

Olympics icing on the cake for Pearce and Vagabond

Equestrian reaches his ultimate goal

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

"This is the ultimate goal. Those were the words of Stouffville equestrian John Pearce before boarding a plane to Sydney, Australia last Saturday to compete as a member of the Canadian show jumping team at the 2000 Olympics.

"This is it," said Pearce. "Whatever happens from here happens, but at least I've made the Olympic team."

For the 40-year-old, whose home base is the Forest View Equestrian Centre just north of Stouffville, the road to Sydney has been long, bumpy and dotted with near misses. A veteran who has represented Canada in no less than 14 international jumping events, Pearce came within an whisker of being part of the Canadian teams at both the 1992 and 1996 Olympics. He was the top Canadian jumper at the 1998 World Championships and went as far as the finals at the World Cup the same year.

"I've jumped in the World Cup Championships twice.



JOHN PEARCE: Pearce and his mount, Jamco's Vagabond, are hoping to bring home an Olympic show jumping medal.

"This is the icing on the cake." Having finally achieved his lifelong dream of riding in the Olympics, Pearce is aware of the high level of competition he will face when the jumping events get under way Sept. 25.

"It's going to be stiff competition. I'm up against the best 100 riders in the world, la crème de la crème. The best horses in the world will also be there."

Pearce's mount, a 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood, Jamco's Vagabond, holds the key to the success of the horse and rider team, suggests Pearce.

"You're not dealing with just one athlete in jumping, there are two." He hopes the horse is in top form after being flown to Sydney in mid-August to undergo the mandatory quarantine and to adjust to the Australian climate.

"Vagabond is a seasoned athlete. He's proven himself at many international events. He understands the pressure."

Pearce's goal is to qualify for the final round of the jumping competition.

"I'm going to give it my best shot. If I make it into the finals, it will be a great accomplishment."

Pearce was to be accompanied on the Canadian team by Ian Millar, Jay Hayes and Eric Lamaze of Schomberg. With Lamaze testing positive for cocaine last week, Pearce feels the team could be dealt a serious blow.

"That put a damper on morale," he said. "He's a key player."

Pearce is hopeful this won't be his last Olympic appearance.

"Riders have longevity. Hopefully there'll be more Olympics in the future. I've got a couple of good horses coming along behind Vagabond."

Computer helps athlete refine his routine

From page 18

Also assisting Turgeon with his training is Markham-based corporation IBM, which came on board in July.

Turgeon feels IBM's offering of a Think Pad has been a valuable tool as part of his training regiment.

"I've been able to video, edit and analyze my routines and compare it to other competitors."

"It might hit me once I get there. But I've seen the place where I'll be competing and I've performed my routine in front of some big crowds already."

"It's the biggest sporting event in the world," Turgeon said of the Olympics. "It might hit me once I get there. But I've seen the place where I'll be competing and I've performed my routine in front of some big crowds already."

"I'm confident I will do well."

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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK EXPROPRIATIONS ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Regional Municipality of York for approval to expropriate land described in Schedule "A" hereto, in the Town of Markham in The Regional Municipality of York, geographically in the Township of Markham in the County of York, for the purposes of the widening and reconstruction of 14th Avenue (YR-71) from Kennedy Road (YR-3) to the Canadian National Railway tracks approximately 850 metres west of Kennedy Road (YR-3), to a basic width of 32.0 metres with additional widenings at cuts, fills, water course crossings and intersections, to provide a basic four lane road with a continuous centre left-turn lane.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the land described in Schedule "A" hereto. Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires an inquiry into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing.

(a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice;

(b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:
The Council of The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

The Regional Municipality of York
Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
17250 Yonge Street
Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

This notice first published on the 31st day of August, 2000.

SCHEDULE "A"

An estate in fee simple in the land described as follows:

Lands in the Town of Markham in The Regional Municipality of York, geographically in the Township of Markham in the County of York, being composed of those lands designated as Parts on Plans deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of York Region more particularly described as follows:

Part of Lot	Plan/Concession	Part (s)	Plan
18	65M-2813	1	65R-22570
19	65M-2813	2	65R-22570
20	65M-2813	3 and 4	65R-22570
6	Con. 5	5, 6, 7,	65R-22570
		8, 9, 10,	
		11 and 12	
17	65M-2813	1 and 2	65R-22571
1	65M-2813	7, 8,	65R-22571
		9 and 10	
6	Con. 5	11, 12,	65R-22571
		13, 14,	
		15, 16	
		17 and 18	

