victory in the 2018 edition of the Jacques Cartier, was reunited with the chestnut gelding for the 67th running of the Grade III 6 furlong sprint.

Pink Lloyd, carrying 124 pounds, stalked three-wide just off the lead through fractions of :22.23 and :44.53 before taking over command down the stretch to score by 2 lengths in 1:09.61. Malibu Secret finished second off a ground-saving trip ahead of Not So Quiet, while pacesetter Circle of Friends completed the finish order in the compact field of four.

"He broke well, he did his thing," said Hernandez. "He's older, he knows how to win. He can come from anywhere; he just does his thing. He showed up today. He's one of the best, he does his job. He doesn't give up, never."

Hernandez, who has competed against Pink Lloyd in 20 prior starts, noted it was nice to be aboard for the win instead of chasing the revered Old Forester gelding.

"That's right, you know how many times I've tried to figure out how I can put my horse in different positions to try to beat him," said Hernandez. "The only way I can win is when I'm on him."

Bred in Ontario by John Carey, Pink Lloyd now boasts 23 wins from 29 starts lifetime with his purse earnings soaring

over \$1.8 million for his Entourage Stable ownership group.

Hall of Famer Robert Tiller's beloved trainee now counts the Jacques Cartier grand slam among his impressive list of accomplishments.

"This is one of the greatest sprinters that's ever raced in Canada and I think his record speaks for itself," said Tiller of the six-time Sovereign Award winner, who was named Canada's Horse of the Year in 2017. "He really has a lot of heart, a lot of desire. He wants to do it, he loves winning and I don't know if there will ever be another one like him... not for me, that's for sure. A lot of hard work at the barn, there's a lot of details that go along with him. But when you're standing here like this, it all works out. He's such a champion, such a sweetheart and I love him dearly."

Sent post ward as the overwhelming 1-5 favourite, Pink Lloyd paid just \$2.50 for a \$2 win ticket. There was no place or show wagering.

The field was reduced to just four starters with Dixie's Gamble scratched, making it one of the smallest fields that Pink Lloyd has faced. Often scaring away the competition, he's conquered small four-horse fields on three other occasions, but has successfully competed in a field as big as 12 horses when winning last year's Jacques Cartier Stakes. His initial Jacques Cartier win in 2017 was his first Stakes victory and the start of an unprecedented 11-race win streak. Essence Hit Man won three consecutive editions of the Jacques Cartier Stakes from 2011-2013.

## ...then he shuffled home in the Shepperton

He is, simply, the most reliable thing left in the universe. The only entity we can still trust. The incomparable Pink Lloyd just played with his five opponents in the \$100,000 Shepperton Stakes on July 23.

Burdened with high weight of 128 pounds, and jockey Rafael Hernandez, Pink Lloyd was a restrained third along the rail as Not So Quiet (Kazushi Kimura) led the compact field to the half

in :45.88. As the field came into the stretch, Hernandez needed to find an opening and when it was there, Pink Lloyd scooted to the front and pulled away with little urging, winning by almost 2 lengths in 1:16.44 for the 6½ furlongs. That was about a second slower than he was last year when he won the Shepperton for the second time. Pink Lloyd's first Shepperton victory, in 2017, was timed in 1:15.03.

With this one, Pink Lloyd tied Paso Doble as the only two horses to win the Shepperton three times. This was Pink Lloyd's second win in two tries in 2020 and his eighth win from his last 9 starts. Pink Lloyd, now 8 years old, has won 24 of 30 races and 21 of those wins have come in Stakes.

"He's got the heart and desire to be probably the best sprinter in Canada in the last 50 years," said trainer Bob Tiller, who has won the Shepperton a record six times. "He is amazing. He was in trouble all the way. We got the box trip with the one-hole, and it worked out well. Rafi waited and waited."

"We're very proud of him and I love him dearly," added the Hall of Fame horseman.

Bred by John Carey and owned by Entourage Stable, the Ontario-bred son of Old Forester is approaching the \$2 million mark in career earnings.

Despite the win, jockey Hernandez wasn't sure what to expect.

"Last time, he gave me a little hard time – he had to work hard to get there – but after the race, I told Bob, 'Now he's ready 100 per cent,'" said Hernandez. "He showed up today. He just broke out of the gate, sat behind good, and he just did the best thing he knows how to do... he just switched the lead in the stretch and 'let's go.' He knows how to do it, he knows how to win."

Hernandez had a huge Thursday at Woodbine. The Shepperton victory was one of four times he posed in the winners circle and, after the card, he had a meet leading 40 wins, 14 more than Justin Stein in second place.

Watching Pink Lloyd is thrilling. Betting him...not so much. He paid \$2.60 to win and even though the second-place horse, Silent Jimmie (Daisuke Fukumoto), was 30-1, the \$2 exactor paid just \$23.10.



## 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 26th, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. for the following purpose:

1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held September 28th, 2019;
2. To report on the activities of the Association;
3. To receive the report of the auditors in respect of the audited financial statements of the Association for the year ended March 31, 2020; and the pension plan statements for year ended December 31, 2019
4. To appoint the auditors for the Corporation;

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 21st, 2020**

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Clint, Jim and I.

The pari-mutuel trilogy.

We first visited Saratoga in 1989. Every summer afterwards, we made an annual pilgrimage. In 2018 and 2019, just to mix it up, we went to Del Mar, San Diego.

It took us some time to figure Saratoga out. The first year, we were able to squeeze into an unsatisfactory room at the Community Court Motel. At \$140 a night, we did not feel we got our money's worth. That year, we simply paid our way in to the track and hung out in the picnic area to the north. We couldn't sit in the stands because we didn't buy reserved seats.

I remember possibly the most miserable Saratoga moment of all time – huddling under insufficient umbrellas in a driving rain, watching the Alabama Stakes on a monitor. It was the last race of our last day and, not coincidentally, the last of our money. We swore we'd be better prepared in future years.

Though that certainly didn't apply to the year that we booked ourselves into the Thorobred Motel. That spelling is correct. No 'u', no 'g'. no 'h'. But a definite *ugh* and no good reviews from us, for which we will not suffer any legal ramifications – a few years ago as we drove up highway 9 into Saratoga Springs, all that was left of the Thorobred Motel was a barren field of flotsam and jetsam. I remember Clint's justified complaint of the tap water that came out a discouraging light brown and tasted like motor oil.

It may have been our second or third visit to the Spa when we started attending the handicapping seminars at Siro's. We were big fans of Harvey Peck.

"If you don't hit the Pick-6, try the Pick-5," Peck would advise. "If you don't hit the Pick-5, there's a late Pick-4. If you miss that, bet the last Pick-3. If that doesn't work out, there is always a late double."

We loved that.

That morning, we got valuable information on several 5-1 shots. We all hit nicely, but Jim did the best, clearing close to \$2,000. We had been crammed into another less than ritzy motel and Jim insisted that we park in front of the Adelphi, known to be the swankiest accommodation in town. Clint and I waited for 15 minutes in the car and Jim came out announcing,

"I got us a room."

## Reflections of Saratoga

Jim would not reveal how much he spent; neither would he let his buddies share the cost (which turned out to be around \$300 a night). There were two spacious, bright rooms and the only problem was that one of us would have to sleep on the pull-out couch.

"I'll take the couch," insisted Jim.

Clint and I both protested. Why should the guy who sprung for the room have the least comfortable mattress?

"I've been married for 35 years," cracked Jim. "I'm used to it."

Based on that (and for many other reasons) no one on the horse playing planet deserved a big win more than McKenny.

I'd love to regale you with amazing gambling stories from the first 20 years or so, but they're pretty much a blur. There was, however, one unforgettable moment in 2007. You have to appreciate that Jim has a severe case of oppositional behaviour syndrome. If something appears imminently



logical to most, he wants no part of it. Let me take you to the fourth race on Saturday, July 28 of that year. The 8-horse, Fresh Episode, was 47-1, the longest shot in the field of 9 maidens going 6 furlongs. The form described him as 'the least likely to even finish this race; no reason to back.' As the field came to the track, the jockey, Cornelio Velasquez, had a solemn, defeated look on his face. The horse's head hung low in anticipation of the obvious poor race he was about to run.

"This one is due," declared McKenny and he pounded Fresh Episode to win, in exactors and doubles and to kick off a Pick-3. Needless to say, Fresh Episode was on the lead at the half and held one to win by three quarters of a length, producing a \$97 win ticket. Jim had the \$635 exactor...twice.

The fifth race that day was also 6 furlongs and Jim was betting another ridiculous longshot. Blackfoot Trail, also ridden by Cornelio Velasquez, had lost his first 6 races and was 30-1 on the board. A giant fork lift was necessary to lift the horse from the walking ring to the track. At least one of his legs looked impossibly bent. A couple of medics were seen with the horse as the field was led to the gate.

Blackfoot Trail was tenth after a quarter mile and eighth at the half. But the sizzling first half of :44.76 set things up nicely for a come-from-behind effort and, in mid-stretch,



Jim was shouting,

"Go Corny, Go!"

Blackfoot Trail was flying late and got up to win by a length. That win ticket was \$63. Jim had \$20 win and place and had three horses live for the Pick-3 in the next race. His three horses were paying \$8,000, \$10,954, and over \$20,000. By mid stretch, he was 1-2 and we could see that the 7-5 favourite Monster Drive with John Velazquez was inching away from the 7-2 shot that would have enriched Jim by 20 Grand. Still, his \$1 Pick-3 was worth \$10,954. The IRS withheld \$2,000, which I would apply for and get a few months later.

In our hotel room that night, Jim threw his winnings on the bed and instructed us,

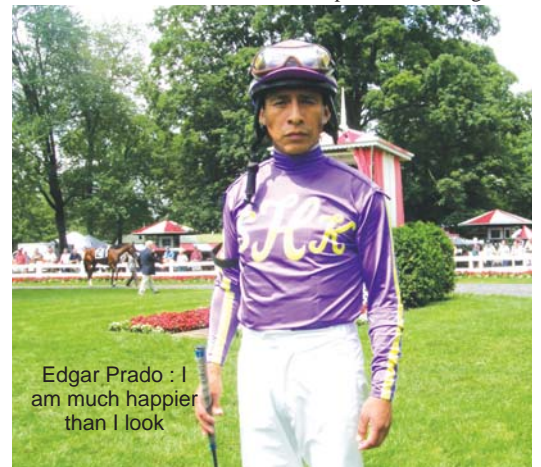
"Help yourselves guys!"

And to be sure, he covered all our wagers the next day.

In 2008, year one of **Down The Stretch**, I started chronicling the trips.

Since the newspaper would be printing essays on Saratoga, I was able to persuade the media department to grant us all passes; Jim and I as writers, Clint as 'photographer'.

The first 'Saratoga Chronicles' pretty well reflected the thrill I got interviewing Edgar Prado, Eibar Coa, and track announcer Tom Durkin. I made a point of visiting Sean



Edgar Prado : I am much happier than I look



Once upon a time, people swarmed to the track



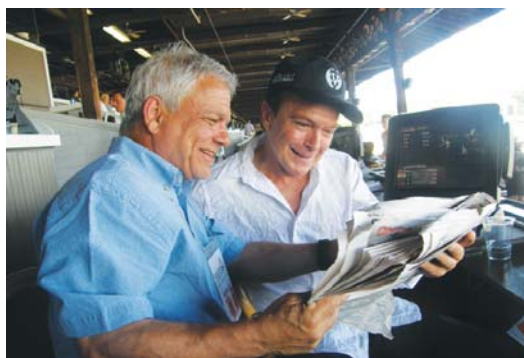
and Joe Clancy, who created the Saratoga Special, a paper distributed for free every racing day at the track and pretty well the template for **Down The Stretch**. As most (but not all) of the annual Saratoga tales would document, we didn't come close to making a profit that year.

