

# Fierce finish powers Well Said to record-breaking triumph



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**WINNING RIDE:** Ron Pierce drives Well Said to victory at Mohawk.

By Karen Briggs  
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Confidently handled by Ron Pierce, Well Said mowed down Keep It Real in deep stretch to emphatically capture the \$1.5-million Pepsi North America Cup Saturday night at Mohawk.

He did so in a blistering stakes, track and Canadian record 1:48.1.

With the victory he joins Bettor's Delight as the only other horse to win the Breeders Crown at two and North America Cup at three.

The winning time eclipsed the 1:48.4 stakes mark set by Red River

Hanover in 2002, when the Cup was staged at Woodbine.

It was the fourth Cup win for Jeffrey Snyder of New York City and the third for co-owner Susan Grange of Cheltenham, Ontario's Lothlorien Farm. For Pierce, it was his second Cup win, having taken the 2006 edition with Total Truth.

Wayne Whebby's Keep It Reel — with Miltonian Steve Condren at the reins — went postward as the sentimental 9-5 favourite and looked poised to prevail before Well Said (5-2) reeled him in with a powerful fourth-quarter kick.

The two had tangled the previous

week in the Cup elimination, with Well Said earning the win with a 1:50 performance.

"He sure was (awesome)," said Pierce. "I wasn't worried about him. I was worried about myself. The trip was absolutely perfect. You couldn't have sat down before the race and drew a map of how you'd like the race to go and have it come out any better than that. He could have went more (faster), this colt. He went pretty handy."

Well Said banked \$750,000 for the victory, his third in four starts this season — pushing his career earnings to just over \$1.3-million.

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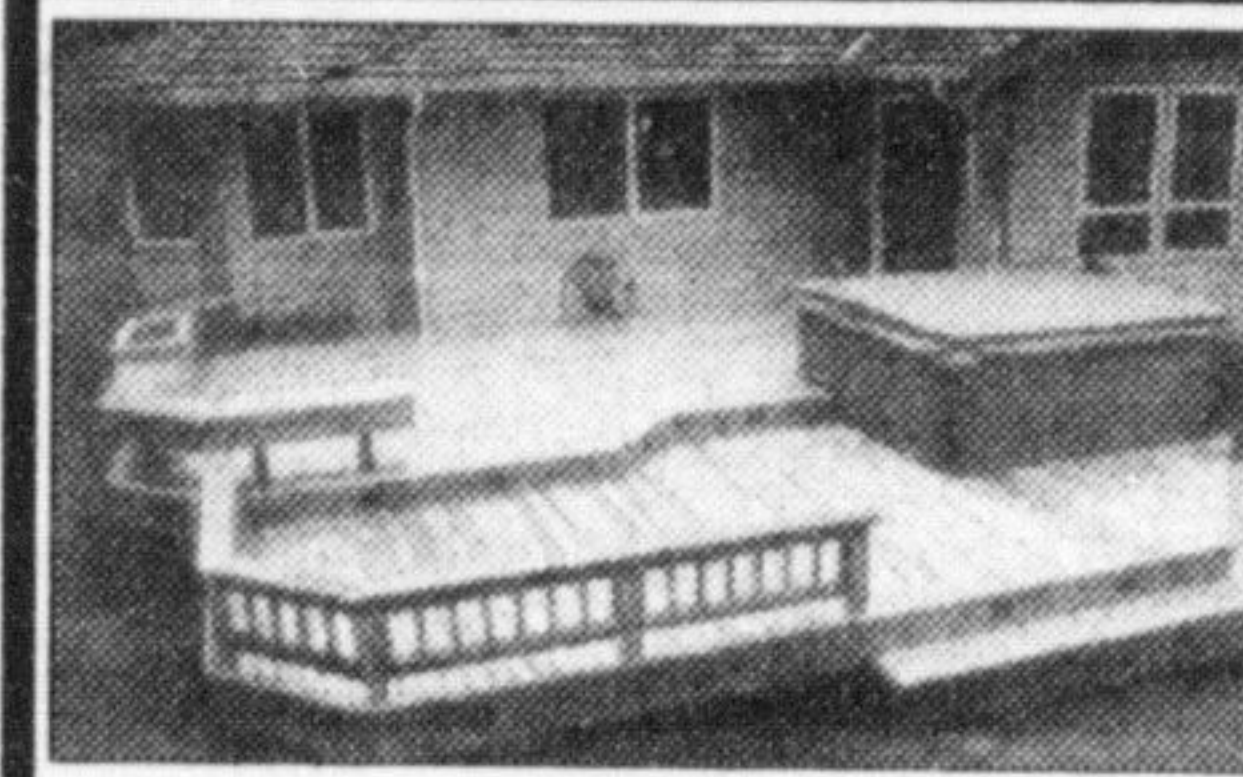
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