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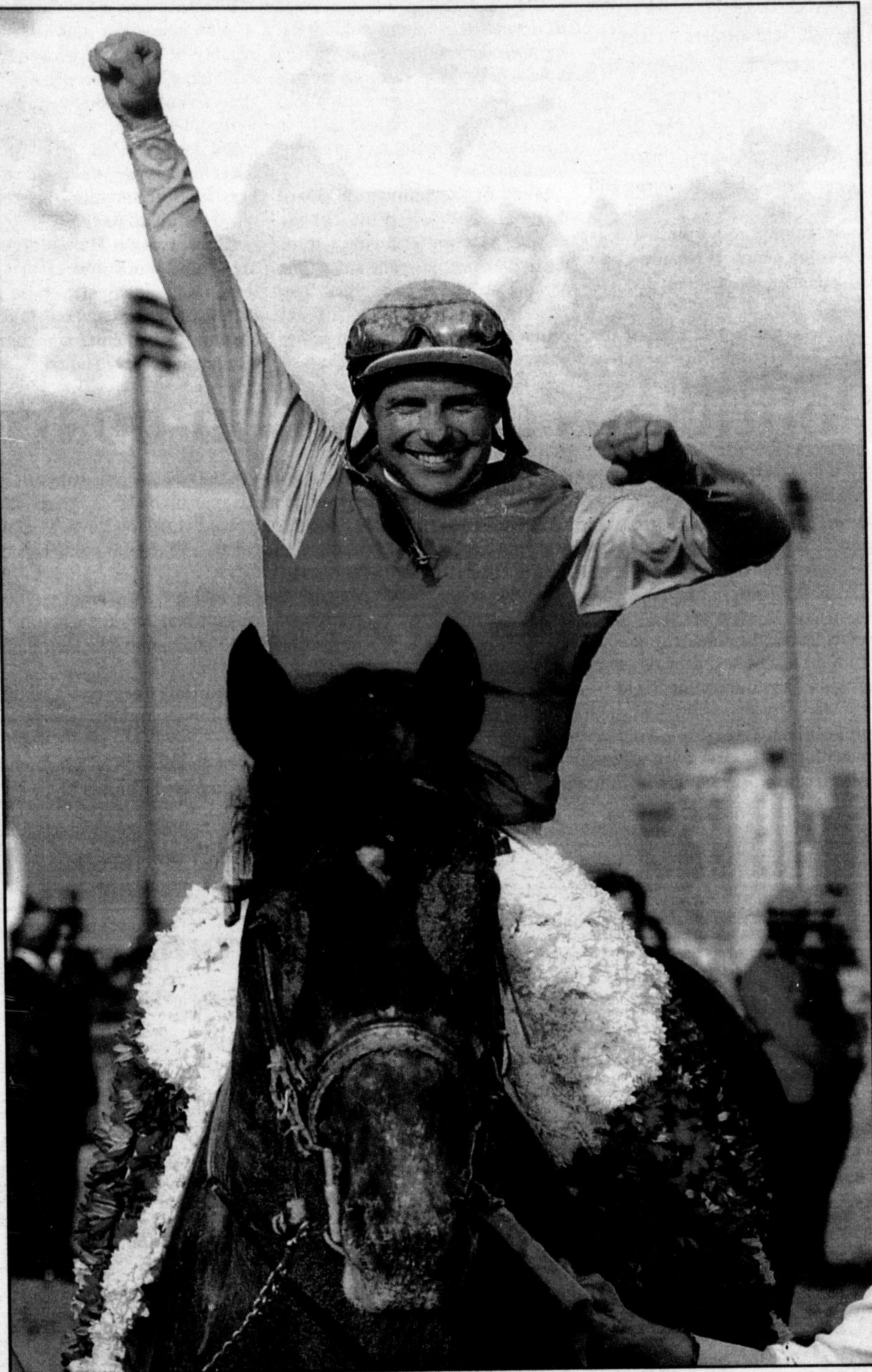


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Golden moment

Jockey Todd Kabel cheers in celebration of his Queen's Plate victory with Scatter The Gold — of Milton's Sam-Son Farm — as he enters the winner's circle following the 141st running of the prestigious event Sunday at Woodbine Race Track. See story in Sports.

Finally on its way

Public school board will implement JK

By DENNIS SMITH

Special to The Champion

Now is the time to start establishing junior kindergarten, Halton District School Board trustees have decided.

The board voted 8-2 Wednesday night to implement JK, which has been considered a few times in recent years.

Last December, the board rejected junior kindergarten, with many trustees supporting the concept but being concerned about the timing.

Shifting circumstances prompted some trustees to change their minds about JK, which educates four-year-olds.

Oakville Trustee Debbie Marklew said

'Fresh' CH Foundation board meets

By LISA CARTWRIGHT

The Champion

The new Conservation Halton Foundation board of directors met quietly for the first time Wednesday at its annual general meeting.

The group consisting of former board members returning to the new board Sarah Lowe, Dick Haas, Jack Arno and Don Ford as well as the three Conservation Halton (CH) appointees — chair Brian Penman, vice-chair Dennis Gregor and member-at-large Jean Williams — met for a number of reasons including to fill several positions on the new board.

CH's Marnie Piggot nominated Mr. Gregor for foundation board chair. While he accepted the position, he told the CH board of directors at a meeting the following day that he wouldn't retain the position any longer than the one-year term.

"It allows the foundation to get back on its feet," he said. "Rightfully so, the (foundation) chair should not be on the (CH) board."

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she opposed junior kindergarten last December, fearing it wouldn't be implemented in her community and would mean reduced early learning grants.

"But northeast Oakville will see it now. It has been promised in the capital strategic plan," she said. "And with the \$70 million in grants to improve grades 1 to 3 reading skills, losing early learning grants is not as drastic an issue."

Milton Trustee Erica Andrew said there's a strong demand for JK. She said it's useful in providing early identification of learning difficulties and in promoting literacy for young children.

"I gave the board a great deal of research from many sources and with each report, the research strongly supports junior kindergarten," said Ms Andrew.

She added the board's capital strategic plan provides for equity of access to JK. "The cost of retrofitting schools for the program will be covered by new pupil place grants obtained."

The board offered JK classes for a year in the mid-90s after it was mandated by the former NDP provincial government. But the program was dropped following a government change and funding cuts.

The Halton District School Board is one of only a few boards in Ontario currently without JK.

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TUESDAY INSERTS

- Fortinos*
- Zellers • Cashway
- White Rose

*Selected areas only

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Heartworm is the most serious of all the worm parasites. They can affect any dog and more recently cats. Each year heartworm disease threatens dogs and cats with death or permanent disability. Heartworms usually do not cause any outward signs until the disease is advanced. They can grow to a length of 15-30 cm and be hundreds in numbers living on nutrients which they steal from your dog's or cat's bloodstream as well as causing irreversible damage to your pet's internal organs. Heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquitoes which take up the immature (baby) worms called microfilariae with their blood meal when an animal already infected with heartworm is bitten. The worms then grow into infective larvae and are transmitted to other dogs and cats by the mosquito when it feeds again. Once in your pet's body the larvae travel to the heart and lungs where they mature and produce new microfilariae. One infected dog (including foxes and coyotes) can easily become a source of infection for an entire area or neighbourhood and every dog and cat exposed to the infective mosquitoes are at risk. You can protect your dog or cat from this serious health threat by implementing a heartworm prevention program. This involves a simple blood test prior to starting a monthly medication given June first to November.

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