In 2009, **Down The Stretch** dedicated three pages to our wagering indulgence at the Spa. The most telling tale of our pari-mutuel incompetence had to do with the \$150,000 Lake George Stakes for three year-old fillies. Rain forced the race to be taken off the grass at a mile and sixteenth and six of the ten entered were scratched. Two of the remaining fillies, Consequence and Mary's Follies, towered over the other two. The three of us were very alive in doubles and Pick-3s on those two and, when Be Fair with Rajiv Maragh led from start to finish, we'd proven our inability to pick a winner in a four horse race.

There was a happy ending that year...well sort of. On the last Saturday, about 10 minutes after the last race at Saratoga, the Haskell Stakes was run at Monmouth. When Rachel Alexandra won, I hit the exactor and the pick-3. Don't get too excited. That enriched me by a total of \$56.

The next year, we witnessed a bit of history. On July 25, jockey Javier Castellano won five consecutive races – the first time any rider had ever done that at Saratoga. The most interesting thing for me was meeting David Cassidy in the clubhouse. Cassidy is famous for being teenage heartthrob Keith Partridge, but at Saratoga, the older men in expensive suits gravitated toward him because Cassidy had a history as a brilliant buyer and developer of top notch broodmares. As I interviewed Cassidy, D. Wayne Lukas peered over from the next box.

Actually, I had at least one degree of separation from David Cassidy. He occasionally sent horses to Woodbine and his trainer there was Arthur Silvera.



"Arthur names my horses," Cassidy told me. And apparently, after a conversation with writer Perry Lefko, Silvera named one of Cassidy's horses Peter The Gross. The unsuccessful racing career of that horse is another story, but do know that Peter The Gross was retired and a nice lady has him as a riding pony on a farm.

In 2011, Clint flew from Victoria and Jim and I met him at the airport in Newark. It was unbearably hot that week. A scalding wind seared us as got out in the airport parking. Because Clint had flown into New Jersey, our plans were to spend at least one day at Monmouth Park. But thanks to the heat, racing was cancelled, so we left Newark at 9 am the next morning and pedal to the metal, we drove the 370

kilometres to Saratoga. Jim tossed me out of the car at one minute to the first race with \$20 and specific daily double instructions,

"2-5-8 with 3-6-7," he barked as I tumbled out and began sprinting to the windows. Strangely, Jim hit the double for \$76.

We found ourselves that year booked into the Grand Union Motel, not an upscale residence to say the least, but it included the Crystal Spa and one of my Saratoga rituals is to steep in a warm sauna bath followed by a vigorous massage.

The biggest thrill that year was watching Emma-Jayne Wilson out-ride some of the greatest jockeys in the world. She drove down to partner with Moonshine Mullins in the Grade II Jim Dandy Stake. She was given the mount by



Emma-Jayne at Saratoga

trainer Reade Baker. Moonshine Mullins went off at 37-1, but Wilson gave him a masterful ride, fourth down the backstretch, passing two horses in the lane and finishing second to the race favourite, Dominus. Behind her were Julien Leparoux, Ramon Dominguez, and John Velasquez. When I told her that she had out-riden those great riders, Wilson corrected me.

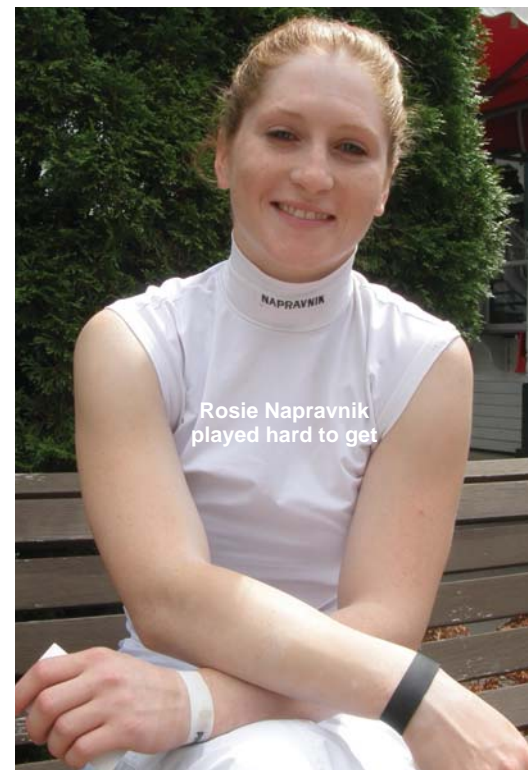
"I out-horsed them," she cracked. "I had a really good horse."

I had to be at Saratoga in 2012. They were promoting it as the 144th year in its wonderful history. 144 is a gross, as in a gross of chalk. I never bet the chalk.

Here's what I remember from that trip. July 21 was my birthday. I bet all the Pick-3s and an early Pick-4 at Woodbine, which fortunately was being shown on a couple of monitors. In the sixth race, I needed Poetic Kid to win for a healthy score, but Poetic Kid finished second...except...the inquiry sign lit up and the winner was taken down when video showed that the first place horse's jockey Steve Bahen had struck Poetic Kid with his whip. When they put my horse up, I cashed over \$300 as well as several more ensuing Pick-3s. Happy birthday to me.

Not quite as beneficial were my attempts to interview Rosie Napravnik. It took me four visits over several days to finally get her to sit down for five minutes and her body language for the entire interview shrieked, 'I don't want to do this!'

Once again, Clint, Jim, and Peter, collectively, contributed to the Saratoga mutuels without enhancing our own pockets, but we did pull off a moral victory. On our last day, we pooled \$53.50 to bet the late Pick-4. We had all four winners and their payoffs were \$6.20, \$5.50, \$5.60, and \$5.80. The Pick-4 paid \$55. We argued the entire drive home how to split the \$1.50 profit.



Rosie Napravnik played hard to get

It was just Jim and I in 2013 and this was the first time that we booked a house through Racing Realty. It was a game changer; the owner, Julie Kazakoff, left us everything we could possibly need and thanks to a barbecue and fully stocked kitchen, we saved valuable betting dollars by eating at home.

There was a Thursday I will never forget. I lost a considerable amount of money through the first six races and was feeling despondent and psychotic at the same time. And there it was in the seventh race; an epiphany from the deities of parimutuels. The 7-horse was named Torment. The 8-horse was Gamblin Fever. I had no choice. I abandoned all my principals of handicapping and bet both horses in exactors, doubles, and Pick-3s. Incredibly both horses rallied from the back of the field and both hit the wire simultaneously. It was a dead-heat between Torment and Gamblin Fever. I ended up with multiple payoffs on all my bets and, when the last Pick-3 ended up with a longshot, I cashed \$938 on that alone, close to \$1,800 thanks to the message provided to me by the program.

And that's a tale I will tell to my youthful progeny as they huddle on their 90 year-old great granddad's lap.

By 2014, I started to feel that I had exhausted in **Down The Stretch** the storyline of three aging guys taking their bankrolls to Saratoga and coming home broke. Weirdly, it





has always been the piece I get the most comments about. Not uncomfortable with a little self-deprecation, I actually called that year's story **Peter Gross' indulgent, boring, and excessively long coverage of his annual vacation at Saratoga**. That's what's known as under selling.

I had a Sunday at the Spa that is so typical of my wagering skills. I hit Market Conduct (\$9.10), Sir Leslie (\$9.40), Lady of Victory (\$7.60), My Afleet (\$11.20), Ziptronic (\$6.70), Kwacha (\$10.80), Cavorting (\$9.50), and I Spent It (\$7.80). That's 8 winners on a 10-race card. I had two Pick-3's each worth about \$100 and a fistful of doubles, so you figure, I made a lot of money, right? Nope – I cleared maybe \$100. Dropped a lot in the Pick-4s and the Pick-3s I didn't hit, and poured a certain amount of failure into races at Del Mar, Gulfstream, Woodbine, and Monmouth.

But I do not have a gambling problem.

In that 2014 issue, I constructed **10 Things Woodbine should steal from Saratoga**. Included on the list:

+Great use of the picnic area to the north of the track. Woodbine tilts in that direction for the Queen's Plate weekend, but not too much for the rest of the year.

+ Racing Forms. You can buy them at every gas station and every variety store. Not so much up here.

+Live performers. Once you enter the track, you can hear a blues band shuffling and often, inside the track proper, there's other musicians and dancers appearing almost randomly

On the second Friday of our 10-day visit, I won the late Pick-4 which paid \$956. In that year, the IRS was still withholding 30% of tickets worth \$600 or more. I got paid \$676 and, about two months later, got a nice cheque for \$280 from the U.S. government. I figured out a method of filling out the correct forms because there is a treaty between Canada and the U.S. declaring that we should not have to pay taxes on gambling winnings.

In 2015, I interviewed Christopher Kay, the CEO of the New York Racing Association. He was warm, funny, and friendly. Less than four years later, the NYRA would accept his resignation after stories abounded that he had NYRA employees do yard work and maintenance on his property in Saratoga Springs.

I also had a great half hour with Mark Casse. He met us



in the backstretch near the starting gate for 6 furlong races and allowed Jim, Clint, and I to crowd onto his golf cart. That was helpful because his barn was about half a mile away. Casse is a great interview. He may have hundreds of horses, but provides instant recall on any one you name. He also gave us what might stand as the greatest racing tip of all-time, especially for Woodbine players. Casse told us that one of the more difficult training challenges is to get a horse that has run well on a synthetic surface to do the same on traditional dirt. I have lost count the number of times I have seen horses with superior Beyer numbers get heavily bet, then flop first time on dirt.

I had another IRS payoff that year. It was on our final Saturday and my Pick-3 was comprised of horses that paid \$13.60, \$6.90, and \$25.60. The \$1 ticket was worth \$779 and they withheld \$232. I got that back several weeks later as well.

We flipped the script in 2016. That was the year that our good friend Nick Coukos was hired as the President of the Thoroughbred Owners of California. We'd become friends when he ran the HBPA and, for a couple of summers, I co-hosted the pre-race shows with him at Ajax Downs.

"Come to Del Mar this summer," implored Coukos. "We'll take care of you."

The appeal was multi-faceted. It was a much shorter trip from Victoria for Clint. Jim and I were thrilled. It meant we could bet Saratoga, Gulfstream, Woodbine, and Monmouth at 10 in the morning.

And Coukos was good on his promise. He gifted us reserved box seats for every racing day. We were also given full access to the top floor press room where long-time Director of Media, Mac McBride, made us most welcome and made sure we had a sticker for free parking very near the front gate. Every day at noon, there was a delicious home-cooked style lunch. If you think it couldn't get better than that, let me tell you what McKenny did in the Jim Dandy Stakes on our first Saturday.

It was a \$600,000 Stakes race, but only 6 horses went to post and no one in their right mind would have bet on Loaban, who was still a maiden. But jockey José Ortiz took Loaban to the top, danced around the track unchallenged, and won by 1¼ lengths. McKenny had the \$269 exactor for \$5 and the \$237 double as well.

I recall a little enjoyable grief (if that's not an oxymoron) in our second week there. I hit a Pick-4 that paid off at \$677. Because it was more than \$600, I had to process it through the IRS. Just two problems. I was using a Del Mar player's card and apparently the computers had just recently been re-jigged. Also, when I identified myself as Canadian, a lot of head scratching ensued from men in suits. It took 45 minutes to get paid and, after all that, the U.S. government didn't withhold their share.

We loved our visit to Del Mar. There were never the mind-numbing crowds we often encountered at Saratoga, our hotel cost considerably less, we were nicely fed, and didn't have to buy reserved seats. That's why we decided to go back in 2017.

