

# Harness 50th Anniversary at Mohawk

## A celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Woodbine Entertainment Harness Racing

By VALERIE DAVIDGE

Mohawk Racetrack celebrated 50 years of Harness Racing in style on Saturday night with over \$1.1 million in purses and the best program of racing of the year.

The first 2,500 customers were treated to a DVD giveaway celebrating the anniversary. The hour-long disc takes viewers back to some of the most memorable dashes in the circuit's history.

Special entertainment was also on hand all evening to celebrate the occasion with an excellent 50's band and a dance group at the main entrance, loads of children's entertainment throughout the track, \$5 food specials, free birthday cake and a chance to pat a race horse.

Post time was 7.40p.m on this crisp fall evening. The Mohawk Racetrack is situated on a 450 acre tract of land surrounded by woodlands of spruce, cedar, pine and birch in the village of Campbellville, and is open year round to provide stabling and serve as a training centre for local horsemen.

After 35 years as Canada's premier 5/8th mile harness oval, Mohawk was transformed into a one-of-a-kind 7/8ths mile oval track after a massive \$2 million summer overhaul in 1998.

Whether a racing buff, or just looking for a night of



PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Woodbine Entertainment's Bruce Murray (left) and Town of Milton Mayor Gord Krantz get ready to tee up for charity. The two duffers were part of the almost three hundred golfers taking part in the annual United Way Golf Tournament on September 10.

great entertainment, Mohawk served up an opportunity to enjoy harness racing in style on Saturday evening.

An overwhelming finale to Grand Circuit week at the track, four Simcoe and three Champlain Stakes were on the docket to go with a pair of Maple Leaf Trot eliminations. A compact, yet solid, Open pace was contested later in the program and the conditioned events throughout the card were nothing to sneer at either. The Simcoe Stakes was open to 3 year-olds, the Maple Leaf Trot to 3 year-olds and older and the Champlain Stakes to 2-year-olds.

Two of Sweden's best trotters made the long trek to compete in the eliminations of the \$861,000 Maple Leaf Trot and promptly humbled their North American counterparts. Tsar Dinverne, co-owned by NHL star Peter Forsberg, his father Kent and trainer Robert Bergh, sat in sixth until the top of the stretch, then swept the field to take the first elimination. H P Paque settled for second. This was the first trip across the Atlantic for Tsar Dinverne who only arrived in Toronto 32 hours before the event. He was driven by Luc Ouellette for his fifth win in 12 starts this year. Revenue S, the other Swedish entrant, made short work of his elimination round with driver Jorgen Sjunnesson. The final of the \$861,000 Maple Leaf Trot is set for Saturday September 18th.

Fresh from his 1:49.4 world record mile in the \$1.2 million Metro Pace at Woodbine recently, Rocknroll Hanover cleanly won the first of three \$113,243 Champlain dashes. Tipped as the favourite, Shanghai Phil, having raced very well in both his Metro elimination and final, made it to the Winner's Circle in the second Champlain dash. One of the two Duane Marafisi students, Leading X Ample, won the third Champlain split.

There is Live Standard Bred Racing at Mohawk every Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Saturday with a 7.40p.m post time. Admission is free and there is ample free parking. It's the best value around for an evening's

entertainment. The Terrace Dining Room overlooks the track and features an array of eating choices. Individual monitors are on each table. Mutual windows are located in The Terrace and throughout the track; self-serve terminals are also available. For less formal dining, concession stands in the grandstand offer a variety of food and snack items. Plentiful unreserved seating is available in all areas of the track, as well as in the Trackside Lounge beverage room. The racetrack features a glassed-in climate controlled enclosure for viewing pleasure in all types of weather.

This fall look for stakes including the Campbellville Trot for two year-olds, the Milton Stakes for pacing mares and the Harvest Stakes for two year-old filly pacers. For more information on the program, special events and dining opportunities:

www.WoodbineEntertainment.com

### New Fergus office for Chong



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Mike Chong, the MP for the new riding of Wellington-Halton Hills, officially opened his constituency office in Fergus this month. The office, located at 200 St. Patrick Street East, Suite 5, in Fergus, is one of two that will be located in the riding. The other office, at 16 Mountainview Road South in Georgetown, is set to open on October 1. Mike Chong (far left) works closely with his staff including Karen Townsend (second from left), Diane Dawe, and Jim Smith. To reach the office, constituents can call 1-866-878-5556. Mike Chong plans to hold an agricultural roundtable at the Rockmosa Community Centre in Rockwood on Monday, November 8. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

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