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CLAUS ANDERSEN

JUNE 21.07



## COVER

Both driver Jody Jamieson (left) and trainer Blair Burgess celebrated their first win in the Pepsi North America Cup after Tell All stormed to victory on June 16 at Mohawk in the 24th edition of \$1.5 million race. The victory provided sweet redemption on a number of fronts.

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**STORY IDEAS?** Contact Dave Briggs at 519.866.5558 ext. 22, [dbriggs@canadiansportsman.ca](mailto:dbriggs@canadiansportsman.ca)

# THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN

the voice of harness racing since 1870

PUBLISHED BY The Canadian Sportsman Ltd.

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Stratfordville, Ontario N0J 1Y0  
Phone: 519.866.5558 Fax: 519.866.5596

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The Canadian Sportsman is printed by  
Sportswood Printing,  
a subsidiary of The Canadian Sportsman Ltd.  
[sales@sportswood.on.ca](mailto:sales@sportswood.on.ca)

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Letters to Editor must be signed by writer.  
Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.  
The Sportsman reserves the right to edit all letters to the editor.

Deadline for advertising is two weeks prior to date of publication. Publisher is responsible for error in advertisements only to the extent of the cost of that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program towards our mailing costs.

**Canada**

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year (18 issues) Print or Digital \$45\*

Two Years (36 issues) Print or Digital \$80\*

United States Print or Digital \$55 (U.S. Funds - 1 year)

Print and Digital \$76.50\* Single Copies \$3\*

First Class Rates On Request \* Includes G.S.T.

PAP Registration No. 09340  
Canada Post Publication No. 40026136



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## FEATURE CONTRIBUTOR | Kristy Dustin

Meet Kristy Dustin, the latest addition to *The Canadian Sportsman* staff. Dustin is our new advertising director and joins *The Sportsman* after spending six years at London, ON's Western Fair Raceway where she worked in the race office and gained valuable sale and marketing experience as the track's promotions and media coordinator.

A native of Strathroy, ON, Dustin hails from a harness racing background. Her father, Greg, is a longtime standardbred trainer/owner/driver who introduced Kristy to the ins and outs of horse care almost as soon as she could walk. Kristy continues to groom and paddock horses for her father and a handful of other trainers when her schedule permits.

Kristy has been eased into her new role at the magazine with the help of our former advertising director, Wilma Haskett. After 20 years at *The Sportsman*, Haskett has decided to lend her considerable sales experience to Sportswood Printing — a full-service printing and publishing division of *The Canadian Sportsman*.



CLAUS ANDERSEN

# GREAT RETURNS

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Dawn of another  
long day

George Teague, Jr., "the hardest working man in the biz",  
already was at work long before the sun came up.

(for more about Teague see feature p. 58)

# Are today's synthetic tracks racing's long-sought Holy Grail?

Richard J. Shapiro, the innovative chairman of the California Horse Racing Board, is a harness horseman at heart. His grandfather founded Western Harness Racing, his father ran it and he himself jogged and trained pacers over Santa Anita's and Hollywood Park's spacious tracks as a young man.

Although he has reshaped California racing since being appointed three years ago by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and is a strong foe of illegal medication who did California racing a huge favour by appointing Dr. Rick Arthur as a virtual czar of veterinary medicine and testing in the state, Shapiro may be remembered long term as the man who made synthetic tracks mandatory in California, and started a national trend.

That issue has led to political problems for Shapiro, and it is far too early to decide whether making synthetics mandatory was an act of immortal heroism for the good of racing, or a deep and perhaps premature faith that synthetics would benefit both racehorses and the men who ride them.

That has been a goal of racing for decades. Back in 1961, Mary Jane Gallagher wrote in *The Blood-Horse*, "Conditioners have long dreamed and talked of racing reaching a millennium where tracks do not vary

from course to course, where weather does not make for Jekyll-Hyde changes, where insidious potholes do not mysteriously appear, and where heavy machinery cannot be blamed for ridges and packed places."

Shapiro's current political problems started when his board voted 4-2 not to exempt Bay Meadows from installing a synthetic track. Bay Meadows' owners are real estate developers. They plan to tear the track down in a year or two, and they would not guarantee the racing board they will race for another year. They enlisted the aid of their state senator, who went after Shapiro's scalp for trying to force Bay Meadows to spend seven to 10 million dollars to build a synthetic track that most likely would see brief use.