Sadly, it would be just a party of two.

It was May of 2017. I had been busy arranging air fare and accommodation for our next visit to the west coast. I got an e-mail from Clint. One word: *TROUBLE*.

I called Clint and, in a very calm controlled voice, he told me:

"I have been diagnosed with lung cancer. I have maybe three months."

Not three months, though. Seventeen days after that conversation, he was gone.

Jim and I flew to Victoria a few weeks later for Clint's memorial and Clint's wife, Alissa, gave me a bag with his ashes. The first thing Jim and I did when we arrived at



Del Mar that year was to quietly release Clint's ashes onto the walking ring. I like to think that some of the greater thoroughbreds in the world get a tiny bit of his DNA before stepping out on the track.

I don't recall any spectacular wins by Jim or me. Actually, the best moment for me was rollerblading the 6 miles from our motel on the edge of the Pacific Ocean to the track one morning. Chantal Sutherland, trainer Richard Mandella, and announcer Trevor Denman were doing interviews at trackside on Donut Day. Incredibly, Sutherland was wearing a t-shirt bearing the message **TORONTO OR NOWHERE**. I approached her after the interviews and she strode up and





gave me a warm hug.

It's a well-established fact that Sutherland, now 44, is a beautiful woman. But here she was without any makeup, in jeans and t-shirt, and still gorgeous. I could barely get my questions out.

The day after meeting her, Sutherland gave a master class ride on a filly called Majestic Diva. The pair went straight to the front in this 7 furlong dash and stayed there, winning by 6½ lengths. I believe I cashed a healthy daily double on those two ladies.

In 2018, Jim and I were back at Saratoga. You know how they say that sometimes the journey is better than the destination. Try this story on for size: It's closing in on 1 pm on Thursday, July 19. Jim's driving. I have the racing app going on my phone. Post time for the first race is approaching at scenic Finger Lakes. We put in our bets. My horse loses. Jim's wins at 1-2. We pull off the 1-90 interstate to check into Finger Lakes, which is more or less half way to Saratoga from Toronto. It's a good 20 minutes to Race 2 and I have American dollars raging with heat in my pocket.

"I'm going to play some video poker," I advise my buddy. Jim has no interest in the slots and grunts me a pleasant goodbye.

I find a 50 cent poker machine and feed it a \$50 bill. I play half a dozen hands and hit 4 aces for \$400. I start playing the maximum. I can play a hand in less than a second. The machine deals me King, Jack, and Ten of Hearts. I throw away the two bad cards and a second later up comes the Queen and the Ace of Hearts. *A royal flush!* It takes me more than a second to realize what's happened. The machine starts beeping and churning out numbers. It tells me I have won 20,000 units. *\$10,000.*



It takes a good 20 minutes to fill out the IRS forms. I tipped one woman \$100 for finding me the machine. I tipped a second lady \$100 for coming to the machine and telling me what to do. They withheld \$3,600.

I found Jim buried in the form. I had missed the second race.

"Did you hit the double," I asked calmly.

"Yes," he answered. "It paid \$7."

"I have an interesting story to tell you," I countered as I pulled out a huge wad of \$100 bills.

Unfortunately, that freaky moment at Finger Lakes was as good as the betting got for the next 10 days.

There were some memorable things. We rented a comfy little house that had been advertised on Racing Realty as *Hockey Fan*. I messaged the guy with the fact that my partner was the fifth highest scoring defenceman in Toronto Maple Leafs history. That was enough for Dieter Bloem to accept our lowball bid. Turns out Bloem was also a former hockey player. He skated for nine years, famously, for the Landshut Cannibals in the German Pro League.

I interviewed both Ortiz brothers, Irad and José, and in retrospect that was a thrill because, since then, they have dominated jockey standings wherever they go. On the



first quiet Tuesday, I drove Jim to Glenn Falls for his golf date with two other former hockey players, Kevin Dineen and Pete Mahovich. I was not invited, because, well, as a golfer, I stink. I spent some of my royal flush money in outlet malls, then picked Jim up after his game. Turns out he had swapped a box of cigars and in return from Dineen, got Joel Quenneville's reserved seats in the clubhouse, *right at the finish line*. Dineen was the assistant coach to Quenneville who ran the Chicago Black Hawks.

Those box seats made it much easier the rest of the trip to



see how badly our horses got beat.

There was actually a bookend to that year's Saratoga. There wasn't a single winning day for either of us at Saratoga. We left after the fifth race on the last Sunday and stopped at Turning Stone Casino. Jim dropped me off and drove to nearby Vernon Downs. I played a few hours of blackjack and won \$400. Jim won a couple hundred on the

late double at Saratoga. My two best days on the trip came before and after we arrived at the Spa. Jim found the Beatles channel on Sirius and we lip-synched Ticket to Ride all the way back to Canada.

Was 2019 our last trip together to Saratoga? It was the 30th out of town racetrack journey and we had no way of knowing how changed everything would be a year later. Through Racing Realty, we may have found our nicest place ever. It was called 'Ta Wee' after a gallant mare in the 60s that won 15 of 21 starts, 8 Stakes races in that span. Its owner is a lovely man named Wen Lu who had renovated the inside of a hidden cottage to make it luxurious and cozy for out of town travellers. For the second year in a row, Jim hooked up with Kevin Dineen who had possession of the Joel Quenneville box seats. The previous fall, Jim and I got the devastating news that Quenneville had been fired as coach of the Chicago Black Hawks. We were deeply distressed.

"How will this affect the box seats?" I asked Jim.

Not to worry. By the summer, Quenneville had been hired by the Florida Panthers and apparently had a preseason roster to ponder in Sunrise. It was another typical trip for us. Maybe one good day of cashing, 9 others not so much. We were there for the Travers, but by 11:30, it was so crowded that we advance bet all the races and went back to Ta Wee to watch in air-conditioned comfort. I hit a \$1 exactor on Code of Honor winning the Travers with Tacitus second. That paid \$16. It's possible it was not a profitable Saturday.

And like every other trip to Saratoga, time flies by, faster than a quarter horse in a 200 yard race. We get there, blink our eyes, and we're leaving halfway through the Sunday card. Actually, part of the ride home was entertaining. We bet the late Pick-4 and one by one, aided and abetted by the app on my phone, we watched our horses come in. We had invested \$67.50 between us and our winning Pick-4 was worth \$109. Maybe the last winning ticket we might ever purchase at Saratoga

...

Of course, we couldn't go in 2020. The races were on tv and of all the places not to have fans, Saratoga looked bizarre; still great racing, but no crowds. On Thursday, July 16, my phone rang at 12:55, 15 minutes before the first race of Opening Day. It was Jim:

"I took the 4-6-9 with 3-8-12."







 **WOODBINE**  
presented by WEG

**E**lliott Logan, 49, lives in Lexington and has loved horse racing since he was a teenager.

"My dad had a passion for horse racing," he says. "I first owned a portion of a race horse when I was 18 years old and the horse was named Frank Lark. It was named after a gentleman where I grew up in Midway. I was a senior in high school and the very first start we had we won by 10 lengths at Churchill Downs and the second start we made were last by about 40. The horse bucked shins, so we went from the ultimate, winning that first time out, winning big at a track like Churchill, and then we experienced that truism of horse racing which is there's more bad luck than good luck."

Logan is the sole owner of TEC Racing.

"The T in TEC Racing stands for Taylor who is my daughter," he explains. "The E is my initial and the C is for Carol, my wife."

Although he hasn't been able to see them in person, Logan has already had a couple of nice wins at Woodbine this year. In June 28, Risetothethechallenge was in a \$40,000 maiden race at 6 furlongs on the turf. With Rafael Hernandez in the saddle, the three year-old gelding surged to the lead after a half mile and won by 2 lengths in 1:08.72. Logan was not overly optimistic that Risetothethechallenge would win.

"We weren't certain he would win, really," he admits. "But I thought he would run well against the company he was in there with and he did. We did think he would like the grass, and the longer he goes, he might like even more distance. That time – 1:08 and change. That was quick."

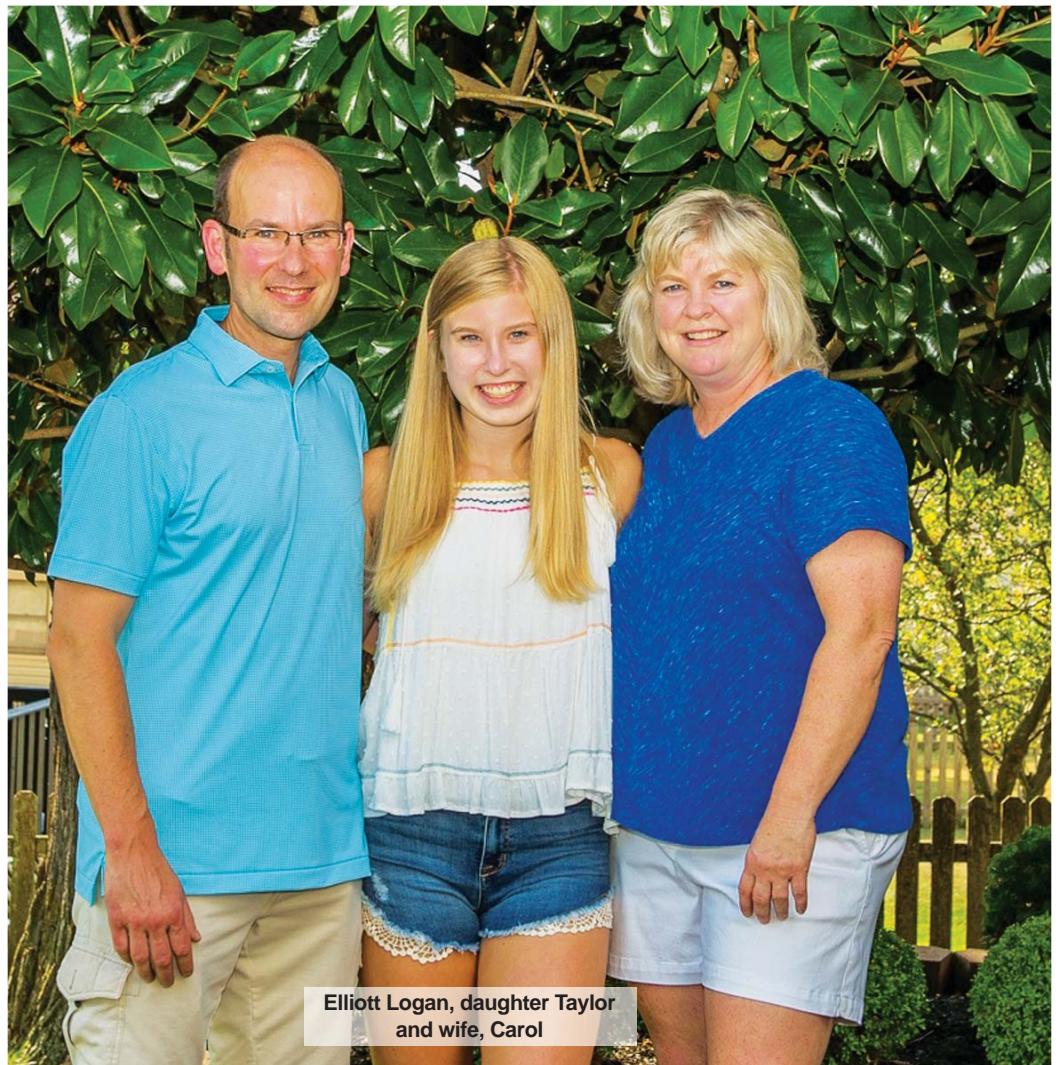
Logan is asked where he was when he watched that race.

