



Photo/RICK MADONIK

Prize-winning Arabian

Arlene Lehmann, of Cherry Hill Arabians in Stouffville, takes Bilal out for some air on the weekend. The Lehmanns are top prize-winning stallion Ben-Ben Arabian breeders.

Beechers lead SDSS

It's off to DYSSAA for the Beecher sisters once again, as the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) front runners made their mark at the York Region track and field meet last week.

Anne Beecher was first in the Senior Girls Triple Jump, and she and sister Reaquel were on the SDSS Senior girls relay team which placed third in the 4-x-100 event.

SDSS' Kelly Forsyth took the

gold in the Junior girls javelin event.

Christine Bonadie had a fifth in the Midget girls shot put, while Megan Morrison finished sixth in the Junior girls shot put.

Paul Purdy was seventh in Senior boys' discus, Karam Amer placed eighth in Senior boys long jump, and Wendy Burrows was 10th in Midget girls shot put.

The Beechers were to compete, along with Forsythe, at the Durham-York (DYSSAA) track and field championships this past Monday. See the Weekender for results.

Midget boys softball team seeks coach

With their lineup all but set, the Stouffville Midget softball team is still looking for an assistant coach, according to head coach Joe Infarnari.

The Midgets, who will be using Bantam as well as Midget level players, were scheduled to start their season in Greenbank Tuesday night.

"We are still looking for someone who has played a little fastball to come and help with the coaching," said Infarnari.

"It's a rebuilding year for us," said the coach. "But we'll win the odd game. I'm pretty happy with the team."

The Stouffville team's strength will rest within their infield, said Infarnari.

Dave Caramanico at first base, Dan McNeil at second, Bill Pride at shortstop and Basil Luciano at third give the Midgets a very solid infield.

Mike Pongracz and Jodi Infarnari will provide the pitching tandem for the team.

Bit of Egypt north of Stouffville

Lehmanns' breed top Arabians

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

There is a little bit of ancient Egypt just north of Stouffville.

A life-long love of Arabian horses, which were held in great veneration in Egypt as far back as 1850 BC, has become a way of life for Eric and Arlene Lehmann, owners of Cherry Hill Arabians, RR 3, Stouffville.

The Lehmanns claim their present 30-horse stable includes animals whose pedigree can be traced back to the early 1800s when Abbas Pasha ruled Saudi Arabia.

In their trips to Egypt, the Lehmanns have acquired pure bred Arabian horses, and have established contacts with some of the world's best known breeders, as well as influential government officials who control the Arabian market in that part of the world.

They have become good friends with internationally respected Arabian breeder Madame El Barbary, whose own farm is located at the foot of Egypt's Great Pyramids. The Lehmanns have even entered into an informal partnership whereby some of the great lady's own horses now reside at Cherry Hill.

According to Eric Lehmann, the couple's present involvement with Arabians began with their exposure to the somewhat mystical horse still thought by some Arabians to be a gift from Allah.

"Our interest grew out of an initial fascination with, and love of, Arabian horses. It's much more than just money, although if it's done right, breeding Arabians can be profitable."

For 20 years, the Lehmanns have bred their Arabians, then sold them to investors who come mainly from the United States.

Contacts in the Arab world have always been vitally important, as the government presides over the breeding of Arabians.

Eric said the list of "people in high places" he does business with includes Prince Alia, daughter of Jordan's King Hussein, and keeper of the royal stable.

The Lehmanns are also good friends with the Egyptian five star general who is commander of that country's Sinai Base in the demilitarized zone.

"With the government controlling the breeding, the general is a primary contact for us in terms of opening doors," said Eric.

A presentation and open bar scheduled for June 24 at Cherry Hill

will attract some of the Lehmanns' Arabian acquaintances, along with potential buyers from the Orient and across North America.

The Lehmanns have experienced a large measure of success in acquiring pure bred Arabians from the Middle East, largely due to the influence they have established with their Egyptian friends.

"Our premier stallion, Ben Ben Bilal, was imported from Egypt two years ago," said Eric. "He was well known there, and the Arabs wanted him. It took a lot of work to finally get him."

He said one of the enjoyable byproducts of breeding his Arabians is the inevitable familiarity with Arabian history, as well as the unforgettable anecdotes one hears of.

"Some of the Arabian pedigrees today can be traced back to the days of Mohammed. The horses are a living piece of historic art, and are often bought strictly for their mystical attraction."

He added that Mohammed himself held Arabians in such high regard as to suggest breeding them was the equivalent of giving alms to the poor.

"The horses are tied in with the

religion of the Arabs. Even during warfare, they have stopped the fighting for breeding purposes. And you still can't charge stud fees in Egypt."

The Lehmanns said they have adopted the philosophy of the great Arabian breeders of the Arab world with regard to the custodianship of their distinguished animals.

"We are merely the keepers of these wonderful horses," said Eric. "The horses are owned by none."

As for Cherry Hill's June presentation, he said he looks forward to greeting Arabian enthusiasts from all over the world, and is anxious to display his coveted horses.

"We want to show what we have been doing in recent years. This type of show attracts a much wider audience than some."

For when it comes to the breeding of the treasured Arabians, who are raised more for breed improvement than for other purposes such as racing, people will come from far and wide in the hope of finding the ultimate pure bred.

"There is always interest in Arabians," Eric said.

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Notice to the residents of
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Victoria Day Weekend
Garbage normally picked
up Mon. May 21st will be
picked up Tues. May 22nd.
Happy Holiday