That cost for a synthetic today is a far cry from the \$2 million that Delvin Miller and his colleagues spent to install the first synthetic track at The Meadows when it opened 45 years ago.

It was called Tartan after the stable owned by William McKnight, then chairman of the huge 3M company. McKnight's trainer was the famed Johnny Nerud, a good friend of Miller's, and a key figure in the development of the Tartan track. When Nerud convinced McKnight in 1959 to create and build one, McKnight turned to his New



John Simpson of Hanover Shoe Farm, John Nerud, trainer for William McKnight of Tartan Farm, Delvin Miller and Billy Haughton, look over the first Tartan strip in 1961.

Products Division. A man named Ted Bucholtz was the project leader, and a consultant in that group was Dick Drew, the man most directly responsible for the invention of Scotch tape, one of 3M's main products. By 1961, after tests that included Drew's parking place, the Minnesota Twins' warmup batting circles and the pole vault runway at Arizona State, they had a Tartan track ready for testing.

A one-eighth mile strip was tested at Belmont Park in May, 1961, and under three stalls of the starting gate at Saratoga the same year. Pimlico looked at Tartan. Then came a test strip at Hempt Farm in Mechanicsburg, near Harrisburg, PA.

Nerud and I are two of the few witnesses who were there when that test took place. It drew a crowd of celebrities, William McKnight and Stan Dancer and Bill Haughton and Joe O'Brien and Del Miller among them. They came at Miller's call to test the Tartan, and found it to their liking.

Miller went ahead and had it installed at The Meadows in 1962. It drew favourable reviews, for awhile. Then chunks began coming

loose, and the track deteriorated to a degree that Miller, always a realist, had it removed, realizing the bright promise was darkened by shortcomings. Windsor Raceway tried one, unsuccessfully.

The hope of an all-weather, constantly-uniform racing surface did not die with Tartan. Next up was Equitrac, installed at Remington Park in Oklahoma City.

Now, of course, we have Polytrack and thoroughbred trainer Michael Dickinson's Tapeta and other contenders for the crown. Woodbine, always a leader, installed one, as did Keeneland in Kentucky, and these will be the first to test the rigours of northern and eastern winters over a sustained period of time.

If Prairie Meadows in Iowa installs one, as it is considering, it will provide the first test for harness horses over a new synthetic in a regular meeting. Jimmy Takter tested Tapeta briefly, but no full harness meeting has been held on the new versions.

We still have to wait for a final verdict. Check back in two years, or five.



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# letter to the editor

## In agreement about Woodstock, Dresden

Dear editor,

I just wanted to congratulate you on your column in the May 24 publication about Woodstock and Dresden racetracks, and say that I agree completely with your comments.

As a harness racing fan for more than 40 years, I like to visit the various tracks occasionally, particularly when I'm traveling. Last summer, I was on a trip in southern Ontario

and decided to take in a race card at Woodstock out of curiosity. I had not been there in 30 years or more.

On the Monday evening, I made my first visit to the new Grand River Raceway in Elora, which is a great facility. On Tuesday I went to Woodstock. What a shock! Talk about going from the penthouse to the outhouse. I'm not talking about the nice new slots/simulcast parlour, but the old grandstand

where the racing takes place.

There were only about 100 people there, and it was easy to see why. I could go on at length, but suffice to say the facilities related to the public were just pathetic with a capital 'P'. I hadn't seen anything like that since I went to a small town fairgrounds where they only race one day a year.

Ironically, the purses were good, the calibre of racing was good and the track was in good shape. I would rate the racing experience a B (appropriate for a B track), but the public facilities would rate an F (or whatever is worse).

I came away from that experience with two main thoughts:

- 1 How can the licensing authorities that grant permission for pari-mutuel racing even give race dates to a place where the public facilities are so bad?
  - 2 Heaven forbid that anyone in the Woodstock area unfamiliar with harness racing should decide to check it out by going to the Woodstock track. You would never see them again.
- I'm not sure if anyone in the racing establishment, including OHHA, much cares about the state of the facilities for the public, so long as they get their share of the pie. But someone should, because Woodstock is an embarrassment to horse racing. I would challenge ORC members to leave their Toronto

offices and visit Woodstock, then see if they can stomach granting the place any race dates at all.

As for Dresden, it's nowhere near as bad as Woodstock, but it's certainly not the gem it used to be either. Since I don't live too far away, I get there at least once a summer. My last visit was on the Civic Holiday Monday last August. I couldn't help notice the crowd wasn't what it used to be (and there were no special promotions), and neither was the facility. It's easy to see when a building isn't being well maintained.