"I was in Louisville with my daughter, Taylor, that day," he says. "She's turning 16 and we had gone down car shopping that day for her and so we were sitting in the parking lot and I watched it on my phone."

TEC Racing earned over \$18,000 U.S. for that win.

As satisfying as that win by Risetothethechallenge was, it was a first-place effort by Sandy Bay that really thrilled Logan. Sandy Bay is trained by Martin Drexler and, on July 12, ridden by Sahin Civaci, the gelding romped by almost 6 lengths in a \$15,000 claim race at 6½ furlongs on the Tapeta. That was Sandy Bay's second win in 10 tries and the winner's purse was \$12,188 U.S.

"Boy, I can tell you, that was one of the most exciting victories," says Logan "I bought Sandy Bay in January of 2019. He went to Canada and he came up really sore in



Elliott Logan, daughter Taylor and wife, Carol

his back end. I don't run my horses sore, so we brought him home and gave him about 19 months off at the farm, where he was a favourite. They love this horse so much. He's such a kind and gentle horse and he loves people and he loves attention. We just started with some light training to see if he would be able to hold up and he just he just thrived on it. He loved it. He kept getting stronger and wanting to go further. To watch that horse run like he did, I was so happy and so proud for him."

Logan was especially impressed with the strategy employed by rider Civaci.

"If you look at Sandy Bay's charts, I think he ran eight races prior to when I bought him and he was a dead closer," says Logan. "But in this race, he led from wire to wire. It was an amazing ride by that young man and the horse just showed a lot of heart. Marty did an awesome job getting Sandy Bay ready for the race, and Bill Mauk, who owns the farm where Sandy Bay was after coming home sore, did such a good job getting him feeling better and got a great foundation under him after being off for so long."

Logan identifies another horse in his barn that is showing promise.

"We've got a really nice three year-old filly with Marty right now called Millennium Force that we're really high on. She broke her maiden at Churchill Downs on the 13th of June."

That race was just the third for Millennium Force and her time of 1:02.88 was just a blink off the course record of 1:02.24 for 5½ furlongs on the turf. And that was another nice cheque for TEC Racing - \$32,704 U.S.

In fact, it was a huge day for Logan's stable at Churchill Downs, because a race before the Millennium Force win, his Blunt Force had carried jockey James Graham to victory in a 7 furlongs dirt sprint for \$10,000 claimers. That added another \$14,500 to the bank account.

"Back to back wins at Churchill Downs," says Logan. "That was definitely a highlight in my career."

For several years, Logan has been sending horses to Woodbine.

"I bought a horse named Almira Fawn," he says. "I bought her with Dave Cotey's help. He was the first Woodbine trainer that I dealt with and then I sent some horses to Marty last year and have been really pleased with the job he's done in a short time. He's very knowledgeable. Woodbine has some good purses. It's one of the better tracks in North America and I always wanted to race horses there."

Almira Fawn needed 14 maiden races to break through, though she picked up a few minor cheques along the way. On December 2, 2012, she and Skye Chernetz scored at 5-2 at 6 furlongs, 5 lengths the best in 1:11.40.

Logan describes himself as 'a second generation men's clothing store businessman.' His parents started the operation in 1964. That provides income, but horse racing enriches him emotionally.

"I'm a very competitive person," he says. "I hate to lose, but you lose more races than you win. At one point in my career, I lost 61 races in a row. What keeps me involved in horse racing is getting a horse to the winners circle, and the hope of having a nice horse. That's the thing that keeps us all hoping and dreaming and all staying in the game."





# Jack Darling has another good one



It was June 8 at Mohawk, the first night of harness racing after the unexpected break, and a three year-old colt named Beaumont Hanover made a huge statement. In the fifth race, with Jody Jamieson steering, Beaumont Hanover parlayed a front-running effort into a stunning 5 length win in 1:49.4. Beaumont Hanover is owned and trained by 67 year-old Jack Darling who has been in the game for close to 50 years. That impressive win by Beaumont Hanover was satisfying for Darling, considering it took him a little longer than planned.

"I bought him at the Harrisburg sale as a yearling for \$45,000," says Darling. "I had high hopes for him and then he hurt himself. I took him for a second qualifier and he kicked a cement block and ended up with a bone bruise on his leg which didn't seem very serious, but it cost me two or three months."

Even so, Beaumont Hanover resumed racing last fall and swept three legs of the Harvest Series, winning the \$47,800 final in 1:53.2, surprising no one with a \$2.30 win price.

"This year, he has come back just bigger and stronger," says Darling. "Not too many pacers go 1:49.4 in their first start as a three year-old."

If Darling had any concerns about Beaumont Hanover's talent, they were erased in a memorable workout mile shortly before that first race.

"I trained him at the training centre in :51.3, which is unheard of," he says. "We go lots of miles out there in :55 and :56 with good horses, but that :51.3 was a real eye opener. It's kind of exciting right now."

Darling was just a teenager when he first felt the allure of harness racing.

"I had a friend who had some connections with people at Western Fair Raceway. So, I started going into the track with him to see what was going on, and I thought, *If there's a way of making money with horses*, I was all for it. So, I started with a cheap horse named Yankee BB. I claimed him for \$1,500 and then he won his next start in a \$1,750 claimer and he won and was claimed. I got about \$600 from the purse and made \$250 on the claim and I was on my way. From then I just I claimed another one and it was kind of the same thing. Claim a horse, make a little money, claim another."

Darling's go-to driver is Jody Jamieson. Many years ago, however, Darling put up some very good numbers as a driver himself. In 1979 and 1980, he won over 100 races, while competing at Western Fair Raceway,

Windsor, and Buffalo.

"I was satisfied with my driving," Darling says. "I actually won a couple of driver championships for the top percentage, but then just at some point, I could see that things were changing and it was a catch driver's game. I realized if I was going to move up to the next level, I had to get the best catch drivers. I was about 35 when I felt I was ready to retire from driving. I'd had my fun."

An important part of Darling's success as a trainer and owner is that he was able to check his ego at the door. He accepted that he was not necessarily the best driver for his horses.

"Yeah. For example, at that time, there were two drivers - Bill Gale and Trevor Ritchie. I knew when I was driving against them that they were better."

There's been some terrific harness horses in Jack Darling's barn. Two of them come to mind immediately.

"No doubt, I go back to Northern Luck and Gothic Dream," he states proudly.

Northern Luck started 40 times between 1996 and 1997, winning 18 and earning \$907,974. He set a lifetime mark of 1:49.1 at Lexington.

Gothic Dream raced in the same two years as Northern Luck, winning 11 of 35 starts and accumulating \$1,528,671. With the legendary John Campbell in the bike, Gothic Dream captured the 1997 \$1 million North America Cup in 1:50.4, but Darling's biggest thrill came when Gothic Dream won the \$603,100 Metro Pace the year before.

"That was a little more exciting because it was kind of the unknown," says Darling. "It was just his fifth lifetime start. We just didn't know how he was going to match up with everybody else. When he won the North America Cup, he was the favourite, and I knew if everything went well, he was going to win as long as everything went according to plan. When he did win that, it was mostly relief."

Darling has 12 racing horses for 2020.

"My best two year-old right now is Avion Seelster," he says.

On June 27, Avion Seelster looked pretty good, winning a baby qualifier in 1:57.2 with Jody Jamieson driving. The last quarter was paced in :28.2 by the son of Sportswriter.

There's a three year-old in the Darling barn with the catchy name of Darth Fader. He has already won 4 of his first 8 starts. As for that name?

"I think that, at the farm where he was raised, the girls thought that was a great name," laughs Darling. "His mother is Fade to Black."

And if you think a horse named Darth Fader is inclined to tire late in the stretch, not so. Between February 6 and February 21, Darth Fader won three straight races, with last quarters respectively of :27.2, :27.4, and :27.4.

Racing these days, of course, is a very different thing. Mohawk is a track where the fans are very close to the paddock and along the rail through the stretch. But racing without fans is a challenging experience.

"It feels....just okay," says Darling. "It's really not that much fun because you can't even talk to people, but at least we're making money and it's only temporary. Right now, though, you're pretty well separated. It's just not quite the same."

Darling struggles a bit when asked what he prefers - owning or training?

"I guess owning," he responds. "I've always treated it like it's a business for me. It's all about making money, really. But I love horses and I love training horses, especially two year-olds. I like I going to the sales and picking out the yearlings and trying to buy the ones you like. The exciting part is buying two year-olds, trying to make a Stakes horse, and then after the three year-old year, I just sell everything."

On at least two occasions, Jack Darling has been nominated for the Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Earlier this year, he got beat when Ben Wallace and Paul MacDonnell attracted more votes.

"Yeah, I didn't make the cut," he laughs.

Not that the industry hasn't recognized his long contribution. The United States Harness Writers Association honoured him with both the Unsung Hero Award and the Good Guy Award.

"That was kind of surprising," he says. "That was quite an honour. They had the banquet down in Orlando, Florida."

And we like to ask all of our Owners of the Month what keeps them in the game.

"You've got to love the horses," says Darling. "It's just the excitement, especially with the two year-old, and the pleasure of finding out how big he's going to be at the end of the road. There's just always something to get up in the morning and get excited about."



Quarter Horse  
Owner of  
the Month:  
Anna  
Rosiak



Anna Rosiak was not at all the typical horse loving little girl. However, her older sister, Milena Kwiecien dove into the deep end of the quarter horse pool.

"She is like a crazy, crazy horse girl," says Rosiak. "She works her butt off every single day. She does her own barn chores. I think they have over 20 horses on the property right now. She's one of those people who gets down and dirty and knows everything about every single horse. She can tell them all apart by silhouette, sound, and movement alone. I definitely can't do that. She's just been an inspiration to me."

Rosiak is 32 and didn't even see her first race until her sister took her to Ajax Downs six years ago.

"It was just something completely different; I've never seen something like that," recalls Rosiak. "The fact that Milena could put it all together, like finding a great team, then getting into the pedigrees of the horses and going to the horse sales, and finally seeing them race at Ajax."

For a long period of time, Milena was urging Anna to buy a horse. Rosiak is a web designer and has worked hard to save a little money, so she definitely didn't have a huge bankroll to throw at a horse.

"My sister's been going to sales in Oklahoma, so I was kind of curious," says Rosiak. "And at the end of last year I started thinking maybe I should go to the next one. Before I went to my first Heritage Place Sale, I started preparing spreadsheets to get organized. I created this database phone app of all the hip numbers that our trainer Jason Pascoe, my sister, and I were interested in. The app updated real time changes and made the sale process a lot more efficient and less stressful."

With over 800 horses up for sale and a massive venue, Anna, Jason, and Milena had to go with a plan.

"My sister's favourite stallion is Valiant Hero," says Rosiak. "She bred her favourite mare AJ Chick In 15 to him, so this year she has a quality Valiant Hero filly. Most of the time, the sales were way out of my budget, but it turned out that when my horse was up for bidding, there was a chance that we could get him at a good price."

Apparently at the Heritage Place sale, all the attractive horses were going for over \$20,000 USD. Rosiak was thrilled that she was able to buy EC Greys Anatomy for exactly \$12,000 USD on the last day of the sale. Making it even sweeter was the fact that EC Greys Anatomy was a three year-old gelded son of Valiant Hero. The deal turned out much better than \$12,000 USD. The Quarter Racing

# Anna Rosiak and her first horse



Anna Rosiak and her other four-legged friend, Puffin

Owners of Ontario (QROOI) had a tempting offer of up to \$5,000 CAD in an interest-free loan for anyone buying a horse at the sale. It's a program to increase the horse population at Ajax Downs and Rosiak took advantage of it.

