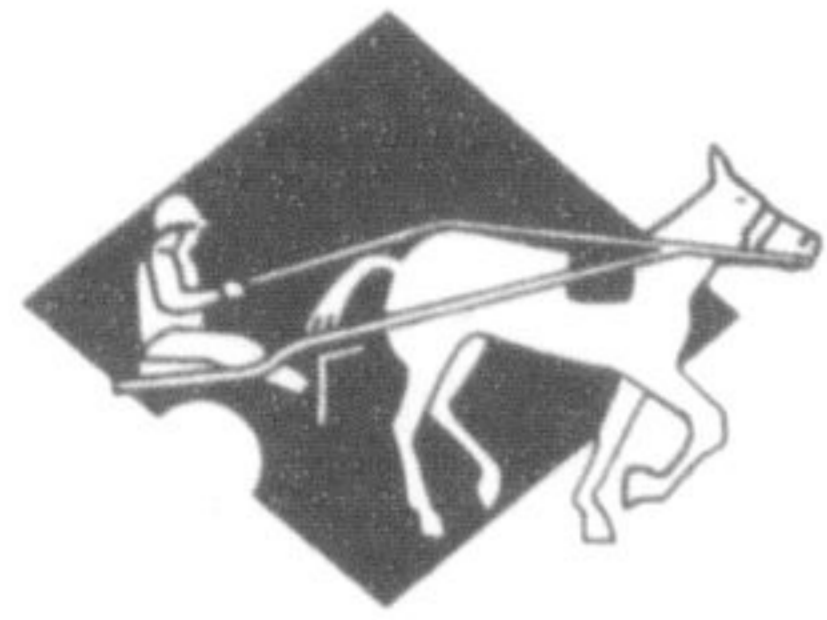


# Fortune shines on U Lucky Guy in Nassagaweya Stakes showdown

U Lucky Guy certainly didn't need any help from 'Lady Luck' in delivering an impressive victory in the first \$174,950 division of the Nassagaweya Stakes for two-year-old colt pacers at Mohawk August 27.



## Hoof Beat

with **BRUCE MURRAY**

With Paul MacDonell steering the Ontario-sired son of Northern Luck, U Lucky Guy was well back in seventh early on — through fractions of :28 and :57 — as favoured Mr. Thirty Two took the field to the far turn.

But following the cover of Actionuke and driver John Campbell, MacDonell and U Lucky Guy swooped up to challenge around the turn and pulled away down the stretch for a one-and-a-half length win in 1:54.1.

Longshot Heat It Up came on to finish second, while Winslow Gambler wound up third, as Mr. Thirty Two — the 7-5 choice — faded to seventh.

It was the third win in five outings for U Lucky Guy, who's trained by Tim Pinske for owners Pinske Stables and Minnesota's David Hoese.

"(In the past) he wanted to get a little aggressive off the gate," explained Pinske. "He still was a little bit tonight. But we put an open bridle on him and he seems to be manageable now. I was glad to see him relax once he got in the hole. Then he got moved up with cover and it worked out for us."

U Lucky Guy, who most recently finished second in an Ontario Sires Stakes Gold Final at Flamboro Downs, picked up a pot of \$87,475 for the victory to push his bankroll to \$160,381. As an 8-1 outsider, he paid \$18.10 for the win and topped a whopping \$2,015.80 triactor.

He'll now be pointed to the Metro eliminations on Saturday, prior to the lucrative \$1-million Metro Pace the following weekend at Mohawk.

The second division went to Bartolomeo, with Yannick Gingra in the sulky. Firing out from the seven hole, the New Zealand-bred son of Presidential Ball wired his rivals with fractions of :26.3, :57.3 and 1:26.2 before fending off a challenge from 8-5 favourite Mister Big — also from Pinske Stable — through the stretch to prevail by one-and-a-half lengths in 1:54.2.

It was Bartolomeo's second win in seven starts, and he too will compete at Saturday's Metro eliminations for trainer Steven Reid and owner Cavalla Bloodstock Limited of Auckland, New Zealand.

