

Meditorial

By Rev. Jim Paul

Only three weeks of summer vacations have passed and many children are already bored with their freedom; their idle hands have turned to mischief. Desperate cries such as "Johnny, stop bothering your sister," or, "Mary, if you do that again I'm gonna spank you" can be heard wafting out of kitchen windows and backyards of many homes along the Castor. Parents, do take heart however, that you live in Canada and not in Sweden. On July 1, 1979 that country brought a new law into force which makes it illegal for a parent to spank a child. A pamphlet produced by the justice ministry in Sweden states:

By continuous teamwork with a loving guardian the child eventually develops an inner voice to say what it must and must not do. Such a consciousness usually begins to develop around the age of three . . . This inner development is impoverished by punishment. (The Calgary Herald, July 12, 1979)

This evaluation is based upon a very optimistic view of the child. In this view morality is a natural development of the child. But is this a biblical view of human nature? Is it true to say that the child develops into a person making all the right moral choices? Is it accurate to say that "this inner development is impoverished by punishment"? God's Word clearly establishes the rightness of child punishment. Based on the foundational truth of the depravity of human nature, the bible exhorts that "foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him". (Proverbs 22:15)

Words such as 'depravity' and 'foolishness' used to describe a child's nature are not as accurate as the little three letter word—sin. It may be a shock to you, or something you've known all along that your sweet little Johnny or Mary is a sinner. The bible states in Romans 3:23, that "all have sinned (even your precious child) and fall short of the glory of God." Therefore, we do need to discipline our children so that their rebellious, stubborn hearts, set on fire by sin itself, may be taught to practice that which is right.

Moreover, a parent must realize that discipline can only retard the fire of sin in their children, but never extinguish it. No matter how you busy your son in sports activities or how you choose the best of friends for your daughter, they still will sin and break God's heart. The only complete solution of their sin is found in the shed-blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must then encourage our children to invite the Savior into their lives and experience cleansing from sin.

It would be wise also to pray for Canada that we don't follow Sweden down the same blind alley of humanism and legislate against the clear principles of God's Word.

Castor Valley Baptist Church



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The Hoppertons

Harnessing Horsesense

By Alana Forrester-Verge

Bruce Hopperton trains horses for harness races at the Rideau-Carleton Racetrack on Highway 31 and the Connaught Track in Aylmer, Quebec during the summer season and Blue Bonnets Racetrack in Montreal during the winter.

Bruce's interest in horses dates back to his boyhood days in the Eastern Townships. The father of a close friend allowed twelve-year-old Bruce to hang around the stables and help. After the high school Bruce worked at a variety of trades, and eventually trained horses at stables in St. Hubert outside of Montreal after his regular working day.

With their daughter Donna, Bruce and his wife Maureen finally took the big plunge into full-time horse training when left Montreal in 1970 and relocated south of Russell.

Whatever success comes to a trainer, Bruce explained is the result of a lot of team effort. Owners, vets, blacksmiths, and hired help all participate in the successful maintenance and training of a race horse. Bruce counts himself a lucky man who at the present time is supported and helped by such people.

Bruce's nephew, Sean Sullivan, and Jim Thompson, a Morewood native have worked full-time for the Hoppertons for a few years now. Their hard and steady work has helped in the training of the many horses who have passed through the Hopperton Stables.

Training is a full-time career for Bruce and his family. Maureen attends to the books and daughter Donna helps wherever she is needed.



BRUCE HOPPERTON AND HARNESS HOPEFUL.
(Suzanne Veh Photo)

Her dad proudly recounted her restless in calming her horse whose restlessness temperament had everyone else stymied.

Well-balanced diet

An average day begins with feeding the horses between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Hay, oats, bran, and mixed feed containing molasses, soy bean, and yeast comprise a well balanced diet. Jogging begins between 8 and 8:30 a.m. on a third of a mile stone dust track similar to the ones found on larger raceways. With up to 16 horses who must jog three to five miles daily, that part of Bruce's day finishes around 2 p.m. In addition the stalls must be cleaned and the

horses groomed every day.

Because horses, like athletes, respond best when treated fairly, Bruce does not believe in too frequent racing. When a horse is ready for a season, he races once weekly. Horses who have raced during the previous season may only require three months' training, but a horse who has been out of circulation may need five or six months. A newcomer usually requires more. Many horses attain their prime when they are four or five years old but some may race until they are ten, an exceptional animal a few years beyond that.

Bruce's latest pride and joy is a two year old called Stoney Acres. Stoney was termed "difficult" when Bruce accepted to train him. He has shown great improvement and potential, but needs to gain more speed and more polished manners or willingness to get behind the gate. Bruce hopes to see Stoney race in another month.

Horse owners must be willing to take chances. Financial outlay is high and there is no guarantee of success. A well bred colt, the offspring of a reputed dam and sire, can easily cost upwards of \$30,000. Even what is termed a low bred colt can still cost \$15,000.

A buyer who has acquired a colt or yearling (this term applies to horses up to 18 months old) must then count on an annual expenditure of \$5,000 to \$6,000 for room and board. While minimum purses in Aylmer or Ottawa pay about \$700, Montreal holds the greater attraction for trainer and owner with a \$2,300 minimum purse.

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