

Dave's Diversions: Winter is the season to practise ice safety

by David Featherstone

I know it seems a little early to be talking about ice safety. However, after seeing several sizable ponds covered with ice over the weekend, I thought it might be a good time to bring up the subject. Accidents on ice can be prevented using a few simple rules and a lot of common sense.

Prolonged freezing temperatures are needed to produce solid ice. Clear ice with bluish tinge is a fair indication of good ice quality. At least two inches of solid ice is required to support one person. Three inches of ice will support small groups of people.

Once ice has reached a thickness of four inches, it is deemed safe for general use. Six inches of ice will support a snowmobile. Heavier vehicles should not travel over ice until it has attained a thickness of ten inches. An ice spud or ice auger can be used to determine ice thickness.

One should always beware of ice near the mouths of inflowing or outflowing streams. Upwelling springs within a pond or lake also represent a potential hazard.

Water currents at these locations result in thinner ice. Ice in areas with heavy snowfall may also represent a danger. Snow insulates the

ice from colder air temperatures. Ice underneath the snow pack may be very thin.

Before venturing out onto an unfamiliar pond or lake, it is wise to talk to local residents who may be able to provide important information regarding "soft" spots in the ice. If a large crowd has gathered on the ice for skating or ice fishing, follow the most popular path to the activity. It is more likely to be safe than untravelled areas.

Later in the winter, warmer temperatures begin to weaken the ice cover on lakes and ponds. Although the ice appears thick, it may be riddled with air pockets. Cloudy, hon-

eycombed ice will support far less weight per inch of thickness than solid, clear ice.

Although a good rule at all times, one should never enter an ice surface alone during the periods of first ice and last ice. Use a buddy system. If the ice should give way, there will be others on solid ice to assist.

If you do fall in, do not panic. Stretch your arms out over the ice to support yourself. If the ice breaks, keep moving back toward shore until you hit a patch of solid ice. Once stable, a friend can pull you to shore with a rope or arm of a jacket. If you are alone, call for

help while attempting to push yourself onto the ice. With cold water, time is critical. A person will lose consciousness within five minutes after being submerged in icy water.

The winter season is a time to be outdoors to participate in activities that can only be enjoyed at this time of the year. By following a few simple rules, we can make this a safe and enjoyable time of the year.

A biologist by profession, David Featherstone devotes a large portion of his spare time to volunteer groups which are working to protect and enhance the environment. David hopes to provide readers of Halton Hills This Week with a mix of interesting and informative outdoor and nature articles.

Billyjojimbob returns to the racing scene

Staying Together looks like a bargain as he extended his win streak to three at Mohawk on Saturday night.

Purchased for \$19,000 as a yearling by Bob Hamather of Hensall, Staying Together has developed into a profitable proposition as well as a head turner at Mohawk as he's banked over \$179,000 to date this year with 16 wins in 27 starts.

Driven by Tom Strauss for trainer Jack Parsons, the talented colt paced to an impressive 1:54.4 effort in the feature event, the \$22,000 Junior and Free For All Event.

The victory was probably most impressive in that Staying Together, a three year old gelded son of Panorama, defeated older and more experienced horses, (the best horses on the grounds) in the process, including Dancercize, Abdul Kerim, Silver Almahurst and Gold Glover.

Staying Together got up in the final stride to get past pacesetter Silver Almahurst by a length.

Hamather is pleased with the colt's progress but only shakes his head in regret that he didn't stake the talented colt to more events this year.

"He didn't show much at two and he didn't show very well earli-

Bowling standings

Monday Night Mens League (As of 16 Nov. 92)

1. Arnies	134
2. LJB Contractors	132
3. Countrywide	111-1/2
4. Sam's Service	98-1/2
5. Acid Rainbow	87-1/2
6. Custom Car Sound	85-1/2
7. Los Amigos	71

HIGH TRIPLES

Brinley Hole	810 (334)
Lu Zander	783 (299)
Gord Lane	700 (260)
Bryan Creasey	698 (282)
Tom Goss	696 (268)

HIGH AVERAGES

Carl Fisker	235
Bryan Creasey	228
Bruce Clarke	227
Gord Lane	224
Paul Chaplin	217



Hoofbeat
by Kathy Wade Vlaar

er this year. Once he made it to the races he blossomed and at that point, we realized it was too late to stake him to anything."

As somewhat of a consolation, Hamather supplemented Staying Together to Blue Bonnets Prix d'ete where he made a break over a sloppy track and to The Confederation Cup at Flamboro Downs, where he won his elimination and was second in the final.

"I think if he'd been in some of the major three year old events, he would have made a good account of himself," explained Hamather, "Next year, he'll be staked to everything; you can count on that."

As far as Staying Together's future is concerned, he'll finish the year on the OJC circuit, probably have some time off before resuming '93 in fine form.

Dig Us Out continued his winning ways, notching his fourth consecutive win in an \$11,600 event (claiming \$30,000-\$35,000) with a 1:56.2 head victory over Bill's Jet who controlled almost every step of the mile. Driven by Steve Condren for trainer Joe Stutzman, it was the Dignatarian colt's sixth win in 20 starts this season.

Friday the 13th was lucky for trainer Joe Stutzman, driver Doug Brown and trainer-driver Clint Galbraith as each one of them scored a hat trick of wins on the evening's card.

Stutzman and Brown teamed up for the natural triple in race 2 with Youaretheman; race 3 with Hoffys Hurricane and race 4 with Music Director.

Trainer-driver Clint Galbraith guided Donikash in race 5,

Kashwave in race 8 and Bankruptcy in race 11 to respective victories.

Billyjojimbob returned to the local racing scene after a month's layoff and had no problem in handling his 7 rivals in Sunday's \$25,000 Free For All Trot.

Driven by Paul MacDonell for trainer Mike Wade and owner Lori Wade, BJ got away eighth and trailed the field to the half when MacDonell pulled him out. By the three-quarter marker, the pair were third and within striking distance. Billyjo trotted past Fax Machine a few steps before the wire, and

clocked the mile in 1:58.4. Out of Ketchup was third.

It was the 18th win in 23 starts for the five year old gelded son of Balanced Image and the victory pushed him over the half million dollar mark in season's earnings.

This Weekend

Fans can watch and wager on the \$535,000 Governor's Cup Final as it is being simulcasted live to Mohawk on Saturday, November 21st. Local starters include Armbro Local from the Tom Artandi stable, a recent winner of the Presidential stakes; Breeders Crown champion Village Jiffy.

Harness wives lead food drive

We're betting on our racing fans on Sunday, November 22nd at Mohawk Raceway.

The Ontario Jockey Club's Harness Horsemen's Wives, in cooperation with the OJC., are coordinating a food drive on this day at Mohawk for the first time ever.

All racing fans are invited to participate in the food drive with proceeds going to Food Banks located in the Halton Region, including Milton, Oakville, Burlington and Acton.

Anyone who contributes a non-perishable food item (canned vegetables/fruit, canned fish, powdered milk, peanut butter, jarred baby food, tomato sauce, macaroni and cheese) will receive \$1 General Admission for their donation.

On New Year's Day this year and in '91, the Horsemen's Wives coordinated very successful food drives to benefit the Daily Bread Foodbank in Toronto.

In 1991, over 3,100 pounds of food was contributed, and this past year that amount was more than doubled as over 6,500 pounds of food was donated by the fans.

Racing starts at 7:30 p.m. on November 22nd, and the gates open at 6 p.m.

For more information, please contact Nancy MacEachern-Brooks at 416-257-0731 or Kathy Wade Vlaar at 416-854-2255.

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