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PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID LANDRY

THE

# Winner's Circle

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR THE PROSPECTIVE STANDARDBRED HORSE OWNER







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**STANDARD BRED**  
CANADA

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On behalf of Standardbred Canada, welcome to the exciting world of harness racing. We know from experience that anyone interested in Standardbred racing and breeding has many questions and concerns. This publication provides basic advice and information for new horse owners or anyone contemplating purchasing a harness horse. It also provides listings of sources to find further information.

The best investment you can make before entering this business is your time. Investigate thoroughly, ask questions, read the trade publications, attend new owner workshops and make calls to the various organizations.

New owners, trainers, drivers, grooms, breeders and fans are essential to the continued growth and well-being of our sport and we would like to ensure that your experience in harness racing is a rewarding one.

Owning a Standardbred can be one of the most exhilarating and unique investments you can make but it is also very high risk. There are a number of ways to become involved as an owner and they include everything from buying a horse by

yourself to owning a small percentage of a horse with a group of friends. Many trainers welcome the opportunity to teach an owner how to jog his or her own horse, and some owners have enjoyed the experience so much that they have become accomplished amateur drivers. Others make ownership a family affair and visiting the barns becomes a social outing.

If your involvement consists of simply watching your horse race, prepare for an unbelievable adrenaline rush! Anyone who has experienced some level of success in harness horse racing will tell you nothing matches the feeling of having a horse you've bred, raised, owned, trained or driven win a race, regardless of the size of the purse.

We are attempting to make the route to the winner's circle a little smoother and less uncertain with this Standardbred owners' guide. Preparation, continuing education and common sense will help you to make a qualified and informed decision about harness horse ownership and increase the chances for fun and success.

We wish you success, good luck and good racing!





If you are serious about participating in the Standardbred industry and becoming a new owner, the first thing you'll want to do is get familiar with the sport.

#### READ

- Trade Publications – TROT
  - Canadian Sportsman
  - Harness Edge
  - Atlantic Post Calls
- Industry Websites  
[www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.standardbredcanada.ca)

#### OBSERVE

- Spend time at the races
- Attend horse sales
- Arrange for a tour of the stable area of a racetrack or training centre
- Observe the professionals in action

#### NETWORK

- Contact owners, breeders and horsemen's organizations
- Inquire about services offered and membership benefits

#### COMMUNICATE

- Talk to owners, trainers, and other industry participants

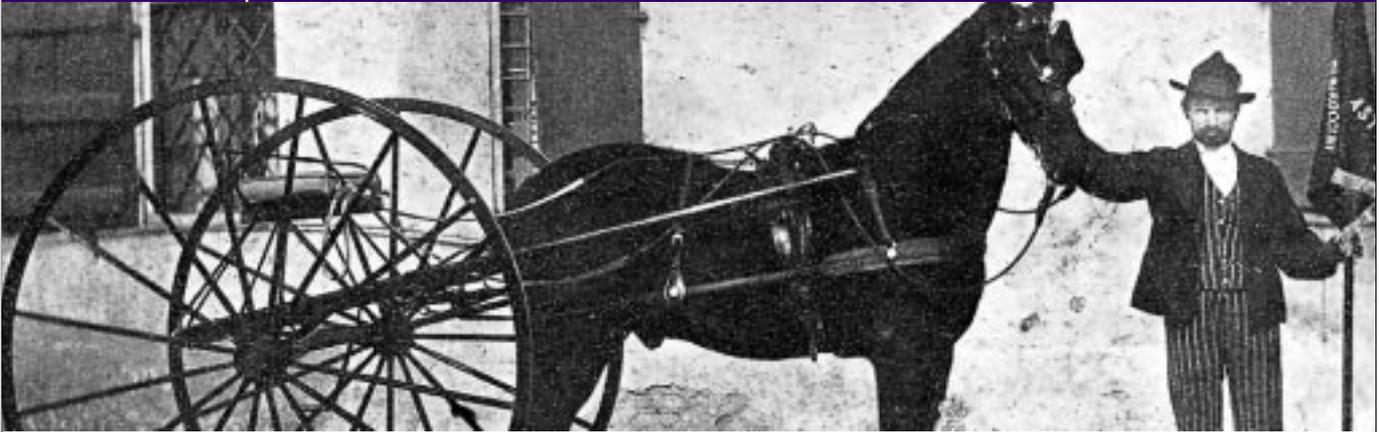
#### CONSULT

- An experienced owner

#### PARTICIPATE

- In industry-sponsored events and educational programs





In 1879, the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders agreed upon standards to define horses eligible to the Trotting Register, started in 1867 by John H. Wallace, to record pedigrees of trotting horses. One of the rules stated that a stallion was required to trot a mile in two minutes and thirty seconds or better, or 2:35 if hitched to a wagon.

After years of debate over what to name the new breed of trotting horse, the high standards required for registry led to the name we know today: Standardbred.