"He was good at the Meadowlands," said Gingras. "He just had a couple of tough trips. They went in (1):52 also. Tonight, he showed like he had really good gate speed. He's got crazy speed. We were able to have a kind middle half and he sprinted home from there. He had something left. He was just acting like a colt, a little baby at the wire. He just didn't know what to do, but he wasn't tired at all."

Sent postward as the second choice at 2-1, Bartolomeo — who finished eighth in the Woodrow Wilson final early last month at the Meadowlands after taking second in an elimination — returned \$6.10 for the win and topped a modest exactor and triactor of \$17.90 and \$189.20 respectively.

## Local horsemen red hot in August

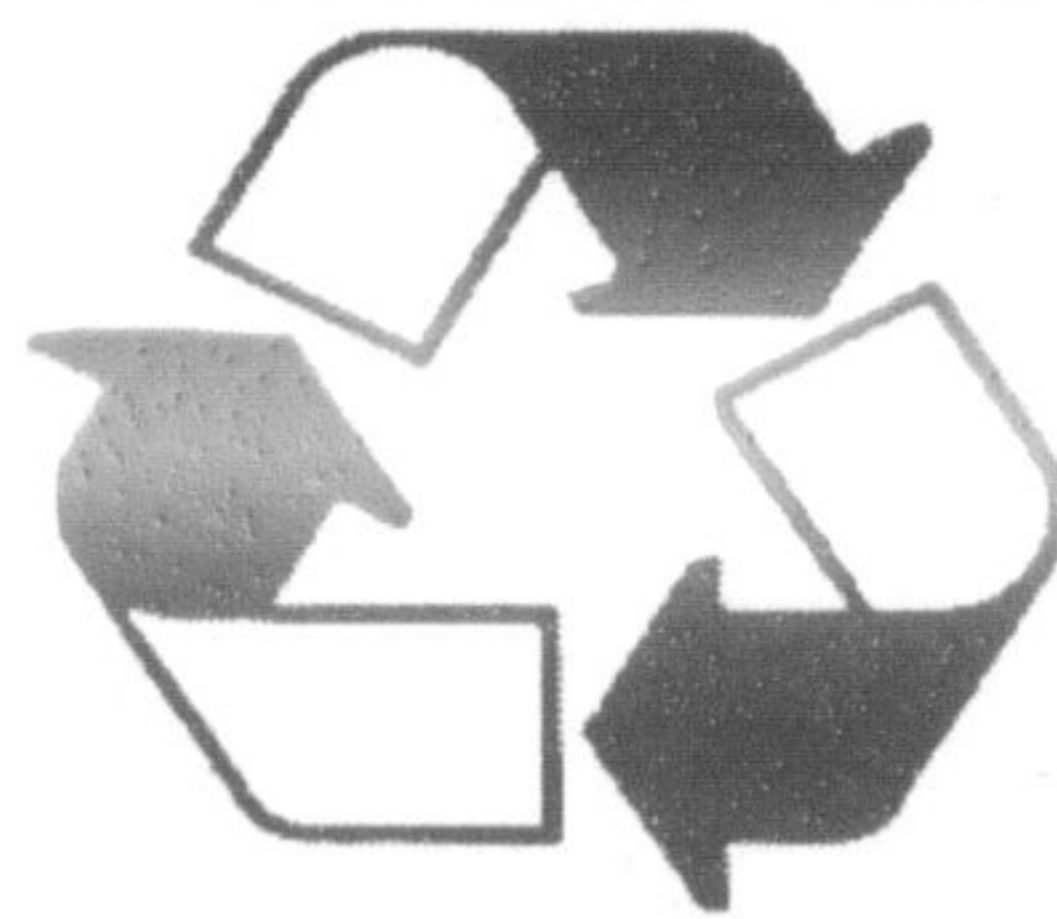
Milton-area drivers and trainers are among the leaders in just about every harness racing category through Mohawk's August campaign.

Veteran reinsman Luc Ouellette was the top money earner with \$670,499 and amassed 28 victories, just two behind leader Rick Zeron of Oakville. Chris Christoforou and Randy Waples also made the top five for both wins and earnings. The two tied for fourth with 18 wins apiece and were separated by just four thousand dollars in overall purses, with Waples ahead in fourth with \$505,401.

