

SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR: STEVE LeBLANC e-mail sleblanc@miltoncanadianchampion.com



HARD-HITTING ACTION: Dave Parent of Georgetown scrambles out of his #31 car as a track official extinguishes a small fire under the hood after he was hit by George Nisbett of Campbellville — driving the #05 Moffatt Scrap Iron-sponsored car (right) — in the Minismash event of Sunday's fall fair demolition derby. Nisbett went on to win the event. Milton's Steve Gervais won the FS Street Stock event Sunday, while Campbellville's Meredith Mayhew was first in last Friday's Midsize Street Stock and Jared Tozer of Milton won Saturday's four-cylinder consolation. For more photos of the derby, see a slideshow at www.miltoncanadianchampion.com.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Nelson and 'Taz make championship combo

Duo cap stellar season with provincial jumper title

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Julie Van Wieren vividly recalls her first few encounters with Maddie Nelson, and the impression instantly formed from them.

"She was just so gutsy, even back then," said coach Van Wieren of a then nine-year-old aspiring equestrian. "She was so small but would get on anything you asked her to."

Jump ahead about a year and Nelson was set to begin another meaningful relationship, one she looks back on with equal clarity.

"He was wild... crazy actually," she said.

That rather blunt characterization refers to trusty mount Razmataz, a thoroughbred appendix that the Nelson family — specifically mother Liz — rescued from an abusive situ-

ation in nearby Hamilton.

The result of an unplanned and undesired siring, with pops breaking through a fence to get to a mare, the now 12-year-old grey colt was little more than a cast-off field horse when the Nelsons took her under their wing.

Fearless young rider, meet untamed horse.

To hear those closest to them tell it, Maddie and Razmataz's partnership could almost be considered destiny.

But for the duo to secure Grand Champion honours in just their second season on the Ontario Trillium Child/Adult Jumper circuit — well nobody would have predicted that.

At least not without having their sanity called into question.

"When we first got him he couldn't jump a stick," explained Liz, who appropriately named the family horse after the Tasmanian

Devil due to his wild side.

Razmataz is jumping a lot bigger obstacles than that now, with he and 16-year-old Maddie having recently punctuated a stellar season with top spot at the provincial championship finals at Palgrave's Caledon Equestrian Park.

Far from favourites to finish first, the pair delivered three clear rounds and won two out of the three classes to reign supreme — beating out 45 other entries, many with a lot more experience.

"It was awesome to win it," said the triumphant rider, a Grade 11 student at Bishop Reding who trains and works weekends at the nearby Vanbrook Equestrian Farm. "We got a standing ovation from the crowd, which was great."

Of course Razmataz's transformation from run-of-the-mill field horse to equestrian

• see 'TAZ'S' on page A22



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

DYNAMIC DUO: Maddie Nelson is all smiles since she and Razmataz claimed the provincial championship.

THEY HAVE BIG DREAMS
Help them get there.

Reading | Writing | Math | Spelling | Grammar | Study Skills | Homework Support
Little Readers Academy (Ages 3-6)
• Small Class Size
• Individual Programs

Alternate 1/2 day classes to support JK/SK schedules
• Reading, Writing, Math, Computers

OXFORD LEARNING Since 1984
Skills for Success, Lessons for Life.

Milton | 905.693-9978 | www.oxfordlearning.com

ALEXANDER KEITH'S KITCHEN PARTY

3347553 3347553

23th ALEXANDER KEITH'S BIRTHDAY

• Special Menu • Entertainment • East Coast Karaoke
• Beverage Specials • Prizes • Give-Aways
Come Join The Fun!

Saturday, October 4th @ 7:00pm
and all day Sunday October 5th

For The Celebration of...

2 FOR 1 PASTA!
eat in only 11-9 everyday!

Leaf Games at the IVY!

FREE Room Available for Parties & Meetings

Big Screen TV!

2 FOR 1 PASTA!

The Ivy Arms

201 Main Street
905-876-4899

MUSIC, FRIENDS AND KEITH'S IN THE HOUSE.