It certainly shows the downside of slots when a track owner/operator seems to be only interested in its slots take.

To close, I want to give kudos to my hometown track, Hiawatha Horse Park, which was one of the first tracks to open a slots facility. Since the early days, I believe the slots revenue has declined, because there is also a charity casino in this market and Americans aren't coming across the bridge in the same numbers as they once did. However, Hiawatha owner Jim Henderson has poured considerable money back into the infrastructure, including grandstand improvements and the new race paddock in the backstretch. As a result, it's a very pleasant place to go and watch the races.

Yours truly,  
Brian Bolt, Sarnia, ON

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p,2, 1:57f, 3, 1:52.1, 4, 1:50.2 (\$669,639) Abercrombie • Promised Princess • Niatross



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## Powder Puff returns to Grand River

The second annual Powder Puff event will be held on July 6 at Grand River Raceway in Elora, ON.

The evening will feature a leg of the Mildred Williams International Female Driving Series. Grand River Raceway has sponsored series leader Joey Ayotte to spearhead its You Can Two campaign to raise money for breast cancer research. The track will donate \$2 for each point Ayotte earns throughout the series to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. In addition, track patrons are encouraged to make a \$2 donation in the main lobby once the campaign kicks off on June 11.

A penny auction at the Powder Puff event will also benefit the campaign.

Other offerings on the evening include: award-winning comic and radio personality Judy Croon.

Tickets for the event are \$30 and include: Croon's performance; buffet dinner in the Captain's Quarters; race program and \$2 betting voucher and all taxes and meal gratuities. All ticket holders will also receive a stunning stone upon arrival. Is it a diamond or a lovely wanna-be? One lucky woman will leave with the real deal compliments of Frank's Jewellers, the diamond experts in Waterloo, ON.

For tickets call (519) 846-5455 ext. 288.

— Grand River Raceway

## Holborn Hanover appeal pending

The appeal of Holborn Hanover's Pyrilamine positive from his victory in the American-National held on Aug. 26, 2006, at Balmoral Park has still not been heard, and no hearing has been scheduled to date.

The six-year-old Cams Card Shark—Hattie gelding is listed as having a lifetime speed mark of 1:46.4, a race record of 92 22-16-13 and career earnings of \$1,993,257 to date.

— harnessracing.com

## SUTTON SUSPENDED

Driver Josh Sutton, 25, has been slapped with an indefinite suspension after returning a horse with "lacerations to its underside" to the paddock at Hoosier Park after a race on May 19.

The horse Sutton drove, Staley Lane, finished fourth in the race. Sutton is the defending leading driver at Hoosier Park. He has also won driving titles at The Red Mile and Thunder Ridge in Kentucky.

In the judges' ruling it was noted that Sutton was racing on a probationary license in Indiana "due to numerous rulings related to whipping from previous years."

— harnessracing.com



DAVE LANDRY

## Palone back at work

Driver Dave Palone returned to racing action on May 29 at The Meadows just seven weeks after suffering multiple fractures to his right thighbone in a race accident.

The 45-year-old reinsman proved he was up to the job, winning his second race back. So far in his career, Palone has visited the winner's enclosure 11,407 times and won purse money totaling \$55,345,768.

— USTA Newsroom

## GST for OSS

2006 was the first year the Goods & Services Tax (GST) was collected on behalf of trainers and drivers competing in Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) races.

Administration will already have the GST numbers on file for everyone who earned money in the OSS last year and any driver or trainer who expects to race in an OSS event this season but does not have their GST number on file is asked to submit their GST number before racing in an OSS event.

The information can be submitted to: Karen Hauer, OSS Administration Coordinator, (519) 369-3545; fax: (519) 369-2563; email: [records@ontariosiresstakes.com](mailto:records@ontariosiresstakes.com)

— OSS

## MEADOWLANDS PURSES UPPED

As of June 6, the Meadowlands increased purses by 10 per cent.

This is the second across-the-board purse increase at the New Jersey track this spring. Meadowlands purses were increased back in April, and a bonus program for New Jersey-sired horses earning purse checks in "nonrestrictive" overnight races was introduced.

— Meadowlands media relations

## CRAMER RETIRES

Carol Cramer officially retired from her duties at the U.S. Trotting Association (USTA) on May 31 after more than 42 years on the job.

