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## Acton driver adds Hambletonion to his list of harness racing achievements

BYMAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY The New Tanner

Winning Hambletonian Meadowlands is just part of the job for Trevor Ritchie of Acton.

The London-raised driver hadn't set his sights on that or any other particular goals in the racing world.

"My goal is to win every time I go out on the track," he said in a recent telephone interview.

Growing up in a house that backed onto the Western Fair Raceway, he started doing odd jobs around the track as a boy. In his mid teens he quit school to work full time as a caretaker at the track, jogging horses.

Never having even casual experience around thorobreds, he says his sights were always set on driving standardbreds.

"And weight isn't the same problem for a driver as for a jockey," he says.

Ritchie got his first consistent chance training for Canadian Hall of Famer Bill Herbert.

By the spring of 1978 he and a partner had their own horse which Ritchie was driving at London. When London closed for the season and the races moved to Buffalo he took his horse but could not drive because he was not liscensed in the States.

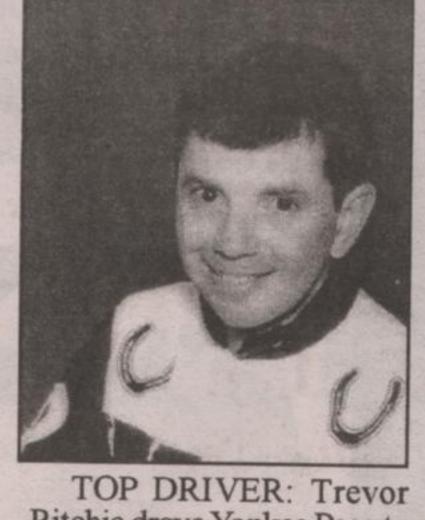
After selling that horse, Ritchie began working as a second trainer for Gary Payne near Windsor, who sent him to Flamborough Downs with his horses. While Payne did most of his own driving, when weather or circumstances interfered, Ritchie did the drive for him. That was in fact, how he was driving one of Payne's horses when he won his first paramutual race in January

After three winters at Windsor, Ritchie shifted to the Jockey Club and settled near Acton in the spring of 1982. In those days he was driving at Mohawk, Woodbine and Greenwood.

Getting a chance to drive



Ritchie drove Yankee Paco to the winner's circle Aug. 6 when they won the Hambletonain Meadowlands.





TOTH TOUGH: Just one loss gave Toth Motors second place in a six-game soccer tournament in Alliston on the weekend. The Under-17 team includes, back, from left: Al Manson (coach), Becky

Taylor, Eva Sitarz, Jennifer Reeve, Jackie Christie and Lyn Watson. Middle: Kasha Sitarz, Sinead Irvine, Stephanie Christie, Amanda Johnson and Heather Atkinson. Front: Allison Clemmons and Emma Goddard. - Submitted photo

is difficult for young, inexperienced drivers, Ritchie recalls. When you're young and hungry, you'll drive for any trainer. Many of the younger drivers average about seven races each night.

Now, with experience and a reputation however, Ritchie can be a bit more choosey about the amount of driving he does. For that reason he's cut back to average about three races a night. He stopped the training part of his career and switched exclusively to driving around 1985.

Trainers name the driver they want to handle their horse when they enter it in a race, he explains and drivers find out which horses they have a few days before the race is run. While they may

know which horse they're driving, drivers won't likely get acquainted with the animal until they get to do the post parade and loosen the horse up about 15 minutes before the race actually be-

With a \$1 million purse the Hambletonian is both the highest money and probably the highest prestige race Ritchie has won. He also won the North American Cup in 1986, the Meadowlands pace in 1987 and the Canadian Pacing Derby a bit later, and also the Canadian Trotting Clas-

He was driving Yankee Paco, owned by a father and son, the Ivey's, when he won the Hambletonian on Aug. 6.

### SBCCER CSACH &F THE WEEK



Tanya McHugh

Acton's Tanya McHugh is this week's MacMillan's/ Acton Soccer Club Coach of the Week.

Tanya McHugh, 30, credits her husband Mike Burns along with stepchildren Sarah and David Burns, with helping her co-ordinate the five Under-5 teams.

This was her first season with the club, joining when her 4-year-old son Keenan signed up. McHugh co-ordinates weekly skill drills and scrimmages for the players and is coach of Keenan's team, The New Tanners.

Club president Gill Douglas says Tanya stepped in and has done a wonderful job.

"She's doing great and the Under-5 program has taken off exceptionally well and that bodes well for the future because it means we're getting parents like Tanya, involved with helping with the younger kids,"

#### Soccer Report

Under-7

Acton Town Milk downed The Holland Shop 20-13. Roy Weaver was hot for Holland, scoring eight goals. Aaron Weaver had three goals and Holly Morrow and Meagan Adema had a single.

Blake Noonan's six goals led Tee-Mac Electric to an 11-3 win over Leathertown Lumber last Monday. Sammi Van Den Enden scored four goals and Trisha Einmann had a single. Nicholas (no last name provided) had a pair of goals for Leathertown and Jade (?) had a single.