And the story of Anna Rosiak buying her first horse gets more interesting. Before she owned EC Greys Anatomy, the horse had not impressed much, failing to hit the board in its four races as a two year-old.

"Jason saw a lot of promise, a lot of potential," says Rosiak. "When it comes to knowing what good confirmation is, I leave it up to Jason and my sister. They can literally walk up to a horse take a look and, in two seconds, say, 'No. Something's wrong with a back leg or a front leg.' So, I knew that if they both agreed on a horse then it was definitely going to be a good investment if we could get it at a good price."

EC Greys Anatomy's first race for Anna Rosiak was on March 12 at Remington Park in Oklahoma. It didn't go very well. He was fractious in the gate, got out badly, and beat only one of 12 horses. Rosiak was hardly discouraged.

"I didn't really have huge expectations because I knew how racing is just from being around my sister," says Rosiak. "There's so many things that have to line up for a horse to win. The gate has to open, the jockey has to be the right fit for the horse. There are so many different factors

that go into it. So, I didn't have expectations that my horse was going to hit it out of the park. But I knew that with Jason's training, he was eventually going to be, let's say, worth the investment."

Rosiak didn't have to wait very long for the faith in her trainer to be justified. Just over two weeks later, EC Greys Anatomy ran again. It was another field of 12 and thanks to his unimpressive earlier race, he went off at 47-1. But jockey Brett Birzer broke sharply from the rail and EC Greys Anatomy led every step of the way, winning by a head at the end of 330 yards. A \$2 win ticket was worth \$97.80 and less than three months after buying her first horse, Anna Rosiak was a winning owner. The first-place prize was almost \$10,000 U.S.

"I honestly couldn't believe it," says Rosiak. "I know that compared to Ajax, Remington has a lot more horses, so I couldn't even imagine that my horse could come in first, just because of the calibre of the horses there, so that was amazing."

There were two more off-the-board races for EC Greys Anatomy at Remington and then he was shipped up to Ajax Downs. It was Opening Day, June 10 and with Helen Vanek riding, EC Greys Anatomy outlasted four others for a victory at 250 yards and a speed index of 94. Rosiak's share of the purse was \$5,060 Canadian. Less than a month later, EC Greys Anatomy, again with Vanek calling the shots, led from gate to wire to win at 300 yards. The time of :15.523 earned him a speed rating of 91 and the winner's share of \$5,290 Canadian assured that Rosiak's investment had been covered.

Now a successful owner, Rosiak gives all the credit to her sister, her trainer, and her jockey.

"I have a lot of trust and respect," she says. "They're really a good team. When I found out that Helen Vanek was going to ride for us, I was so excited, not just because she's a female, but I'd heard stories about Hurricane Helen and how great she was. And Jason is not only an amazing trainer, but he just has a lot of integrity. He's a very good guy and he always does whatever is best for the horses."

Rosiak is probably going to be very careful and deliberate with any future purchases, despite a wonderful start to her career as a horse owner. The present state of affairs is dictating caution.

"I'm not sure how that's going to go yet because it all depends if we'll be able to race in the States," she says. "When and if the border opens up, and what the rules are going to be."

Her first experience with quarter horse racing has certainly turned a light on inside.

"It's the whole thing," she states with emotion. "It's how everybody that is involved in it has such a passion. I love horses and it's amazing what they can do. When you can have a horse and a jockey just work together and you can tell that the horse enjoys the process. I really admire the passion everybody has towards the horse racing industry."



# A wider reach for Woodbine's Product

By Brittney Mayotte

On July 9, America's Best Racing (ABR), a multimedia fan development and awareness-building platform designed to increase the profile and visibility of North America's best Thoroughbred racing events, and Woodbine Entertainment announced a cross-promotional marketing partnership. As part of the partnership, ABR and Woodbine Entertainment will work together to create and distribute content across digital channels to fans across North America, sharing stories from Woodbine Racetrack and Woodbine Mohawk Park, and promoting wagering opportunities on Woodbine's thoroughbred and standardbred racing.

As part of the expansive collaboration, Woodbine will license U.S. broadcast rights to Racing Night Live on TSN every Thursday evening (6 p.m. to 8 p.m. ET) to ABR for distribution on ABR's YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/americasbesttracing>. Racing personalities and analysts from ABR will make in-show appearances during each Thursday night telecast to promote content offered at [www.AmericasBestRacing.net](http://www.AmericasBestRacing.net) and to highlight upcoming big races across America. Simultaneously, ABR will live stream a "Woodbine Live" handicapper's show on its Twitter and Facebook channels to promote wagering on races at Woodbine every Thursday night.

"We're thrilled to partner with Woodbine Entertainment and are excited to leverage our social media channels, video production, second screen live video show promotions, and digital content team to help amplify Canadian horse racing across America," said Stephen B. Panus, President of TJC Media Ventures, Inc. "This is a tremendous opportunity to reach and attract a new demographic to the best of Canadian horse racing, including via the innovative, AI-powered app 'Dark Horse.' Additionally, we're pleased to have the opportunity to showcase Racing Night Live via the TSN broadcast every Thursday across our YouTube channel. American horse racing fans and sports bettors will enjoy wagering on and watching the live racing experience at Woodbine Racetrack and Woodbine Mohawk Park, respectively."

"As our content strategy continues to evolve and we look to engage our fans and attract a new generation of fans across North America, ABR is an excellent partner," said Jim Lawson, CEO, Woodbine Entertainment. "We have always been big fans of how ABR reaches and engages

fans through their channels, so we are naturally excited about how we can partner with them to distribute more Woodbine content as well."

Among the other highlights of the multi-faceted partnership agreement:

ABR will produce and stream Woodbine-sponsored Live Shows (2 hours per show) and Mini-Live shows (45 minutes per show) in 2020 featuring handicappers, sports bettors, and various influencers betting Woodbine races on key dates during the 2020 thoroughbred and standardbred racing seasons:

- **Saturday, August 15** — Woodbine Oaks Day
- **Saturday, August 29** — Pepsi North America Cup (Woodbine Mohawk Park)
- **Friday, September 11** — Day before The Queen's Plate
- **Saturday, September 12** — The Queen's Plate
- **Friday, September 18** — Day Before Woodbine Mile
- **Saturday, September 26** — Mohawk Million (Woodbine Mohawk Park)
- **Saturday, October 24** — Breeders' Stakes Day

To complement ABR's stream of Racing Night Live on its YouTube channel, ABR will produce a weekly 2-hour live show, second screen experience streamed on ABR's Facebook & Twitter channels every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. ET, through September 10. Each show will be hosted by ABR's Dan Tordjman and will also feature leading handicappers Emily Gullikson and Ashley Mailloux, focusing on Woodbine Thoroughbred and Standardbred analysis respectively.

ABR will distribute regular Woodbine content that focuses on handicapping of Woodbine racing, big wins from Woodbine racing and more.

Launched in 2012, America's Best Racing continues to reach and attract a new and younger demographic to the sport, with a focus on the gambling, racing and lifestyle. A significant majority of the users (61% men and 39% women) to America's Best Racing are under the age of 50 while over 80% of ABR's social media audience falls under the age of 44. ABR has national distribution via NBCSports.com and CBSSports.com, hosts a weekly radio show on SBNation Radio every Saturday which broadcasts in more than 105 national markets, and is the title sponsor of national television coverage of live horse racing on both Fox Sports and NBC Sports.

## About America's Best Racing:

America's Best Racing is a multimedia fan development and awareness-building platform designed to increase the profile and visibility of North America's best thoroughbred racing events with a primary focus on the sport's lifestyle and competition.

It starts with a shared love and respect for the horse. We're passionate about the admiration we feel for these athletes and showing how you can support them too! America's Best Racing is here to bring current and new fans together to experience the thrills of the sport, the excitement of placing a winning bet, the lifestyle that embodies one of America's original sports, and the enduring care provided to our athletes through racing and retirement. We'll teach you how to responsibly wager, how to have the most fun at the track, where to watch and listen, and how to stay connected with best the sport has to offer.

And, we'll introduce you to thoroughbreds who grow from foal to champion, the people who ride, train, and care for them, and the organizations that work tirelessly to provide a second career for racehorses. Horse racing is a community filled with exhilaration, passion, and heart—and we can't wait to share it with you.

You can follow America's Best Racing at [americasbesttracing.net](http://americasbesttracing.net) as well as on social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok.



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# Ajax Downs July 1



There is usually a huge crowd at Ajax Downs on Canada Day, but this year the speedballs had to run in front of empty stands. That didn't seem to bother the 2019 Horse of the Year, Had to Be Ivory, who stormed to victory in the eighth running of the \$31,800 Picov Maturity at 300 yards.

Had to Be Ivory and jockey Tony Phillips erupted from

post 1 and, after a few awkward steps, had the lead in announcer Frank Ferrari's first call. By the mid-point that advantage appeared insurmountable, but several horses came charging late, and Had to Be Ivory survived by a neck in a very tight finish. She's Sizzling (Castillo Ramiro) and Maryland Magic (Helen Vanek) dead-heated for second, and Spy for the Senate (Brian Bell) was another neck back in fourth. The time of 15.344 gives Had to Be Ivory a 97 speed index.

And the race was not declared official until the stewards dealt with two objections. Both Ed Walton aboard Carneros, and Regan Knowles on Chicksdigmymoneybags, claimed foul on Had to Be Ivory for interference at the start. The head-on video indicates that Had to Be Ivory bore somewhat to his right in the opening strides. Carneros was squeezed between Had to Be Ivory and Chicksdigmymoneybags, who might have been somewhat responsible for the

mayhem. The stewards did not feel the contact justified a change in the order of the finish.

"He wouldn't let them pass," said Phillips. "He fought for his supper today."

Had to Be Ivory has captured the last two runnings of the Picov Maturity and has now won 13 of his 16 starts for owners Carol and Jaime Robertson who also bred him. Bryn Robertson is the trainer and Had to Be Ivory now has earnings of \$230,000.

Walton's unsuccessful claim of foul was compensated by the four wins he notched on the day. Walton won the first race with Streakinlilwagon (\$11.30), the fifth with Sakari (\$6.60), the sixth with Usain Colt (\$11), and the ninth race aboard Whiteside (\$10.50). After four cards of racing at Ajax Downs, Walton led all jockeys with 9 wins in 26 mounts.

The handle of \$117,000 was excellent considering no fans were allowed inside the grounds.

## A family affair



Ed Walton and Nikki Alderson

There's a fairly amazing story going on these days at Ajax Downs. The quarter horses erupt from the gate, more times than not, slamming into each other in their frantic haste to get to the front as early as possible. Riding these electric speedballs is not a job for the faint of heart or the weak of body. And that brings us to Ed Walton. Walton is 57 years old. He's been riding quarter horses since they sped down the 'J' track at old Picov Downs, just a furlong west of where the fancy Ajax Downs is now situated.

On Wednesday July 8, Walton won two races at Ajax Downs. He rode the four year-old Hanover Hill to a three quarter length victory in the first race, a 250 yarder. Hanover Hill is owned by the Picov Cattle Company and is trained by Richard Kenney. The win price was \$5.50.

Walton was back in the winners circle after the sixth race, which was a leg of the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario Distance Series with a purse of \$21,600. Walton urged Spy for the Senate to victory after 350 yards, earning a 95 speed index for the time of 17.732. Spy for the Senate is trained by Jason Pascoe for Milena Kwiecien and the payoff was \$7.20.

When the card was done, Ed Walton, all six feet of him, was the leading rider after four Wednesdays of racing. He had 11 wins from 33 races and 21 of his horses have hit the board. How is a geezer like him running away from the much younger jockeys?

