

Hastings News

Dec. - Jan. 2008 :: Written and produced by Jeannie Spence for the Horsemens Benevolent and Protective Association of B.C.

HBPA NEWSLETTER by Jeannie Spence

As the Holiday Season is quickly approaching, the President and Directors of the HBPA wish everyone Health, Happiness, and Good Luck in the New Year. This is a time to reflect, time to spend with family and friends, life passes by too quickly.

HEI has a new Director of Racing, Paul Ryneveld. We welcome Paul to Hastings Racecourse and are looking forward to working with him.

In 2008, there were 71 racing days; this will be increased by 5 more Fridays, for a total of 76 racing days in 09.

For the 2009 season, the barn area will open on Monday, January 26th and the track will open on Sunday, February 1st.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS AND NOMINEES AT THE AWARDS BANQUET

P.S. I am sure that Cindy Krasner and Butch Goertzen were GOOD N READY to toast the night with a KRAZY KOFFEE!

Butch Goertzen and Cindy Krasner (below) were the big winners of the evening!

Krazy Koffee picked up the awards for Leading 3-year-old male, (B.C. and Open) as well as Horse of the Year! His dam, Sky West, won the top Broodmare Award for proud owner/breeder Butch Goertzen.

Cindy took home the Diamond Award of Excellence with her outstanding achievements in the 2008 season. Not only did Cindy win 7 stakes, but she finished second in another! In the North American Trainer Magazine, Cindy had the honour of being chosen as TRM Trainer Of The Quarter.

Nick and Pauline Felicella (below) and Bryant McAfee (bottom) were inducted into the B.C. Horse Racing Hall of Fame.



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The Backstretch Award went to **David Milburn** (accepting below from Mel Snow) for his outstanding contributions to the betterment of racing and the backstretch environment.



Leading Jockey Mario Gutierrez
Leading Apprentice Jockey Stephanie Fedora
Leading Trainer Troy Taylor
Leading Owners Glen Todd and Patrick Kinsella
Top Older Horse (B.C. Bred/Open) Spaghetti Mouse
Top Older Filly or Mare (B.C. Bred/Open) Against The Sky
Top B.C. Bred 3-Year-Old Filly Remarkable Miss
Top Open 3-Year-Old Filly Blue Sky Holiday
Top B.C. Bred 2-Year-Old Filly P.S. Good N Ready
Top Open 2-Year -Old Filly What R the Odds
Top Sprinter B R Remark
Top Claimer \$15,000 and over Badgett's Star
Top Claimer \$15,000 and under Sheisrough

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Rena Walsh on her 101st birthday. She raced many good Thoroughbreds including the Futurity winner, Ky Look.

Chris Loeth on his big win in the Hospital Lottery.

Sohen Gill, Chris Loeth, and Archie McDonald, all three were chosen to be inducted into the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame! This will take place on May 13th, which will be the first event held in the New Trade and Convention Center; what a birthday gift for Sohen!

Tommy Wolski for his Sovereign Award Nomination in the Media Competition for outstanding film/video broadcast. It was the feature on Jim Morgan's amazing comeback.

Pat Jarvis, for her excellent win percentage in Portland Meadows!

NEW FOALS

Scott and Treena Ksionzyk, a Son, **Dane Weston Bill** and **Denise McNeill**, a Daughter, **Brooke Elizabeth Reg** and **Marie Peat**, a Grandson, **Lucas Alexander James Redekop**, a Granddaughter, **Gabrielle Soleil**

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO:

Lynn Beyer and Family on the loss of **Johnny**
The **Garcea Family** on the loss of **Eric**
The **Ollive Family** on the loss of **Herb**
The **Jackson Family** on the loss of **Pepsi**
The **Williams Family** on the loss of **Bev**
Bev was the secretary of the BC Jockey Club in the Jack Diamond era.

Canmor Farms not only lost their good friend and manager; Herb Ollive, but also suffered the loss of their stallions, Regal Intention and Mazel Trick.

Two new stallions have arrived at Canmor Farms, **Rosberg** and **Forest Grove, Skimming** at Pacific Stud and **Sir Gallovic** at Emerald Training Centre. These stallions will be a big bonus to the racing and breeding stock.

