



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

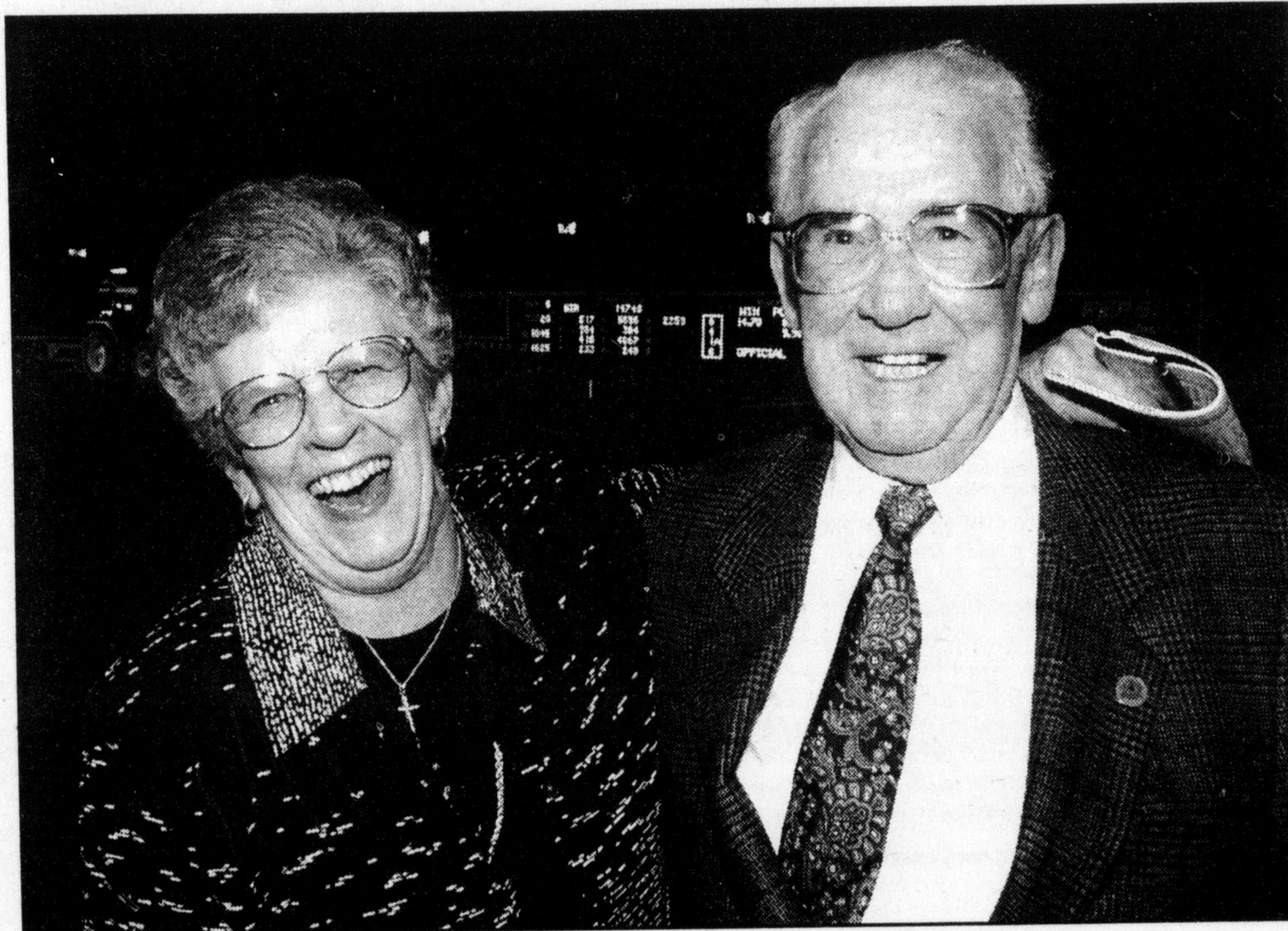
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2000

Locally owned colt wins Breeders Crown

Grant's Bettors Delight plays the spoiler



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Hornby's John Grant (pictured above with wife Kay) was all smiles after his horse Bettors Delight won the \$871,475 Breeders Crown Two-Year-old Colt Pace at Mohawk Friday. Meanwhile (below) driver Daniel Dube steered Gallo Blue Chip to a thoroughly convincing win in the \$602,680 Three-Year-Old Colt Pace.

It could have been a totally fruitless night for local horsemen at Mohawk Racetrack Friday.

Fortunately, John Grant's capable colt stepped in to prevent the whitewash.

Bettors Delight — owned by the Hornby native — confirmed that his elimination win in national and track record time of 1:51.3 was no fluke as he and driver Mike Lachance upset undefeated favourite Real Desire (trained by Campbellville's Blair Burgess) to win the two-year-old colt pace at the 16th annual Breeders Crown.