"I don't know," he laughs. "I'm riding a lot of really nice horses and I'm riding for some really good people who are bringing their horses over ready and fit. They're just running awesome for me."

Yeah, but you're in your sixth decade, Ed. You need to be doing something a little less dangerous, like checking out your Canada Pension Plan.

"I'm in amazing shape right now," he fires back. "I have a really good diet. I don't hit the sauna anymore and I don't take any laxatives. I get up every morning and go to the races. I never felt better."

(Not sure it's relevant, but I'm not taking any laxatives either, and I couldn't guide a quarter horse straight from the gate to the wire)

It turns out Walton's good day at Ajax Downs on Wednesday might have been prompted by a sensational race the day before at Fort Erie. Walton's daughter is Nikki Alderson and she was on a horse called Classy Vision. The race was on the grass at

6½ furlongs and, halfway down the back stretch, Classy Vision was hopelessly last, some 22 lengths from the leader...

"She wasn't even in the picture," says Walton. "I thought, 'She has no shot.' Then as they turned for home, you could see her picking it up. She was coming from the clouds. It was amazing. The call was special. It brought tears to my eyes."

That race, the sixth at Fort Erie on July 7, must be seen to be believed. As the field went around the far turn, Classy Vision appeared to running at twice the speed of the others. Race caller Frank Salive may have been the most excited,

"Heads up on Classy Vision," he advised as Alderson had her horse six-wide coming into the stretch.

"She's trying to put a sweep-of-the-field move on," exclaimed an amazed Salive. "And Classy Vision has made a dramatic sweep of the field. What a move by Nikki Alderson! *Swoopededoo!* She swooped the field!"

Salive's exuberant call was justified. Classy Vision won by 3 lengths and paid \$10.90. The four year-old filly is owned by Krazy 8 Stables and trained by Darryl Ezra and, by winning for the fifth time, Alderson lost her 10 pound bug allowance. According to the 27 year-old apprentice, she and trainer Ezra knew the horse wasn't going to challenge for the lead.

"I'd ridden her a few times before and I knew she just breaks and does her thing at the back of the pack," Alderson says. "Darryl said, 'Don't change anything.' So, we break and she's galloping along and we come into the turn and I tapped her on the shoulder and she just picked it up and we just went right by. It was hilarious and awesome at the same time."

Alderson loves the idea that her 57 year-old father is still a professional jockey.

"It's pretty cool," she laughs. "Whenever he goes and rides, he's like, 'I better win a few more,' and he will text me and say, 'You better win four more today to keep up with me.'"

Alderson is married to Jeffrey Alderson, a journeyman rider with 229 lifetime wins. You think that's an intense family dynamic?

"It's a little competitive, but we work together and we're proud of each other," she says.

Nikki Alderson has a couple of mixed memories of being in the same race with Jeffrey Alderson.

"I actually won a race that we were in," she says proudly. "But there was also a race when I went over the rail on the turf and I could see him looking at me to see if I was ok."

The ideal scenario for the Walton family would be if father and daughter could ride in a race against each other.

"It would be nice to ride one against her before I retire," says Walton.

"Oh, I would love that," Nikki claims. "He better pick the faster horse!"

A few years ago, Del Mar Racetrack promoted the Battle of the Exes, a horse race in which Chantal Sutherland rode against her ex-fiancé Mike Smith.

So, Woodbine? How about putting together a "Family Feud" race with Ed Walton, Nikki Alderson, and Jeffrey Alderson? I know a newspaper and a podcast that would promote that endlessly.



# A gem from the Saratoga Special

## THE BEST OF

### The SARATOGA *Special*

Saratoga's Daily Newspaper on Thoroughbred Racing

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By Sean Clancy and Joe Clancy Jr.

*The Clancy brothers, Sean and Joe, have been publishing **The Saratoga Special** for 20 years. They were kind enough to sign a copy of the Best of THE SARATOGA SPECIAL that they gifted me in 2008 when I sought their guidance for a newspaper I was starting called **Down The Stretch**. As a consolation prize to myself for not being at Saratoga this summer, I am reprinting a lovely essay by Sean Clancy, excerpted from their book.*

Tommy Kelly had \$50,000 of Leonard Sasso's money to spend on five horses at the Saratoga yearling sale.

It was 1959 when \$50,000 could buy five promising yearlings. Sasso's plane was late for the sale. In the meantime, Kelly fell in love with a yearling by Heliopolis. His eye, his walk, his demeanor. An important English stallion and sire of winners of almost \$10 million, Heliopolis had died that April after leading the sire list in 1950 and 1954. He produced stone-cold runners such as High Gun, Helioscope, Summer Tan, and Princess Turia.

Kelly had been around some of his offspring and knew they were mean. He rubbed one for Man o' War's trainer Lou Feustal. The horse would knock Kelly around for sheer sport. Turn your back and you were on the ground. The colt for sale, a half brother to Nail, would go in his stall and sleep after every showing. Lie down like a dog at his master's feet. Kelly was sure this had to be the best colt Helioscope ever had.

Kelly couldn't help himself – didn't want to help himself – and kept bidding well past the budget set forth by Sasso. He bought the colt for \$80,000.

Now, how to break the news to Sasso. Kelly met Sasso's plane and cleared his throat. Sasso spoke first.

"You bought me five new horses, huh?"

"No, sir, I got only one," Kelly said. "For \$80,000."

"Only got one?" Sasso asked. "For \$80,000?"

"Well, sir, he's a nice colt..." Kelly stammered.

Yearlings back then were selling for \$5,000. The \$50,000 he was budgeted for would have bought five promising youngsters. Only later was Kelly informed that \$80,000 was the most a yearling had ever sold for at the sales. Sasso wasn't impressed.

He wanted to send the horse back. Kelly was scrambling for his life. He would have bought the colt for himself if he had any money. He believed in the colt, just a gut feeling. He couldn't imagine sending him back, even if the sales company would take him back.

Kelly was in a full-court press trying to convince Sasso to take the risk. Dinner came and went with drinks aplenty in an attempt at softening the deal. Kelly explained the colt's quality, the look in his eye, the fact that Heliopolis had died and this was the last chance to get a horse of such lineage and quality.

Owner and trainer went to the Reading Room at the corner of Nelson and Union Avenues and continued the one-way dialogue.

Kelly was pleading for Sasso's faith when there was a knock on the door.

"Gentlemen, I know what's been going on for the last two hours. I'm going to take Tom Kelly's side and I've got my check book to prove it. If you don't want the horse, I'll buy him right now."

Kelly nearly fell off his chair. He was off the hook. The savior – Christopher T. Chenery. The horse – Globemaster.

Chenery of Meadow Stud, and future Secretariat fame, bought a quarter interest in the horse that night. The utilities tycoon would be partners with Sasso.

Two years later, Globemaster won the Wood Memorial and finished sixth in Carry Back's Kentucky Derby. Globemaster opened up four lengths under Johnny Rotz in the Preakness before Johnny Sellers got Carry Back rolling to catch him in the last jumps. Carry Back failed in the Belmont, but Globemaster ran another blinder, finishing second to Jacob Sher's Sherluck (Braulio Baeza up) who paid a then-record \$132.10.

Globemaster won several Stakes and certainly improved upon Sasso and Chenery's investment. Kelly made it to the Hall of Fame after training 65 Stakes winners and one champion.

*The moral of the story? Always answer the door.*



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# Meadowlands Pace



The \$636,650 Meadowlands Pace on July 18 was the first major Stakes race for three year-old pacers, and Tall Dark Stranger established himself as the horse to beat in the North America Pace.

It was certainly a brave win for Tall Dark Stranger who teamed with Yannick Gingras to glide to the front down the backstretch. The fractions were cutthroat – the first quarter went in :25.4 and Tall Dark Stranger took the field to the half in :53.2. As the field turned for home, Papi Rob Hanover (David Miller) surged forward and had a clear advantage with an eighth of a mile to go.

Gingras had no visions of victory at that point.

“Honestly, at the top of the stretch, I thought he was beat,” he said. “This horse is just so gritty. He wants to fight them off. Papi was a half a length by me.”

But Tall Dark Stranger, almost miraculously, still

had something in the tank and battled back, sticking his head out just before the wire and getting there by a neck over Papi Rob Hanover. The clock was stopped in 1:47.2. It was Gingras’ second Meadowlands Pace victory.

Tall Dark Stranger and Papi Rob Hanover have a nicely etched rivalry. In the 2019 Breeders Crown, Papi Rob Hanover was disqualified for interference and that allowed Tall Dark Stranger to be elevated to the win.

“I said after the Breeders Crown that he was coming

back to win that race,” commented Gingras. “There are a lot of doubters out there, but tonight is the proof that my horse loves to fight.”

Tall Dark Stranger improved his season mark to 3-for-3 with the 11th win of his 12-race career.

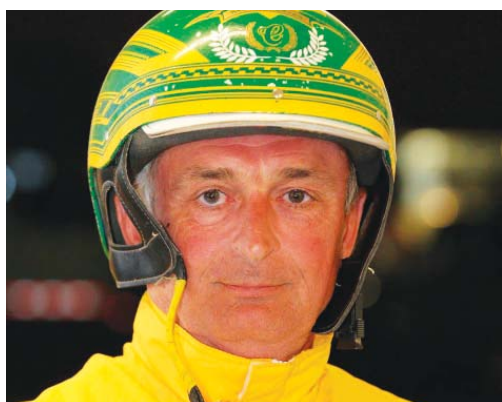
This was trainer Nancy Takter’s first Meadowlands Pace win. She is the daughter of Hall of Famer Jimmy Takter. With Linda Toscano sending out Best In Show last year, the Meadowlands Pace has had back-to-back female training winners.

A very proud Bettor’s Delight is the sire of both Best In Show and Tall Dark Stranger.

Tall Dark Stranger became the sport’s latest millionaire for the ownership team of Crawford Farms, Marvin Katz, Caviart Farms, and Howard Taylor.

The bettors had to settle for a \$3.00 win payoff.

## A second Hall of Fame for Condren



Steve Condren is one of the great drivers in Canada harness racing history. At 63, he has now retired from competitive racing, leaving an encyclopedia-thick record of his 40+ years in the bike. Check out his mind-boggling numbers: 47,692 drive, 6859 winners, 19,092 horses in the money. From 1981 through 2004 - 24 straight years - he won at least 185 races. In 1987, he found the winners circle 401 times. During a 30-year stretch, horses driven by Condren won over \$1 million each year. In Mid-July, Condren, a long-time resident of Milton, was named to the Milton Sports Hall of Fame.

“It’s quite an honour and I was especially surprised,” says Condren. “It’s too bad under these COVID circumstances that

we probably won’t be able to celebrate it this year.”

Already a member of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, Condren is able to enjoy his accomplishments while appreciating a little deserved attention for the great career he had on the racetrack.

“I kind of reflect on that a little bit,” he says about his many years competing. “That enables me to do what I do today which is play a lot of golf, work with some young horses, and enjoy my grandkids.”

Condren is fully committed about not going head to head with Jody Jamieson, Doug McNair, Sylvain Filion, Bob McClure, and all the other hungry drivers at Mohawk, but that doesn’t mean he won’t enjoy the occasional, stress-free trip in a sulky.

“I drove five qualifiers at Sunshine Meadows in Florida this spring and it felt nice,” he says. “There was no pressure and it felt good to do it. So, I’m still sitting in a bike every now and again, training young horses, and I still get a bit of a thrill out of that. I turned 63 this year and I don’t really have that interest any more going out there and trying to compete anymore.”

It’s typical of a reporter interviewing a retired horseman to ask what horses excited him the most in his career, but Condren has a little surprise to that question.

