

Elite horse farm

By JIM HOLT
STOUFFVILLE — With winter in full retreat and the mayhem and battle of innumerable hockey games simmering down to a whimper, I fulfilled a promise to myself, made in December, to visit High Quest Farm, owned by Vince and Cathi Carcone and situated on the west side of Concession 7 north of the Aurora sideroad.

My interest in making the visit stemmed from the fact that it is one of the very few ranches able to boast a large indoor arena for year-round use. There is also accommodation for fifty horses in modern well lit stalls.

On arrival, I was at once impressed by the well kept, orderliness and cleanliness of the surrounding area, but most of all the high quality of the horses. None of your swayed-backed, broken down nags here. The blood lines looked so rich I felt ill-bred.

Cathi and Vince, who have been at High Quest for 18 months, have obviously spent a lot of time and money in producing a very high quality horse ranch. Set on twenty five acres, and with the whole of the York Forest region for trail use, the farm could not be better

situated. The enormous indoor arena measures 180' x 70' and allows for any type of training to take place. Both English and Western styles are taught here.

The day-to-day running of the ranch is carried out by Cathi and her sister Patti, who arise daily at seven and work Monday through Sunday. When asked if they did not think their working schedule rather tough Cathi replied 'Yes, but we enjoy it'. Vince who also runs an Esso Station at Richmond Hill, is 'The man behind the woman' in this business venture, and takes care of the financing and maintenance of the complex.

Prior to moving to Ballantrae Cathi and Vince rented a horse farm at Maple but dreamed of one day having their own 'spread'. When the opportunity arose they moved into High Quest.

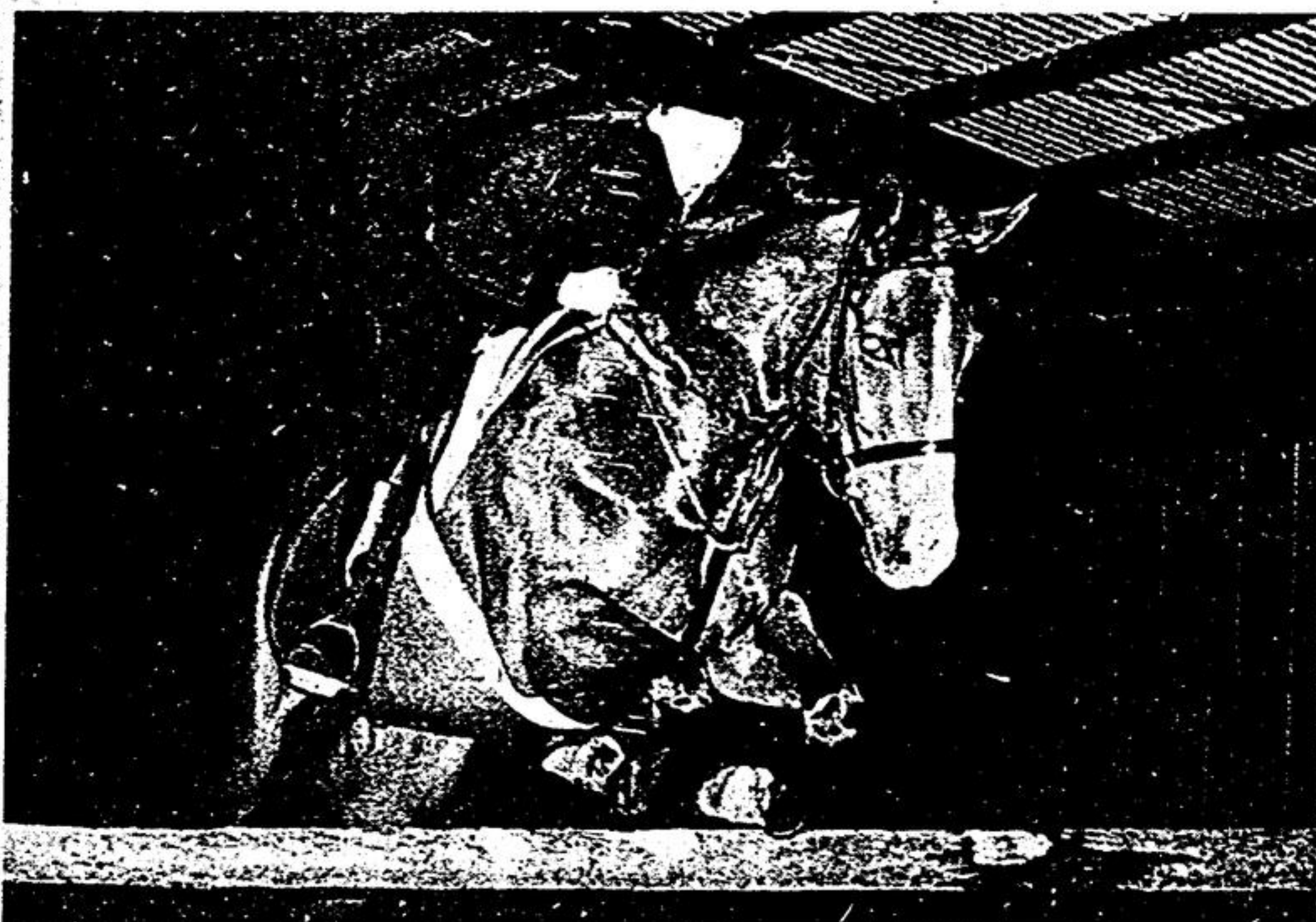
This equable couple first met, several years ago, when they travelled the Competition circuit, according to Cathi they often competed against each other in various classes and being competitors really didn't like each other very much. Obviously the old adage 'If you can't beat em', 'join em' applies here. However, I failed to

discover who joined whom. Pride of place in their large string of horses must go to one of the most handsome looking animals I have ever seen. His name is He'za Great Pine, a seven year old Palomino of 15.2 hands that exudes high breeding; and no doubt if he were for sale an equally high price tag. I was afraid to ask his value.

