

# Great white stallions are in Midland

by Sue Charlebois  
Yes, it's true, the great white stallions are coming to Midland to perform miracles you may never see again. The 60 stallions who belong to the Herrmann family, Florida, have been raised by them since the breed was created.

The Herrmann's originally from Austria, have 200 acres in Florida where the stallions are trained for performances by

members of the family during the winter months when they are not performing.

The stallions have performed all over Europe, United States, and have been in Bermuda.

Tomorrow will mark the first time the stallions and their riders have ever been in Ontario to show off their sleek performances.

According to Gabriella Lester, a

family member, it takes about five years to completely train one of the stallions in the air performances that they do.

## White beauties

Although the white beauties put on an unbelievably performance, it also takes skills of the rider to help along.

With the exception of two, all the riders are members of the family. Gabriella says that

she had no schooling to ride the stallions but that she was taught by her grandfather and ever since this training has been carried on throughout the family. The youngest family member who rides is seven year old Tanya who has not yet performed but is working on it.

Eighteen stallions are in Midland for the weekend performance on Saturday at the Midland Centennial Arena and will then travel to Sudbury. However, Gabriella says that they don't push them but rather give them a few days rest in between shows.

Two specially built trailers carry the stallions around that have special air suspension so there is no stress on their legs while travelling.

Although the cost of raising 60 stallions is very expensive, Gabriella says, "We feel that the money that gets taken in is for the horses," "We're in it more so people can see what they can do."

"The jumping is really something," says the horse lover, "But it is something that can be lost very easily if it is not kept up."

Gabriella says the stallions will always remain a part of the family and that they will continue to show them to the public.

"If you see it and go and tell people they just won't believe you," she says.

## Great adventure story

Col. Ottomar Herrmann smuggled out a group of Lipizzan Stallions from under the noses of the Russians. Years ago he explained: "We moved out in the night with nothing except a handful of horses." These horses he said were more precious than jewels. Walt Disney made a movie about the way the rare breed was saved, called "Miracle of the White Stallions."

Fighting in the 30 years war the stallions used "airs above ground" which were

originally battle maneuvers.

The art of training the "airs above ground" was passed on from generation to

generation.

Col. Herrmann's family are considered the greatest trainers of this act even today. One of their stallions,

Flying Falcon, leaps a hurdle on his hind legs like a man. He is the only horse in the world that can do this, with his rider Harry Herrmann.



Two shows Saturday

## Crafts and ping pong anyone?

For many elementary children summer is a time of relaxation and fun without the school books.

Midland YMCA is presenting "Fun with Crafts and Table Tennis" along with a "Bike and Hike Club" this summer for elementary children. The projects are a

result of a government grant the YMCA received to go towards summer programs.

Although elementary children are encouraged to take part the table tennis it is also open to high school students who may wish to play.

For the Crafts club the minimum fee will be \$2 to go towards the cost

of materials used in the class, and a fee of \$3 will be charged for the bike club.

Registration forms can be obtained at the YMCA or at any of the area elementary schools.

Anyone wishing more information can contact Richard at 526-7828.

## Joint committee to set plans for recreation future

One of the objectives of Penetanguishene's planning board this year is to expand the recreation policies in the municipality's Official Plan.

As the board deals mainly with long-term planning policies, they've formed a joint working committee with Penetang's arena, parks and recreation board, which looks after the shorter-term planning and day-to-day operation of programs.

There is a certain amount of overlap between the planning and implementation stages between the two boards so representatives from each one, will meet to make clearer the community's recreational objectives.

Planning board members Anne Murphy and Douglas Mundy, along with planning board secretary Paul Hodgins will form one half of the joint committee. Arena, parks and recreation representatives will be recreation co-ordinator Ron Marchildon, and board members Vince Moreau and Don McNee.

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## CANADA WEEK PROCLAMATION

To honour Canada, our beloved country, deeply enriched by the contribution of many cultures, fatherland of all Canadians;

To honour this country, home of over 22,000,000 people, proud of their heritage and the freedom they enjoy;

To honour this land of peace and prosperity, this promised land of untold resources;

To honour this land which is ours, of which we all are proud, I hereby proclaim the week of June 25th to July 1st "CANADA WEEK".

Thus, I invite the citizens of the Village of Port McNicoll to celebrate it by striving to know our country better, by flying our flag, by participating in CANADA WEEK and by promoting Canadian unity.

Alexander J. Hancox  
Clerk-Treasurer