“Everybody seems to ask me that,” he laughs. “I drove a lot

of really nice horses in big races all over North America. But I keep thinking back to a war horse, a \$6,000 claimer named Tuscount Hanover. It was the early days of my career and I think I won six in a row with him. Overall, I won two major races: The North America Cup in 1989, and the Maple Leaf Trot in 1988.”

Both those races can be found on YouTube. In the 1988 Maple Leaf Trot, Condren had Natural Image getting up in the final stride; and the next year, he urged a very brave Goalie Jeff to a narrow win in the N.A. Cup after Goalie Jeff had spent most of the race on the outside.

Those two races were at old Greenwood Racetrack, for which Condren has fond memories.

“I loved Greenwood. It was a great place to compete and there were a lot of great horse races there. I kind of got my career bump started at Greenwood. Right now, Mohawk’s the best as far as I’m concerned. Back in the old days, because you had the city and everything, Greenwood was probably the spot for harness racing in Ontario. At Mohawk, you can get close to the track. It’s the place for the future.”

When Condren retired, the total amount won by all the horses he drove was just short of \$116,000,000. You have to wonder if he still has his portion of that.

There’s an infectious bit of laughing over the phone line.

“My kids have it,” cracks Condren.



# Meet the voice of Lakeshore harness - Nathan Bain

By Nicholas 'Ace' Barnsdale



Nathan Bain with legendary race caller Roger Huston

It's not often one goes to the track and hears a racecall from someone who is only months removed from first being able to place a bet. Starting this summer, anyone can - and all they must do is tune into the Leamington livestream.

Nathan Bain is 18 years old, and he is the newest full-time announcer at Leamington Raceway.

Management promoted Bain after his six years of work at the 1/2 mile southwestern Ontario oval. He took his first role there at 12 years old as the paddock gate operator and tipsheet expert, and later became the on-track host, calling plenty of races along the way, alongside Marty Adler and Gary Patterson. Now, he'll be the youngest voice in Leamington's history.

Leamington's promotions and marketing manager, El-

lie Mayhew, is thrilled at the hire.

"He has to be the kindest, most polite boy - well he's not a boy anymore, he's 18," Mayhew said. "He's helpful, and just dedicated. Like I can't say anything bad about the kid! I've always liked him from the time I met him. He never leaves the track without making sure that everything is done that needs to be done."

Indeed, Bain's passion for the track and sport he loves was a contributing factor in his appointment. Along with his on-track host and touting duties, which include driver interviews, t-shirt tosses, giveaways, commentary between dashes, crowd interaction, and more, the recent high school graduate has been running Leamington's social media pages. He is also managing the broadcast graphics for Dresden Raceway this year.

Bain explains why he loves being a part of the Leamington organization.

"I think it's because I've been with the team there for so long now - since the beginning, since the reopening of it," he says. "Just being able to have a big part in it, and being the only young person there, and getting to run the social media for the racetrack, and just getting to promote it, and seeing the success of the fans in the last couple of years. It's just been a fun journey to be a part of 'cause the track is just different from other ones. It's smaller, it has that kind of fair feeling, so it's unique in its own way. We have such an incredible fanbase - that's what makes it so special."

He will be attending St. Clair College in the fall for advertising and communications in hopes that it will further his announcing ambitions and make his new role into a career. Most of all, though, he stresses that his vocation is to be found at a racecourse.

"I'd really like to stay on the racecalling, or at least work for a racetrack," he says. "That's why I thought that program would be good, because it could mesh with the promotion side of things, communication, social media, and that sort of stuff. So I have a variety of options too, if racecalling doesn't work out. I can do other stuff for racetracks. Overall, my main goal is to have a career as

an announcer."

Love for racing flows in the Bain bloodline. Nathan's grandfather, Thomas Bain, has been training horses for over 50 years, and Nathan's father has been just as involved for most of his life. The third generation Bain can often be found in the barn area of wherever the Bain family happens to be racing. However, Nathan's start in the Leamington booth goes back to Mayhew. She says he impressed him with his enthusiasm and knowledge surrounding the races, and how he would be able to tell her how each of her horses had performed the previous weekend.

Mayhew invited him to announce a race on Kids' Day 2014 after hearing his rehearsal calls, and the rest is history.

"I thought it would be great to have Nathan - at 11 or 12 years old - call a race, because I heard what he'd practiced," Mayhew said. "I heard a tape of that, and I thought 'this'd be neat, I think he can do it,' and it just grew from there."

Incumbent announcer Gary Patterson then offered Bain many return visits to the announcer's quarters and ample tutelage, according to Mayhew. Bain's reputation as a caller grew, and eventually the Leamington native was handed full cards and reached 100 races. Finally, with both Patterson and Adler officially moving on, Bain is stepping up to the plate.

Bain treasures a picture of himself with one of his idols.

"The last four seasons we have had the privilege of having Hall of Fame announcer Roger Huston make visits to Leamington Raceway," he says. "Every time Roger comes I learn something from his announcing and he is always willing to give advice, it was pretty amazing getting to meet *the voice* for the first time in 2016."

As for becoming the official caller at Leamington...

"It's pretty exciting," Bain said. "When the opportunity opened up, I was all over it. I thought that being at a smaller track, it would be the perfect place to start. I never imagined I'd get to do it at this age, it's pretty exciting. I'm just overly thrilled I get to do it, especially at my home track."





# An essay on handicapping by Peter Gross

You often hear the term *handicapping* in reference to the act of determining which horse or horses a bettor prefers in a particular race. But the word itself probably derives from the long-time practise in horse racing of assigning weights to horses. To make the race more appealing to the bettors, the racing secretary would give more poundage to the better horses, thereby *handicapping* them. It's an easy theory to understand. You might be able to run the length of a football field in less than half a minute; not so easy a task with an Amana refrigerator strapped to your back.

The great racehorse, Man O'War, won 20 of 21 career races and was often forced to carry 138 pounds, conceding as much as 32 pounds to the horses he would defeat. When racing secretary Walter Vosburgh informed Man O'War's owner Sam Riddle that, as a four year-old, Man O'War would have to carry more weight than had ever been put on a North American race horse, Riddle elected to retire the colt.

When you handicap a race you are, essentially, creating mental weights for horses, penalizing them for a wide variety of circumstances. Maybe the distance is wrong, or the post position makes it more difficult. The track surface many not favour a particular horse or a jockey/driver change is significant.

There are several things that sway me before I make a bet and the very first one is...the odds. Every time you put down your money, there is the very distinct possibility of losing it, so the most important thing is to get value for your bet. I almost always find a way to toss the favourite. The favourite is the horse that has attracted the most money from the crowd. If it wins, it pays the least because many shareholders get to cash on it. When I play, I want to have the biggest possible slice of the pie.

I will eliminate a favourite if it won its last race. I know that sounds counter-productive – after all if a horse won last time out, it must be good, right? Well, statistically, horses repeat their wins about 1 out of 6 times. If the favourite coming off a big win is 2-1, you will cash \$6 about once every 6 bets, which computes to a loss of \$6, if you're following. So, if not the favourite, who else?

Check out how fast the favourite ran and see how many horses in the race ran reasonably close to that. If you use Beyer figures (for thoroughbreds), the difference between

a 90 and an 80 is sometimes less than 2 lengths. A horse can lose 2 lengths in many ways:

- 1) He gets bumped at the starting gate
- 2) He gets carried wide into the turn
- 3) He gets buried at the rail with nowhere to go
- 4) He gets squeezed between horses
- 5) His jockey is texting while riding and not paying attention

Choose the horse you like from among the horses whose numbers are close to that of the favourite. Horses very often defeat the ones that beat them last time out. Shared Belief is a great example. In the 2014 Breeders' Cup Classic, he was creamed twice in the first furlong, first by the eventual winner, Bayern, and a few strides later by Toast of New York, the eventual runner-up. The third-place horse was California Chrome, who hit the wire almost a length ahead of the battered Shared Belief. When California Chrome and Shared Belief met again, it was Shared Belief much the best in the stretch, because this time he had not been pummelled like a piñata.

I have a theory I often use at the racetrack and I call it the **Best Sex Theory** (got your attention, didn't I?). I ask people to remember the night they had the most memorable love making (when I attend handicapping sessions with seniors, the room bursts with peels of laughter). Then I ask...*what happened the next time?* and the room reverberates with knowing murmurs. When a racehorse is asked to win two weeks after running its most brilliant race, often around the far turn, the horse will turn to its jockey and say,

"Hey, I gave you everything I had...*last time!*"

Like most of us of the two-legged species, a horse's physical and mental well-being is either going up or going down. Very few horses can win race after race after race. Often a horse *bounces* after a very good result, but because everyone who can read the form sees the terrific last time out effort, that horse's odds get lowered and the value becomes unappealing.

One good thing to do when handicapping is to try and figure out which horse is *about* to run a good race. A horse's best race often comes after a race in which he didn't quite have it all happening. Maybe he took the lead and lost it late. Maybe he ran evenly, but ended up 3 lengths back of the winner. Maybe he led for most of

a 7 furlong race and today he's running at 6. Maybe he was just ashamed of his losing effort and intends to atone today!

Now the beautiful thing about betting the horses is the wide variety of selection afforded the player. Betting to win is fine, but you can also sample the exactor, triactor, daily double, Pick 3, and other more exotic wagers that offer wonderful payoffs. Each race can be analyzed to determine which bet is the best.

Say, for example, the horse you like is 5-1. That means a \$12 payoff for \$2 if it wins. But if you look at the daily double prices and see that horse paying over \$100 with everything in the second race, you'd be much wiser to handicap the next race, select a few horses that could win and take the intelligent gamble that after two races you will be much more enriched.

Being 'alive' in the double, by the way, is one of the greatest thrills of horse betting. It's 25 minutes of near ecstatic anxiety, especially if you have 3 or 4 horses on your ticket.

You can use a similar tactic with exactors. All racetracks show you the probable payoffs in exactors several times before a race. The horse you're going to bet may be 5-1, but it could easily be paying \$80 with several likely horses on the bottom. The great thing about tossing the favourite is that it allows you to bet several combinations with horses offering good odds and every one of those combos promises a greater payoff than you'd get with the low-priced spread.

Above all, resist the urge to bet any horse that is under even money. Let me give you the perfect example:

In the fourth race at Tampa Bay, Harumi was the 1-5 favourite; she was a gut cinch and was paying just \$2.60 to win. And Harumi ran a brave race, resisting a vigorous challenge in the stretch to get to the wire first by a neck. Those who bet lots to make little breathed a huge sigh of relief...for about 30 seconds. The rider of the horse that came fourth lodged a foul, the stewards looked at the video and determined that Harumi interfered and placed her fourth. You can have the best horse and it wins and even then you might not get paid!

Summing up: Handicap as if the favourite wasn't in the race. Choose a horse that will at least pay for your dinner if it wins.

## Kentucky Derby Picks

#	Horse	Sire	Trainer	Points	New Restricted Stakes Earnings
1	Tiz the Law	Constitution	Barclay Tagg	272	\$1,437,400
2	Authentic	Into Mischief	Bob Baffert	200	\$980,000
3	Nadal <b>OUT</b>	Blame	Bob Baffert	150	\$1,020,000
4	Honor A. P.	Honor Code	John Shirreffs	140	\$340,000
5	Basin	Liam's Map	Steve Asmussen	110	\$592,000
6	Ny Traffic	Cross Traffic	Saffie Joseph Jr.	110	\$272,820
7	Wells Bayou <b>OUT</b>	Lookin At Lucky	Brad Cox	104	\$750,000
8	Art Collector	Bernardini	Thomas Drury	100	\$360,000
9	++ King Guillermo	Uncle Mo	A. C. Avila	90	\$260,000
10	Thousand Words	Pioneerof the Nile	Bob Baffert	83	\$295,000



# Elizabeth (the younger) Elder

By Ric Chapman



Equestrian Jim Elder was a legend in his sport, a man mountain of equine excellence who parlayed that talent on horse back onto the world stage, winning a gold medal in show jumping at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

Born in Ontario, Elder started competitive jumping at the age of 16 in 1950. In 36 years of competition, along with that Olympic gold medal, he has an Olympic bronze, six Pan American medals, and a world title.