Cramer, who has worked on the USTA's landmark publications the *Care & Training of the Trotter & the Pacer* and the annual Stakes Guide says she will continue producing the Stakes Guide.

— USTA Newsroom

## CONDREN TOURNEY NEEDS DONATIONS

The annual Steven Condren Golf Tournament, slated for July 18 at the Granite Ridge Golf Club in Milton, is looking for prize donations and hole sponsorship.

The tournament is a major fundraiser for the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society (OSAS).

Contact Garry Phillips (519) 858-1418, Sandra Monk (905) 569-3125 or the OSAS office (519) 536-7987 to donate prizes. Contact Anne Phillips for hole sponsorship at (519) 858-1418.

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## Elitlopp to L'Amiral Mauzun

Driver Jean Michel Bazire guided eight-year-old french trotter L'Amiral Mauzun to a win by a nose over Mr Muscleman and Ron Pierce at this year's Elitlopp in Sweden on May 27.

Going Kronos, Sweden's representative in the prestigious trot, made a break and went off stride. Red Chili Pirat, who sat behind L'Amiral Mauzun on the rail the entire mile, shook free in the stretch and finished three-lengths back in third. The winning time was 1:52.3.

— USTA Newsroom

## OSAS horse show

The Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society (OSAS) will be hosting its eighth annual standardbred-only horse show at the Country Heritage Museum in Milton, ON on Sunday, Sept. 2. The horse show is a one-of-a-kind event in the province and is always a fun day of competition for both exhibitors and fans.

The OSAS is a registered non-profit charity that has adopted more than 350 standardbreds to good homes. The horse show is one of a number of fundraising events organized by the OSAS that also serves to increase awareness of the versatility of the standardbred.

For more information call or email the OSAS at (519) 536-7987 or [osasadopt@rogers.com](mailto:osasadopt@rogers.com).



CLAUSS ANDERSEN

Joe Canadian and Brittany Kennedy.

## Joe Canadian wins

One year less a day after he suffered traumatic injuries in an ontrack accident at Hiawatha Horse Park, seven-year-old pacer Joe Canadian recorded a win at the Sarnia, ON oval. On June 9, the gelding put in a front-end effort to clock a 1:59.4 victory.

The win upped the Armbro Operative—Skipped Town son's career record to 99 18-14-13 for lifetime earnings of \$97,387.

One year ago, Joe Canadian almost lost his life in a gruesome collision with Hiawatha's water truck during a pre-race warm-up. It took the combined efforts of his then owner, Joe Cirasuola, his current owner, Brittany Kennedy, and veterinarian Dr. Mark Biederman, to get Joe Canadian back on track.

(See feature, April 26, p. 28)

Joe's comeback story is set to be featured on The Score in the coming weeks.

## Slots long way off in NJ

The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA) says it's frustrated with the state's slow progress in getting the green light for slots machines at the Meadowlands. According to an article posted on [northjersey.com](http://northjersey.com) on June 8, the casinos in Atlantic City, NJ are putting pressure on the government to keep slots out of the racetrack.

— USTA Newsroom

## ILLINOIS TRAINER PLEADS GUILTY

Illinois trainer Deborah Allison pleaded guilty on a charge of animal cruelty during a court appearance in early June. The 53-year-old horsewoman was charged after one dead horse and three emaciated horses were discovered at her farm in Crete.

Allison has been ordered to pay \$250 in court costs and undergo psychiatric evaluation and treatment as well as undergo a supervision order for 12 months. She has also been ordered to only train her horses at Balmoral Park, Maywood or Hawthorne.

— [harnessracing.com](http://harnessracing.com)

## Catbird Seat dies on track

Catbird Seat passed away in the sixth race at Western Fair Raceway on June 15. In rein to trainer Murray Preszcator, the seven-year-old horse apparently suffered heart failure in front of the grandstand. An autopsy on Catbird Seat will be performed at the University of Guelph.

## PURSE INCREASE AT VERNON

Vernon Downs increased purses by 15 per cent across the board starting June 12.

— USTA Newsroom

## NEW HORSE SALE

The Garden State Horse Sales Company — a sister company of Hanover Shoe Farms and the Standardbred Horse Sales Company — has announced it will conduct a mixed sale at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on Jan. 21, 2008. The sale will be called the Harrisburg Super Sale.

## WEG EMPLOYEE WINS BIG

Graham Gelineau, a 55-year-old Toronto resident, won the \$37 million Lotto 6/49 jackpot in early June. It is the biggest solo-winning Lotto jackpot of its type in Canadian history.