Great finish

Trained by Cambridge's Scott McEnemy, Bettors Delight hauled down Real Desire and Pro Bono Best in mid-stretch to take the seven race — and also the most lucrative at \$871,475 — in a sizzling 1:52.4.

The one-and-one-quarter length victory was his fourth in eight starts.

"This one was a big surprise," said Lachance. "I knew he was very good

because he raced last week in a track record.

"I was expecting a good race out of him, but I just didn't think he could get close to Real Desire."

The best individual performance of the evening was saved for last, as Gallo Blue Chip was simply awesome during race eight in winning the \$602,680 Three-Year-Old Colt Pace — and by doing so stamped himself not only the divisional champion but quite probably Horse of the Year.

Decisive win

With Daniel Dube in the bike, Gallo Blue Chip — the 1-2 choice — simply cashiered the field, taking charge past the quarter and widening to defeat nine rivals, winning by nearly eight

lengths in 1:51.1. Longshot George Scooter out finished On Line Service for second spot.

Overall, Trottin' Trevor Ritchie was the standout — winning three events in the eight-race, \$5.7 million extravaganza to tie John Campbell for most single-season driver wins at the Breeders Crown.

The Ontario Jockey Club regular began the night by taking the two-year-old filly trot with Syrinx Hanover, who grabbed the lead midway through and held on for a Breeders Crown and Canadian record of 1:55.66.

From there, Ritchie made a strong late charge with Banker Hall to win the Two-Year-Old Colt Trot — again establishing a Canadian and Crown benchmark of 1:56.2 — and then combined with longshot Aviano to win the Three-Year-Old Filly Trot in an even 1:56.

Meanwhile, Milton's Chris Christoforou — arguably the most accomplished driver over the past two years — had six rides Friday but failed to reach the winner's circle.

He came close on two occasions, taking third-place honours in the Three-Year-Old Colt Pace and Two-Year-Old Filly pace with Victory Party and Electrical Art respectively.

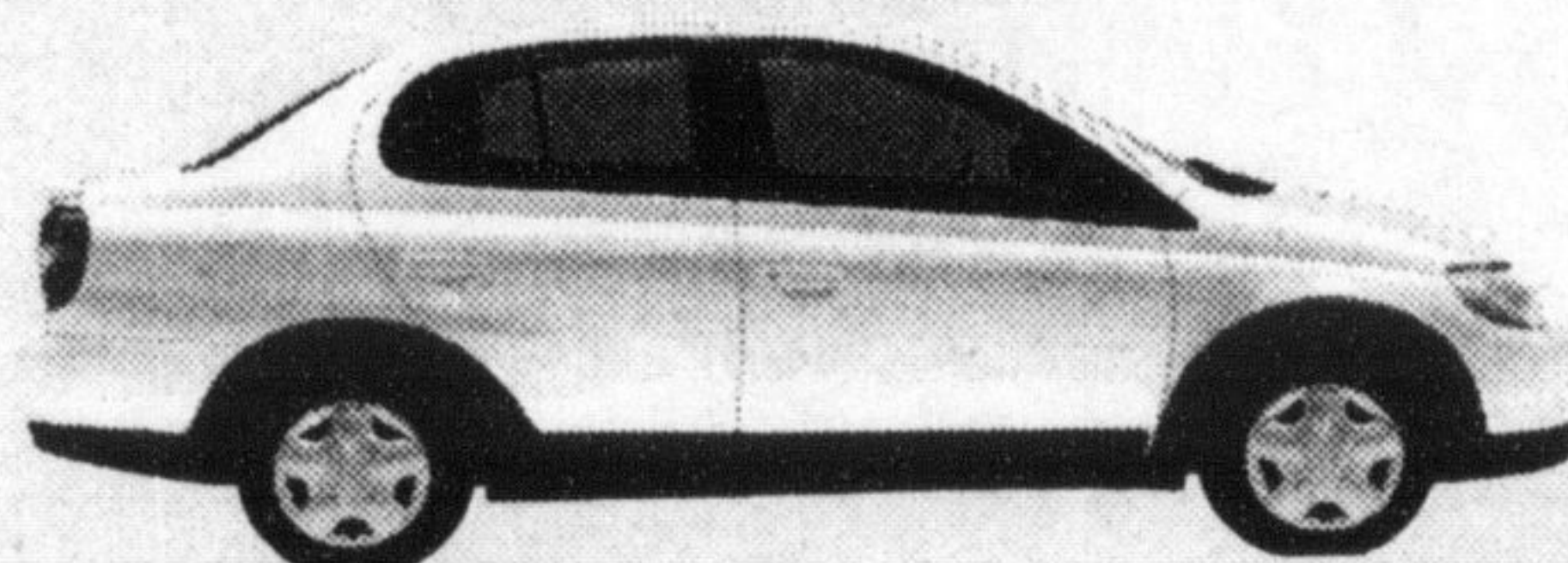
Next up at Mohawk is the Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final next — for top two and three-year-olds — this Saturday.



Trevor Ritchie holds up three fingers, one for each of his Breeders Crown victories Friday.



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