Meanwhile, local trainer Joe Stutzman tied for second in wins with seven and had \$161,830 in earnings for fifth spot.

Statistics are based on a minimum of 20 starts for drivers and 10 starts for trainers.

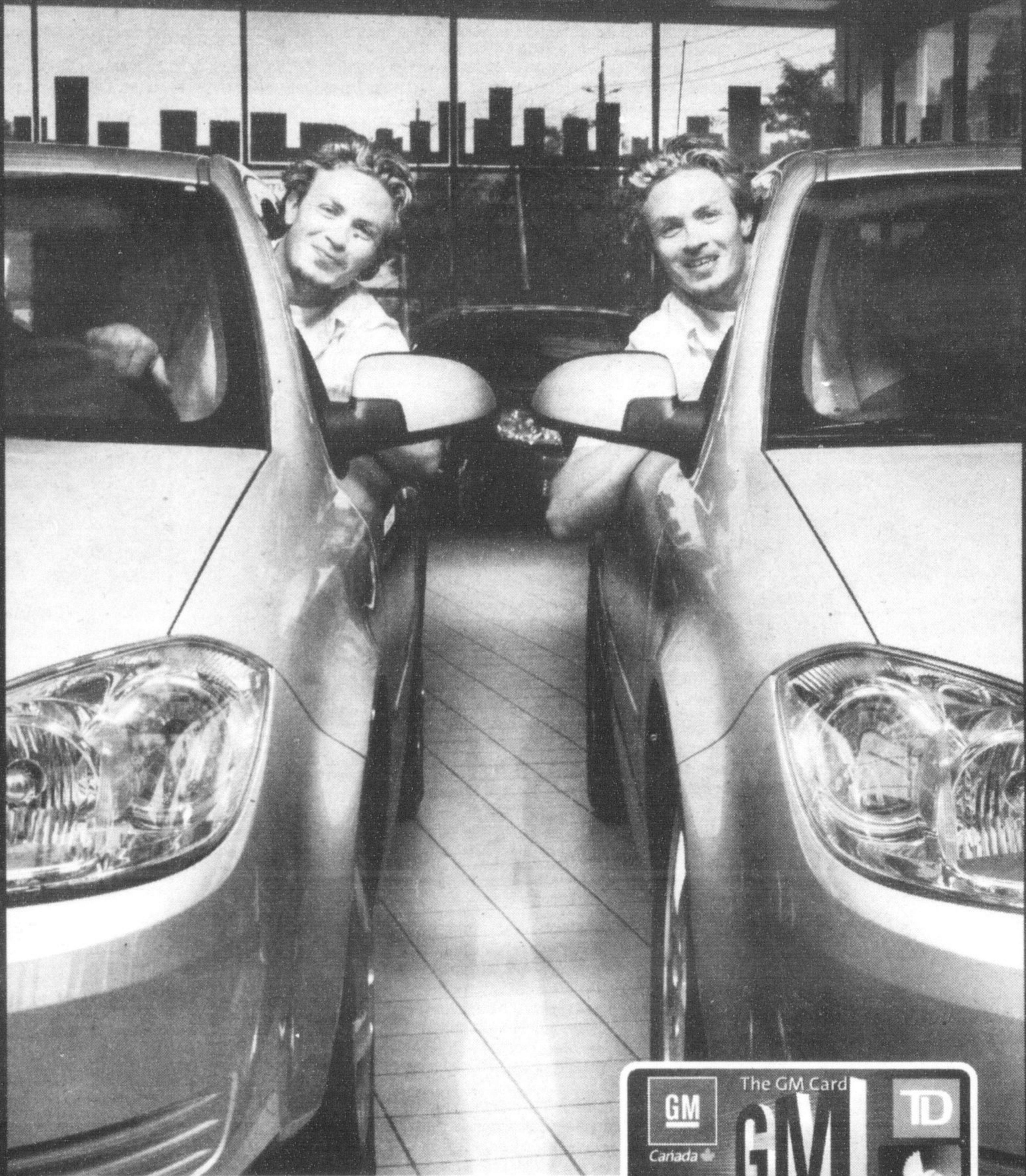
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# PITCH IN CANADA