Gelineau has been working as a pari-mutuel teller at Woodbine Racetrack for the last 20 years. There is no word yet as to whether Gelineau has decided to keep his job.

— Standardbred Canada

## FLAMBORO RAISES PURSES

Purses at Flamboro Downs have been upped by 20 per cent effective immediately.

## BOB HEYDEN IN FINLAND

Bob Heyden is winning races in Finland. The four-year-old trotter, a full-brother to Ken Warkentin, was sold to Finnish interests in January of this year. The Yankee Glide—Jambo son won on June 13 in Helsinki, trotting to a mile rate victory of 2:01 for Mika Forss.

— [harnessracing.com](http://harnessracing.com)

# REAL DESIRE

*Sire Of The North America Cup Winner*



New Image Media

## TELL ALL p,3,1:50.3 (\$812,505)

*By Real Desire-Have No Secrets (Albatross)*

Real Desire's **first crop** now includes the winner of the **\$1,500,000 Pepsi North America Cup**, **Tell All**. With a first-over move from the half the race favorite took no prisoners, cruising to the wire two lengths the best in 1:50.3. It was the fifth win in the last six starts for this up-and-coming superstar, owned by the My Desire Stable, trained by Blair Burgess and driven by Jody Jamieson. Tell All was bred by Tom Crouch and sold as a yearling in Lexington. Congratulations and best wishes to all as the journey continues!

*Look for your Real Desire yearling  
at the upcoming 2007 sales!*

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MANAGEMENT**

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## Rucker returns in Illinois

Trainer Ken Rucker's 90-day suspension for six positives for Indomethacin expired May 11 and he has returned to racing in Illinois. Rucker's original suspension for the half-dozen positives in Illinois was 180 days, but it was reduced in half, along with a \$10,000 fine.

Rucker has subsequently been fined \$2,500 by the Illinois Racing Board for having been at an off-track betting parlor in the state while suspended.

— harnessracing.com

## Instant Racing opposed by governor

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has announced that he would veto the Instant Racing bill if it's passed by both the state's house and senate. The bill would legalize the Instant Racing machines, which accept bets and permit payoffs on video snippets

of past horse races.

Strickland says he opposes widened gambling in Ohio.

The bill was passed by a handy 25-8 margin, but has yet to make it to the floor of the house.

— USTA Newsroom

Pavia was transported to Hackensack University Medical Center for an injury to his right shoulder. Both Merton and Meittinis were able to walk away and resumed their driving duties later on the card. All three horses are reported to be unhurt.

— Meadowlands media relations

## Pavia hospitalized

Driver Joe Pavia, Jr. was hospitalized for treatment following a racing accident on June 16 at the Meadowlands.

The accident occurred when Jim Meittinis' horse, Beware Of Darkness, stumbled and fell in the early going. Meittinis was thrown to the track, as was Greg Merton who was driving Tjs Ideal. Pavia was unable to avoid the fallen horses and drivers.

Pavia was transported to Hackensack University Medical Center for an injury to his right shoulder. Both Merton and Meittinis were able to walk away and resumed their driving duties later on the card. All three horses are reported to be unhurt.

## ITALIAN WIN FOR ALGIERS HALL

Algiers Hall won the Gran Premio Della Repubblica at the track in Bologna, Italy in early June. Algiers Hall, in rein leading Italian driver Enrico Belletto, won handily in 1:58.

Bred by Walnut Hall Ltd. of Lexington, KY, the Conway Hall—American Wish son was trained by John Stark, Jr. while in the United States. Algiers Hall won the Matron Stakes at Dover and finished second to Glidemaster in the Yonkers Trot in 2006 and earned \$740,721 while in the U.S.

— Standardbred Canada

## OHHA WILL REDUCE RRSP CONTRIBUTIONS

The Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA) has said its RRSP Committee will be reducing its contribution to OHHA members' accounts due to decreased pari-mutuel wagering. The current level of \$700 for an OHHA contribution is described as "unsustainable."

— OHHA

## HEC CLOUTHIER TO HEAD OHRIA

The Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association (OHRIA) announced on June 14 that Hector Clouthier will be the organization's new executive director.

Clouthier is currently president and CEO of Hector Clouthier Consulting Ltd. and is a former federal Member of Parliament and former special advisor in the Prime Minister's office. He begins his tenure at OHRIA immediately.

— OHRIA

## 10-Year Betting Trend

(year to date, as of June 1)