> GIRLS Under-13

Jessica Dunn had a pair of goals - one of them with help from Jennifer Essiembre – as Empress Communications downed High Five Photography 3-1 last Wednesday. Jacqueline Taylor had a single for Em-

press. Solid team work by Samantha Rentz in midfield play with great clearing kicks from Alexandra Saunders. High Five supplied no game information.

Last Tuesday, High Five downed Empress 3-1. Joanie Weaver scored for Empress. Good hustle by Nikky Noonan, great defence by Jessica George and Joelle Galda. Under-15

Beth Clayton's goal denied HEADS a shutout in a 6-1 win over Bev Gray Designs in a game in Hillsburgh last Monday. The team was short-handed and tired. Tia Hess played well in midfield and Laura Stevenson was sharp on defence.

> BOYS Under-11

Jacob Presseault scored three goals and had two assists in Acton Building Contractors' 11-1 thumping of Rockwood I last Monday in Acton. Darcy Mejia and Jordan Hodnet each scored twice. Josh Essiembre, Brydon Pole, Zack Woolford and Brian Curry had singles. Woolford had two assists and Mejia had a single.

Under-13 Team top scorer Ben Douglas said. DeKleer had a pair of goals to give Acton Cleaners an early led in a 4-0 win over HEADS II in Acton last Tuesday. Eric Corman and Mike Kellas had singles. The defence of Derek Rawerda, Kyle Napp and James Lee did a superior job in shutting HEADS down.

#### SKATING CLUB REGISTRATION Thurs. Sept. 7/00 • Wed. Sept 13/00 at the Acton Arena 6:00 - 8:00 pm

ACTON FIGURE

A late fee will be charged after Sept. 15th/00 Schedule: subject to change without notice

Monday Session I - 4:00 - 5:00 Session II - 5:10 - 6:50 Session III - 7:00 - 8:50 Tuesday \*\* CanSkate A - 4:00 - 4:50 Session I - 4:50 - 5:50

Wednesday Session II/III - 4:00 - 4:50 \*\* CanSkate B - 5:00 - 5:50 \*CanPower - 5:50 - 6:50

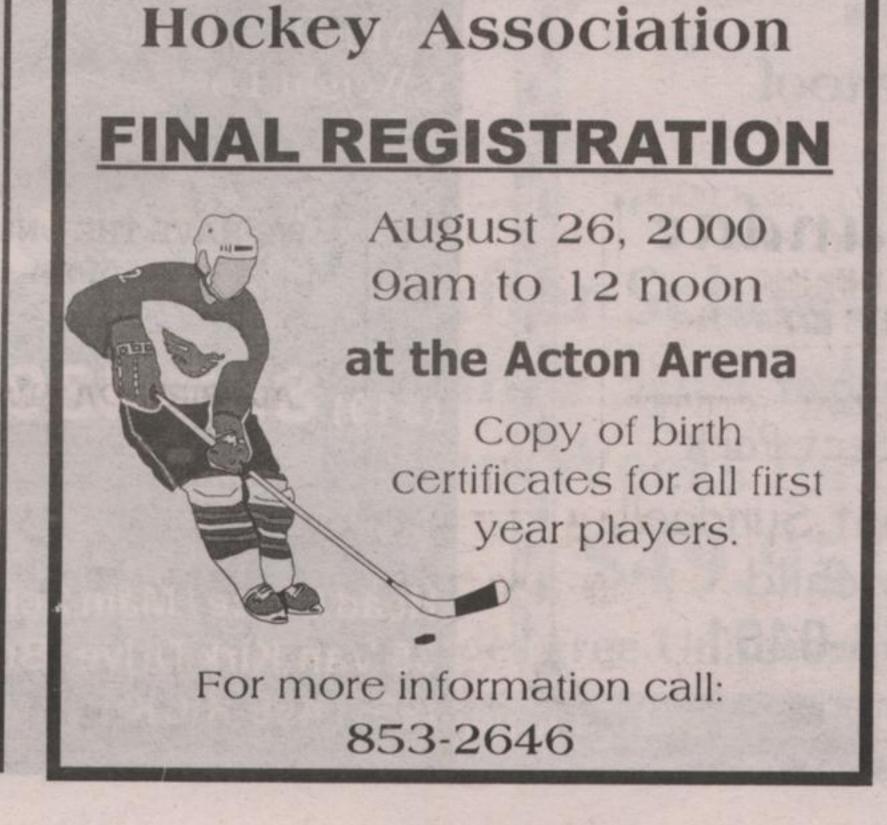
Thursday Session II - 4:00 - 5:40 \*\*CanSkate C - 5:50 - 6:40 Session III - 6:50 - 8:50

\*CanPower - designed for hockey players to develop better balance, power, agility, speed and endurance. \*\*CanSkate - teaches basic skating skills from the age of 3 and up like

skating forward, backward, stop, turn, spin & jump. [No cash will be accepted - Money Orders or Cheques only All cheques MUST accompany registration All registrations will be accepted on a first come-first basis]

★★If you have any questions please call Tracey at 853-3174★★

SANCTIONED BY THE CANADIAN FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION



Acton House League

Drug Mart LTD. Monday - Friday 9 - 9 Saturday 9 - 6 · Sunday Closed 853-2220 294 Queen St. E., Acton