NEW STRIDE THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

They have settled all the horses in a new place where they share accommodations with the Standardbred Retirement Foundation, Greener Pastures. Each is run separately. The New Stride Foundation needs donations if they are going to continue running this operation. They have sent letters out to HEI, CTHS (BC), and HBPA (BC). They need help. Everyone involved in the Thoroughbred Industry should be able to donate something to this worthwhile cause. All racetracks need a retreat for animals that can be retrained. You can get a tax deductible receipt for any donation.

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THE THOROUGHBRED LADIES CLUB

December is always a busy month with the planning of the Children's Christmas Party, and as usual it was a great success! Special thanks to May Jaager who will be stepping down as President and Alice Noga who has retired from buying the Children's Christmas gifts. Alice has bought the gifts since the inception of the Thoroughbred Ladies Club. All the ladies work so hard in helping for the better welfare of our backstretch. They are always looking for new members.



Left to Right - Alice Noga, Rena Walsh, and Anna Byrne.

THE LEARNING CENTRE

HEI have promised to upgrade our computers for the 09 season. We are also hoping to get a study room as we have outgrown our space. We had over 2,000 "drop ins" in 08 and expect more in the 09 season. A special Thank You to Darlene Smith who is always looking for donated furniture for us.

**"The day my final race is run
And win or lose, the sinking sun
Tells me its time to quit the track
And gracefully hang up my tack
I thank the Lord the life I've led
Was always near a Thoroughbred."**

The Thoroughbred world lost two important members this fall, Eric Garcea and Herb Ollive. They grew up in different places, Eric was born and lived in Albi, which is situated in the mountains of Southern Italy, until his

family immigrated to Canada, and settled in Vancouver. Herb was born in Calgary and his family moved to a ranch near Stettler, Alberta. Eric struggled and fought courageously to overcome terminal brain cancer. Herb left us quickly with a massive heart attack. Even though they had different lives, they both were so similar. Both had strong views, and even if you didn't agree with them, you had to admire their passion for their opinions and their love for a good argument. Eric and Herb loved their families, their friends, and the Thoroughbreds. They will be terribly missed.

Eric on GIII winner Real Candy.



Picture courtesy of Michael Burns.

My first memories of Eric were over 35 years ago seeing a young exercise rider on the track, you couldn't mistake him because he proudly wore the Italian flag on his helmet cover and always had a cigarello in his mouth. Even a stranger could see the joy on his face as he was galloping. He truly loved his job. It took me over a year to realize that Silvano, Charlie, and Eric, were the same person. He was Silvano to his family, Charlie to his long-time friends (because they thought Silvano was too hard to say) and Eric (his middle name) to his later friends. It was really funny to see when an old friend would appear at the barn and would ask where Charlie or Silvano was, the crew wouldn't have a clue who they were talking about.

As fate would have it, Eric's parents settled with their 5 children in East Vancouver, which was very close to Hastings Racecourse (then known as Exhibition Park). It didn't take Eric long to discover there were horses on the other side of the fence and he would often times skip

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Church and sneak down to the barns. Eric's first job was with B.C.'s Racing Hall of Fame Trainer, Donnie Morison as a hotwalker. It didn't take Eric long before he decided it would be fun to ride those magnificent animals. With his balance and fearlessness, he became one of the top exercise riders, but that wasn't enough, he decided he would like to be an owner and claimed his first horse with his friend Alan Payne. Although he was still exercising and ponying horses, he then started to train horses as well. Over the years at the track, Eric had some excellent sponsors such as Budget Stables, Nick and Pauline Felicella, Harlequin Ranches, Northern Lite Stable with his long time friend Dennis, and Super Stables with his good friend Billy.

When Eric served as a director of the HBPA (B.C.), the horsemen knew he would fight for them. Eric had to make a hard decision, when he saw that without the slots Hastings was losing days and purses, so with the reluctant approval of his family and friends, Eric joined his good friends, Joe and Carol Walls at Woodbine. He spent about a decade in Woodbine before he became ill. He never complained as he kept exercising and training his horses. It was his love. Even this year when he was so ill, he snuck out on his horse Long Journey and went to the track. Eric had to face his angry concerned friends when he came back but even they couldn't help seeing the inner satisfaction on his face, he knew he could still do what he loved most and probably realized that would be his last time to gallop on the track. Eric couldn't have continued without his family, especially his daughter Cassie, who has his riding skills and stubborn determination, his friends especially Joe and Carol Walls, and his faithful help especially Margie Szigeti. Eric's strength and courage was amazing and I know he is watching down on his family with love and on his daughter Cassie with pride.