Adding to his legend, Elder also carried the flag at the closing ceremony of the infamous and much maligned Munich Olympics of 1972.

In 1983 he was honoured with the prestigious Order Of Canada. He was inducted into Canada's Hall Of Fame in 1968, then in 1971, Canada's Olympic Hall Of Fame. Following that, he went straight into Canada's Walk of Fame (2003), Canadian Eventing Hall of Fame (2009), and the Jump Canada (2010) Hall of Fame.

He knew horses. Horses knew him, particularly thoroughbreds. He was the Wayne Gretzky of horsemanship. And he set a standard quite high for his children to emulate.

Jim Elder turned 87 in July of this year and he's doing a great job of passing on his talents to daughter Elizabeth (Liz) Elder. She was a toddler when he won at Mexico. Probably stood in front of the family's black and white television cheering and screaming.

She looked up to him and wanted to be like him, so much so that she took to show-jumping in the wonderful world of equestrian and she excelled too. The peers she competed with and beat at a national level all went on to represent at the Olympics.

But she did not.

"I couldn't raise the necessary sponsorship money to continue in the sport," she says showing no real signs of missed opportunity, regret or even sadness.

Well, back up a tad, there is a little regret.

"I started to get bored with it because I was frustrated," she recalls. "I got to World Cup level but I just didn't have it in me to go out and relentlessly pursue sponsorship, which you needed to be at the top. So, I just decided if I'm not going to be at the top level, I didn't want to be in the sport. I basically didn't have the quality of horse flesh. I turned to racing instead."

Which was relatively easy for her because she had connections. She knew Jimmy Day and his family and that was her conduit. Her in.

Day, many years before, had been partners with her father in winning the gold at the 1968 Olympics. When

Liz was getting into the work force, she spoke with Day who was working on an Ontario thoroughbred farm at the time.

"I got a job there through him and was immediately hooked," she says. "I grew up with his daughter Catherine and our moms are best friends."

So, it was fated that she'd stay with horses. All she had to do was just switch gears a little, which she did.

"Catherine was getting into racing at the time, too, so we shared the dream together."

And that dream for Elder has, like fine wine, slowly matured and materialized. She has a barn in the backstretch at Woodbine today that houses eight horses.

That's a major uplift from the trio of gallopers she had last year.

"Yeah, well, I was very lucky," she smiles. "A lady in Hamilton who breeds horses gave me four new ones this year. They'll be racing this season."

Though apparently nothing comes easily.

"It's hard getting horses and I think it's harder because I'm a woman."

Growing her client base has been difficult and she is eternally grateful that Vera Simpson, the Hamilton lady who gifted her a quartet of horses this year, has joined with her.

"She thinks exactly the same way about the welfare and care of horses like I do," says Elder. "But, I think being a woman trainer is much more difficult attracting clients. I don't want to have 40 horses. I'd love to have 15 in work, though. It's strange; I don't see myself any different to the male trainers, but I think from the outside people do. Clients I'm talking about. In terms of respect, things like that."

That negative, ignorant gender stereotype is incrementally being eroded away in Canada. In many level one tier racing jurisdictions like Australia, Japan, Ireland, France, and England, women excel in the sport. Both as trainers and jockeys. Canada, being more conservative, and is taking its time catching up.

But let's be positive. Let's go back to that smile she beams when talking about her 2020 crop of horses, because it suggests victory is in the air anyway. This, despite COVID-19. Despite bigger stables. Despite more fashionably bred horses as competitors, and despite her many male rival trainers.

Those things were also the hurdles when she saddled her very first starter, some 18 years ago.

"I remember him. His name was Saint Martin," she says. "I'd bought him from Woodbine's 2YOs In Training sale that year. That was the last year of that type of sale, which is sad. And, I remember the race well. It was on my birthday and I thought everything would work out brilliantly. Well, Saint Martin was a bit of a slow learner, let's say."

On debut, instead of helping her celebrate her birthday in style, he ran stone-motherless last!

But she got him right. She persevered, worked out his needs, wants, likes and ways, and turned him on. She improved him steadily and he eventually won at Woodbine over a mile and a sixteenth on the turf on October 10, 2004.

That win, that magical afternoon when the stars aligned, lit the fire in her.

"I wanted to be a horse trainer from that moment on."

And she has been going and improving ever since. Like her training methods, her steely resolve has been getting better, and stronger each year. For a couple of decades now. Horsemanship knowledge, the likes of which she has embedded in her soul, must shine through and be rewarded eventually. Because Liz Elder is a horse lover. A woman who cares for her equine athletes and she takes her time with them.

That did shine through when she claimed her biggest accolade in the sport, when Secret Wish landed the \$125,000 Algoma Stakes, the race for Ontario sales graduates in 2010. In 2014, she sent out the three year-old Lafontaine to win the \$128,500 Toronto Cup Stakes.

Not bad strikes for someone with a paucity of horses. Not bad at all.

And now she is at the height of her powers in terms of experience and knowledge. And she wants to win a few races this season – in front of patrons.

"Our CEO, Jim Lawson, knows the sport," she says. "He cares about the sport and as an owner and breeder he understands the needs. I think he knows that we need to attract younger people to the races. Before the pandemic the crowds were falling away. I'm not sure what the Woodbine media does, but they should be doing everything they can to write about the sport, the people in it, the horses. Get the sport into the papers. We have to attract a younger, newer crowd. Years ago, we used to pack the stands. Not now. Why? I just think we need people in administration who know the sport like Jim does and work to get the news of the sport out there."

There are many aspects of Woodbine racing that are sailing along well, though, and for horse people like Liz Elder, that's a blessing.

"Our purse money structure is still pretty good."

It's a tough road to hoe this thoroughbred training business, especially in times like we are in.

To be sure, but as a woman of skills in a medium of opportunities, a woman of thought in a medium of reaction, Liz Elder seems in some crevasse of her soul, almost to identify more with the equine athlete than the money machine that surrounds it.

And that is a beautiful way to be.

More clients should recognize that.





# Industry Day at Grand River Raceway

All photos courtesy Ryan Clements



The horse people were happy to see James MacDonald after his frightening accident at Mohawk on the weekend



Doug McNair drove Bettor Sun to an easy win in the Battle of Waterloo



Ed Hemsley steered Scarlett Hanover to victory in the Battle of the Belles



# ODDITIES & ENTITIES

## Mommas, do let your children grow up to be racehorses!

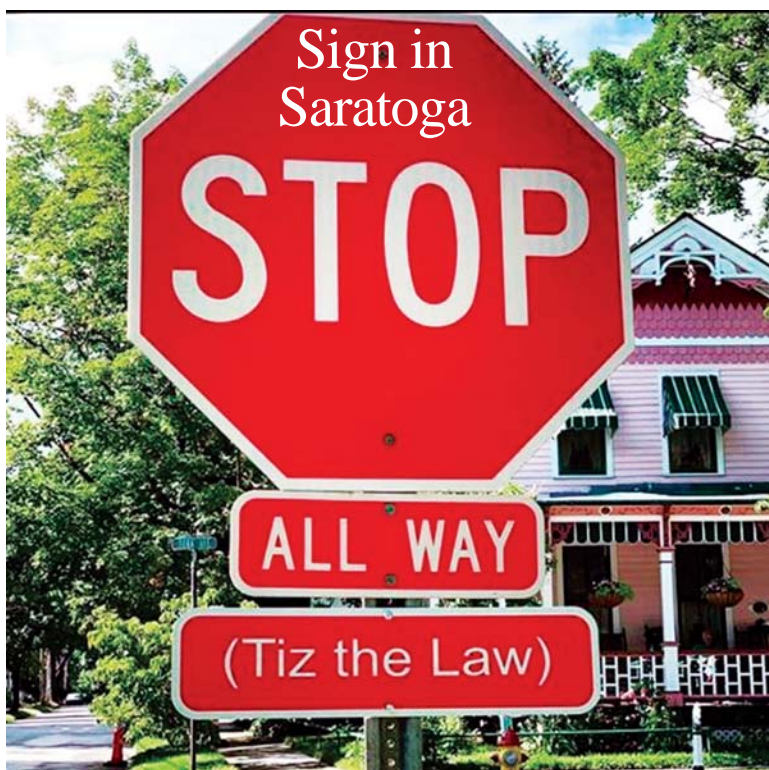
It was a rare event for which broodmare Mustang Kensley had to wait 8 years. The ninth race at Mohawk on June 29 was a \$73,000 OSS Final for three year-old fillies and it was won by All Day Sunshine. She was driven by James MacDonald and trained by Daniel Lagace. She paid \$24.60 to win. The tenth race, second half of the late double, went to Make Some Luck, driven by Jody Jamieson who owns the eight year-old gelding. Both ends of the late double that night were offspring of the same mare, Mustang Kensley. You could probably chart 1,000 daily doubles without seeing that. Mustang Kensley is owned by David O. Detweiler of Fredericktown, Ohio and the 17 year-old mare has produced 8 children, the most successful of which is Make Some Luck, whose last win was his 29th from 124 races. The son of Camluck has now earned \$501,372, a figure certain to make his momma proud.

## A very rare finish

6					
1-Ban Ban Deo	4.10	2.50	2.20	26510	
2-Tipsy In Dixie		3.90	3.30	9050	
3-Snowfalla			8.80	7270	
\$2 DAILY DOUBLE (9-1) paid 10.70, pool 4160					
\$2 EXACTOR (1-2) paid 13.30, pool 38039					
\$1 PICK 3 (6-9-1) paid 327.35, pool 5628					
\$1 SUPERFECTA (1-2-3-4) paid 206.10, pool 21884					
\$2 TRIACTOR (1-2-3) paid 147.60, pool 32621					

The sixth race at Mohawk was a \$23,150 OSS Grassroots trot for two year-old fillies and, though the even-money favourite Ban Ban Deo was a confident winner, the race still had a very unusual finish. Ban Ban Deo was the #1 horse and the second place horse, Tipsy in Dixie, left from the second slot and the third place filly, Snowfall, was the 3-horse. In fact, after that it was #4, #5, #6, #7, #8 and #9. The entire field of 9 horses finished in post position order. And you ask...what are the odds of that?

Well, we went to the calculator and multiplied  $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \times 7 \times 8 \times 9$  and came up with 362,880. Which is to imply that, if you watched every card of racing at Mohawk for about 2,000 years, you might see this happen again.



## Disaster averted thanks to quick thinking drivers



As the horses were moving behind the starting gate for the fifth race at Mohawk on July 11, Phil Hudon was steering Classic Pro and suddenly the horse's bridle snapped and fell off. Hudon had no means of controlling the horse. Doug McNair to his right and Sylvain Filion to his left saw what had happened and instinctively moved their horses tight to Classic Pro, essentially pinning the middle horse in to prevent him from taking off. The strategy worked. The starting gate slowed down and a couple of observant assistants came immediately to the aid of Classic Pro. That's about as good as it would get for Hudon. When the horses re-assembled for the start, Classic Pro broke into a gallop before the start and finished far behind.

## Maximum Security in the San Diego Handicap at Del Mar





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