

# Milton riders show off at Loblaws Classic

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By VIRGINIA TAYLOR

It is no secret that Milton and surrounding area is considered a hub of sorts for horse population and related activities.

What is becoming increasingly more evident is the wealth of talented horse-rider-trainer/ combinations being produced within the boundaries of this municipality.

At the Loblaws Classic horse show held recently at Sunnybrook Park, Toronto, an even impressive number of Milton names kept cropping up as judges announced placings. Even more impressive as this show is Canada's most prestigious summer event, and as such attracts the country's top-calibre horses and riders. Each class has a high number of entries, making every placing well-earned.

The following is a list of Milton area horses and riders who won and placed at this event, the "Royal" of outdoor shows. Miltonians can be proud to have such a wealth of talent going forth from Milton and winning against the best horses and riders Canada has to offer.

From Mike Grinyer and Bobbie Reber's Stable, Around the Bend:

Large Pony Champion: Jennifer Coats on Zephyr; Medium Pony Champion: Bonnie-Lynn Fraser on Farnley Soya (owner Bobbie Reber); Reserve Champion Conformation Hunter: Eric Lamaze on Noseprint (owner Ann Fury)

Children's Hunter Division: fourth and sixth, Heather McPherson on Guess Again; first, second and fourth, Carrie Dickenson on Made to Measure; Medium Pony Division: first and fourth, Alexandra Breen on Rainbow Connection; Large Pony Division: first, Allison Rouse on Cats Meadow; Junior Jumper Division in ribbons: Sue Thompson riding Star Castle; Susan Ward riding Blue Print; Janice McMaster riding Last To Leave;

First-Year Hunter Division: Andrea Breen riding Full Cry; Regular Working Hunter Division: Susan Ward riding Front Page Quiet Time (owned by Anne Wilson); Junior Jumper Division: third, fourth and sixth, Jennifer O'Neil riding Thrifty Nickle



Photo by BRIAN REES

At the Loblaws Classic, Mike Grinyer of Milton rode Lorbas, owned by Roberta Jackson to a fifth-place finish in the open jumper class. Riders from the area came away from the recent event in Toronto with good standings in several classes.

Best Ever Division: (This is a developmental series for 16-21-year-old jumper riders aimed at producing Grand Prix potential. This series was initiated and funded by Sport Canada, a federal body concerned with tapping Canadian talent, and preparing them for international experience.) Jennifer also placed sixth in this division with is particularly commendable as the fences are close to the intermediate level.

Mike Grinyer was in the ribbons with his Holsteiner Bay gelding Lasando in the Open Jumper Division. This horse is proving to be quite impressive and he's definitely the one to watch in the future.

From Dave Ballard's Stable, Looking Back Farm:

Erynn Casselman must surely have come home with at least as many smiles as ribbons after the Classic.

She and her seven-year-old brown gelding called Formal Affair won every class they entered (four of four) in the Children's Hunter Division. According to Dave Ballard, Erynn's trainer, this rarely happens anywhere but he said this duo is "quite a team" and that he is not at

all surprised with their results.

This team went on to win the fifth class which was Equitation over Fences 'B'. This class is particularly desirable to win as the rider's form is carefully scrutinized by the judge, and even with the greatest horse under you, if your own performance as well as style is not impeccable you can be out of the ribbons.

Andrea D'Ambrosia won the Large Pony Hack class on Melody Lane.

Leslie Wylie from Bermuda (who's training with Dave this summer) seems to be having a successful season with It's Just Me. She and Christy Carthew, who rides Special K have been running in the ribbons frequently.

Heather Speck is doing well with her horses Escort and Ferrari. They both placed in the Junior Jumper Stake, no mean feat these days as the fences and distances for this division are becoming increasingly more challenging as the years bring better horses and riders to these high class shows.

We're not sure if it's age or modesty that made Dave Ballard add this footnote to his line-up of winners at the Classic... Erin Ballard, his seven-year-old daughter placed third in the Small Pony Hack and got

a fifth and a sixth in the Hunter Over Fences, riding Star Time.

The competitors are by no means the only winners at this magnificent affair sponsored by Loblaws. The organizers have spared no effort to make this show attractive to the whole family and many put it on their must-do list year after year.

For the first time at the Loblaws Classic, Carriage Driving Classes were held. These are always crowd pleasers. The Governor-General's Horse Guards brass band at this year's Classic performed military music for an enthusiastic crowd.

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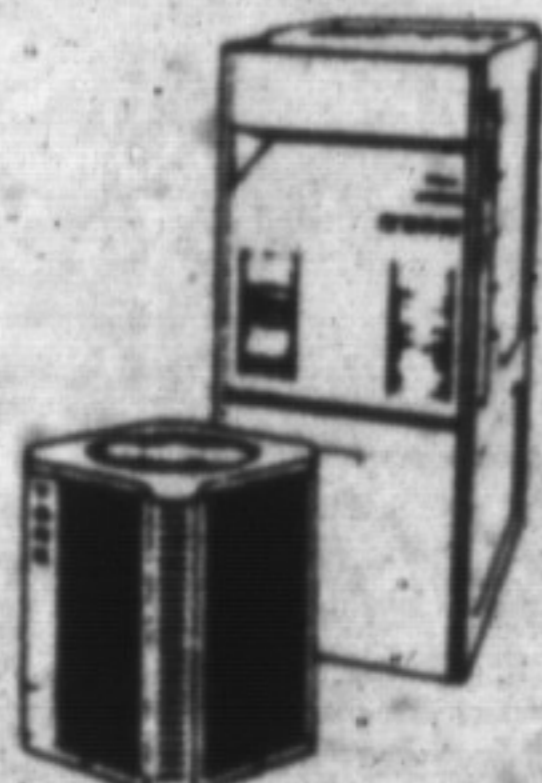
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