Herb Ollive was born in Calgary and spent most of his youth in a ranch near Stettler. His sister, Gayle recalled how Herb's older siblings and his parents, Mae and Len, knew they had their hands full with him. One day when he was about 2 years old, they were looking for Herb when they were horror struck as they saw him hanging on to a foal's tail and was being dragged across the field. Would he let go? Never! His stubborn attitude and athletic abilities had many advantages. He became a top junior gymkana rider winning many trophies with his first two horses, Tiny and Nutmeg, then on to steer riding, and saddle bronc riding as witnessed with all his trophy buckles. At 14, Herb started to ride on the Bushes for Orville Strandquist, and then at the age of 16 went to ride in Calgary and Edmonton. At 17,

Herb won the Canadian Derby on Pampa's Host for Harold Barroby, in 1980, Herb set a record in Alberta winning 151 races for the season. He was offered a riding contract by hockey's icon, Conn Smythe, but Herb didn't want to leave his family or friends. As Sandy Hayes (Leavitt) said, "Wayne Gretzky and Herb Ollive arrived on the Edmonton scene at approximately the same time. Who could have asked for more in the sport world?"

His good friends and family were so much a part of Herb's life. His long-time friends and past roommates, Delbert Ryecroft and Buzz Burke remained close to Herb. It reminds me of one of the many stories of these three. They borrowed Northland Park's General Manager, Jack Nichols' Winnebago to go to Grande Prairie to ride. Off the three drove and when the diesel tank was running low, they stopped to replenish it. One problem... they filled the water tank instead. When they returned the vehicle to Jack Nichols, they "accidentally" forgot to mention this small detail. You can imagine who was not a happy camper when he had a shower! Yet all was forgiven and Jack even suggested that Edmonton should hire Herb as a steward when his jockey career was over. Herb excelled in all aspects of his careers, jockey, trainer, agent, steward, and then manager of Canmor Farms, but his greatest pride was his children, Brandon, Tiana, and Kaitlyn. Herb, like Eric will be watching down on his family, but especially watching Brandon, Tiana, and Kaitlyn.

On November 5th, Brandon age 14, had a special day with his dad. He had a work experience day at school and wanted to spend it with Herb at Canmor. That day will always have special memories.

My Dad by Tiana Ollive age 10

My Dad loved horses and life. He taught me everything that he knew about horses. He taught me how to do up saddles and undo them. He taught me the same thing with bridles and halters. My Dad started his life by steer riding. Then he moved on to be a jockey. He quit that job and was a horse trainer for Thoroughbreds. He stopped at that and went to being a jockey again. My Dad had a very bad accident forcing him to retire. After that he became an agent here at Hastings Racecourse. His riders were Dave Wilson and Andy. After that he got offered to be a steward at Hastings Racecourse. He hated that job because he didn't get to see me or my brother or sister. He got asked to manage Canmor Farms in Aldergrove. HE LOVED IT!!!!!! With this job he got to spend more time with me, my brother and my sister.

At Canmor Farms there was an old pony named Peppy. My

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Dad taught me how to barrel race on him. Before my Dad passed away I was just starting to lope around the barrels. I will remember all the stuff I did with my Dad. I will always remember his smile, now it is time for him to rest in peace and I know he will always be watching me. I love you Dad.

My Dad by Kaitlyn Ollive age 9

My Dad loved people, animals and other things. He taught me a lot of things like riding a horse and doing up a saddle and undoing it. He taught me how to hold my ringette stick better and how to skate. He also helped me with my homework.

My Dad wasn't just a DAD, he was a friend...a really good one. He wasn't mean, just a little bit maybe, my Dad was also a jockey. He had a title for the best jockey in Alberta. He was really good. He loved the racetrack. He worked at

the racetrack most of his life. His favorite part was being a jockey he also really liked being an agent for Davey Wilson. Most of all he loved his work at Canmor farms because it took him back to the horses he loved so much.

My Dad has done a lot of great things he was not just a Dad he was a brother, a friend, a great son but now he must go to Heaven and rest. He is at peace now. I know he will be watching over us. I love you Dad.

Anyone wishing to donate to The Ollive Children's Trust can at the Royal Bank of Canada #02880-5291778

Any Inquiries you may talk to the Trustees

Dave Wilson (Hastings Racecourse) B.C.

Wayne Ollive (brother) Alberta 403-850-4546

Herb a man of "many hats"



Picture courtesy of Jim Reynolds.