This beautiful animal is one of the very few to enjoy the title of American Quarter Horse Champion, a title that is indeed rare here in Ontario. This boy is kept very busy; with a long string of clients lining up for his favours.

Whilst there, I had the good fortune of meeting two of Great Pine's offspring owned by two young sisters from Markham, Polly and Fran Perini. Polly owns Lee Bee Pine, a very handsome gelding and Fran owns Buttons Lee Pine, an equally gorgeous mare.

Since going into business there have been no empty stalls at High Quest. In fact many of their previous customers from their 'Maple days' were so satisfied in the way Cathi and Vince looked after their horses they now bring them to Ballantrae for boarding.



High Quest farms' 'Yankee Bull' shows off his paces at the new indoor arena. Sue Sampson, one of High Quest's students, is in the saddle. Jim Holt.

Spartans show form

STOUFFVILLE — The SDSS Spartans senior rugby team got off to a flying start in their first game of the season against Thornlea High School. As a team this was only the third time that Thornlea had played together and unfortunately they proved a weak and ineffectual side against the powerful Spartans. The final score of 58-0 tells its own story.

Wing forward Joe Palmer was first over the Thornlea line with Jim Blizzard following minutes later. Dave Dart was in great form carrying not only the ball, but most of the opposition with him, to score three

consecutive tries. Steve Schell kicked well to convert four of the five tries.

In the second half was a re-run of the first, with Steve Schell, Dave Dart, Tom Miller, Lloyd Johnston and Angelo Monopoli getting the touch-downs and Ken Benson kicking the conversions with accuracy. The Spartans are

undoubtedly as fit as they will ever be for the coming season but holes showed in the fabric of their play. Touch kicking was at a minimum and drop-kicks were non-existent.

A powerful impression was created by the speed of the wing forwards who were superb.

In the scrum the

Spartans reigned supreme and continually walked Thornlea 'off the ball'.

Although not over-worked in this game Russ Harrison showed a cool head in clearing the back line for the Spartans.

All in all a good start for the senior team but there is, as coach Dave Connel says, 'A long way to go'.

Soccer opening

STOUFFVILLE — At a meeting of the Whitechurch Stouffville soccer club on Thursday evening, the club executive finalised plans for the coming season. The season, which opens on Saturday, May 26, is opening with a bang. It is the intention of the club to stage a big send-off with the club teams marching through the town centre accompanied by the town band.

On Thursday May 31, a touring soccer team from Wilbraham High School, Manchester, England, will be hosted by the club and an exhibition game played against a select All Star team from Stouffville.

On April 28, a film show for up and coming soccer stars will be held at the Public Library. Films include 'Pele', which will be shown in three parts, and 'Let's Play'. Both films are 'musts' for soccer players about to embark on a hard season. Second and third parts of the show

Ladies

Softball

STOUFFVILLE — Players are needed for the Stouffville Intermediate Ladies Softball team. The team will be entered in the same league as last year. There are a number of positions vacant but pitchers are at a premium.

Anyone interested in competitive softball please call Lillian Cordell at 640-5241.

will take place on succeeding Saturdays May 5 and 12. Admission is free and there are about 100 seats available.

It was noted that there are half a dozen vacancies within the Mosquito 'B' teams and applications will be accepted on a 'first come first serve' basis. Age group for Mosquito 'B' is 11 to 12 years.

Sponsors for this year's teams are as follows: Squirts 'A' Canadian Tire Store, Squirts 'B' (3 teams) Tree Transplanting Ltd., George Ross Photo, Fawn's Sports Centre.

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Easter hockey

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville were well represented over the Easter holiday weekend at the annual Dominion Ladies Hockey Tournament. This year's event was organised by the Brampton 'Canadettes' Girls Hockey Association.

Over 100 teams from all over Canada, and some from the United States, were entered in the three day event. The teams came from afar as Prince Edward Island in the east, to Edmonton in the west.

The junior 'All star' team were unlucky to draw against Scarborough for their first game. However, having lost the first they made quite sure of the

remainder, and went on to down the Mohawks 7-1, Oakville 6-1 and in the final game skated all over our American cousins, from Clarence, New York, to take the consolation Trophy with a resounding 7-1 win.

In the final game the goals came from Karon Brodie 2, Julie Thompson 2, Gloria Mintz 1, Michelle Coppins 1 and Bonnie Hollingsworth 1.

In the senior division the A and M Records team won their first game of the day on Friday, against the Allen Park Bulls from Michigan. They shutout the Bulls 3-0. On Saturday they went on, to down Havelock 3-2, and Sudbury 2-1, to reach the finals on Sunday against a very strong

team from Cambelford. Try as they may, the Stouffville girls could make no impression against this team and went down to a loss. However, their efforts did not go unrewarded as they came away with the coveted 'Most Sportsmanlike' trophy. In addition to their crests the girls received individual trophies.

Senior players representing Stouffville in the tournament were: Cheryl Singleton, Lynda Roberts, Kathy Kelley, John Ayotte, Kelly Rexgraham, Heather Ross, Vickie Macdonald and Debbie Coxworth.

In the net were Lizette Lacoursiere and Debbie Cooper.

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