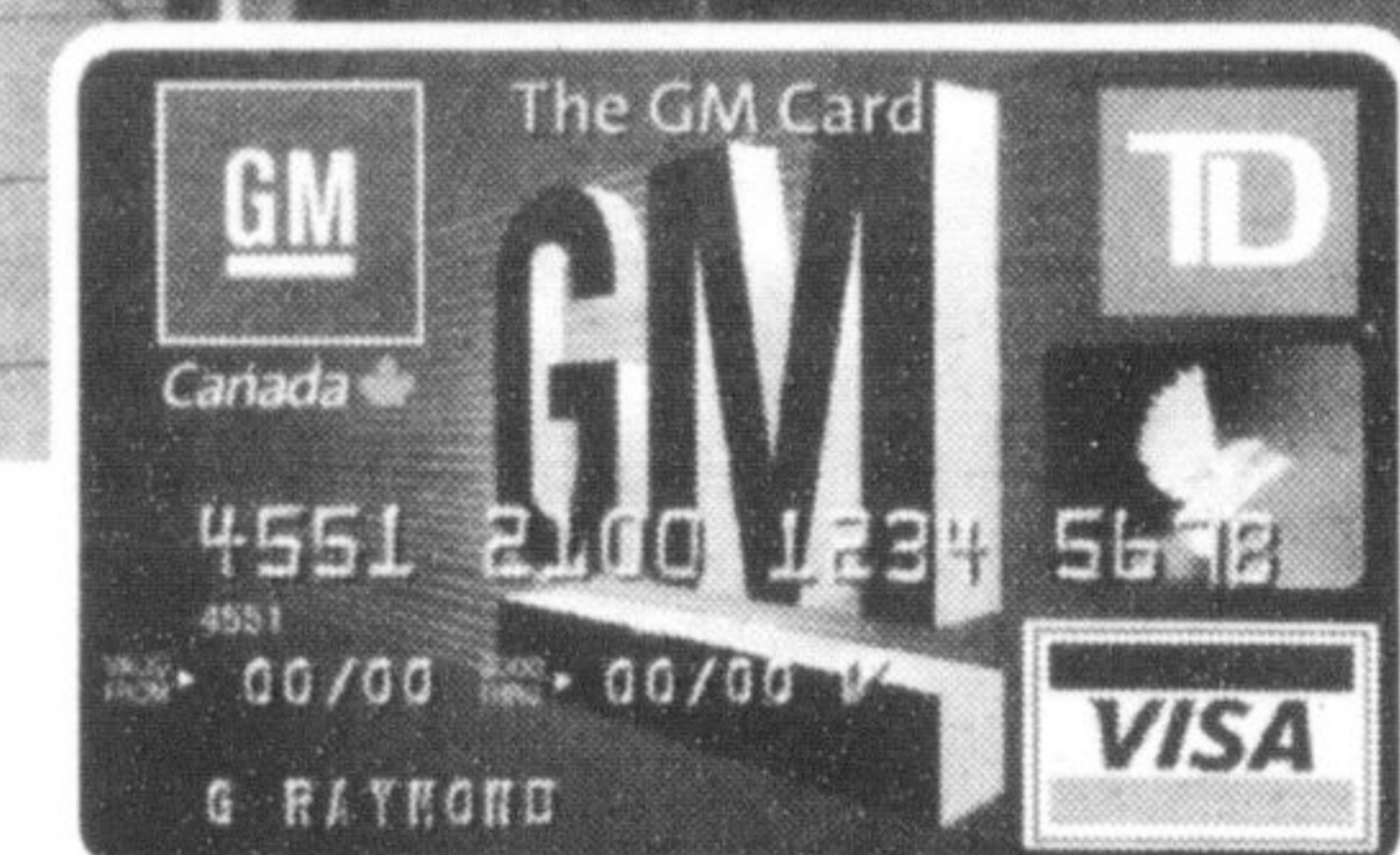
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