All Standardbreds trace their ancestry through direct male line to the imported stallion Messenger, an English Thoroughbred who was brought to America in 1788. The modern Standardbred owes its existence to a rather homely grandson of Messenger named Hambletonian.

The story of Hambletonian is a fascinating and well-documented one, and set the precedent for this breed being one for "every man" and not just a wealthy person's sport. Hambletonian was bought as a foal

by his caretaker, an illiterate hired hand named Rysdyk, and eventually made his owner a fortune.

Hambletonian's sons and daughters were the first to meet the standards of the new trotting breed, including Dexter, the horse you see on every antique weathervane, and Lady Suffolk, the "old gray mare who ain't what she used to be".

Canadian influence was strong in the new Standard breed, with the emergence of sires like Pilot, Pilot Jr., and the early pacers which were brought out of Canada like Copperbottom, founder of the Hal family.

In 1881, the first World Champion was a pacer of the Hal family, and the most prestigious pacing race in the United States, the Little Brown Jug, bears his name. Originally denigrated as "bush-bred" and considered a poor man's horse, today's pacer is making many people rich.

In 1909, the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society was incorporated for the primary purpose of maintaining the official registry of Standardbred horses in

Canada. In 1939, the Canadian Trotting Association was formed to become the record-keeping and licensing body. In 1998 the two organizations were amalgamated to form Standardbred Canada. Computer terminals connect racetracks across the country to Standardbred Canada's central data bank in Mississauga, Ontario.

Canadians have gained international recognition in the sport at all levels. John Campbell, Ron and Keith Waples, Michel Lachance and Bill O'Donnell are legends in the sport and are all Canadians.

The award of excellence in Canadian racing today is the O'Brien Award, named after the late, great Maritime-born horseman, Joe O'Brien. At the conclusion of each racing year, voters from across the country make their selections of the horses and people they feel are deserving of this honour. The winners are announced each year at the O'Brien Awards, hosted by Standardbred Canada.





Any person or corporation participating directly in harness racing in Canada must be a member in good standing with Standardbred Canada. This includes owners or lessees of racehorses, breeders and some licensed officials.

An SC Field Representative is present at each operating racetrack and membership applications may be obtained from their office at the track or from the SC head office in Mississauga, Ontario.

All new members must meet the requirements of membership before being licensed. All members must renew their SC membership by their birthday if they continue to be active in the sport. There is an initiation fee and service fee for all new members. The cost of membership is prorated from the application date to the member's birthdate.

Where applicable all persons participating in Standardbred racing must be licensed by their provincial racing commission. Owners of stallions standing in Ontario are also required to be licensed by the provincial racing commission.

Other non-mandatory memberships may be obtained for provincial associations, breeders organizations, etc. It is very important to remember that as soon as you acquire any degree of ownership in a horse, the ownership of the horses must be transferred with Standardbred Canada to reflect that change. The racing of horses can be considered a hobby, a sport, or entertainment, but because of the gambling aspect, it is a very heavily regulated business. Failure to disclose any financial interest in a horse can result in heavy fines and suspensions.





Once you've decided to purchase a horse, one of the most important decisions you'll have to make is selecting your trainer.

The majority of trainers do not advertise their services. Finding a reputable person to manage your investment can make the difference between a good experience or disillusionment. The best method is to obtain a referral from a respected associate, but failing that, you will have to do some homework.

Frequent the track where you would like to have your horse race. Study the program and its statistics to see which trainers are successful. Look for consistent and competitive horses that frequently pick up cheques. Make a list of the trainers of these horses.

Find out from the racetrack or associations if any new owner workshops are being held. Ask the race secretary which local trainers specialize in claiming horses and which are more involved with stake calibre horses, because this will affect their win statistics at that particular track. Talk to other owners, read the trade publications and ask questions.

Once you have made a list of several trainers, call the track and explain

that you would like to meet them at their training facilities. The race office, publicity office or management of the track will either give you the phone numbers of the trainers, or give your number to the various individuals so that they can call you.

Make a list of what you might expect of a trainer and questions to ask when you meet. If you expect to be kept up-to-date weekly on your horse's progress or informed by telephone whenever he races, be sure to ask if this is part of the stable's policy. Ask to see a copy of their monthly training bill and ask for the names of some other owners, preferably with phone numbers.

Here are some factors to consider prior to meeting with a prospective trainer:

- Where does the trainer stable his / her horses?
- What type of horse does the trainer specialize in; ie. claimers, stake horses, pacers vs. trotters?
- How much time do you expect your trainer to spend with you?
- How often do you reasonably expect to communicate with the trainer?
- How often and under what conditions do you want to be consulted?

- Would you like your trainer to attend sales and assist in making purchases?
- What is the trainer's daily rate— what does it include and what costs are additional?
- What is the trainer's view on medication?
- What is the trainer's average vet bill per month?
- Consider whether a written contract is appropriate; in some racing jurisdictions, a written contract is mandatory.

Find out exactly what your financial obligations will be up front. Look around the stable — is this a place where you would feel comfortable bringing your family and friends?

There are many aspects of horse racing which an owner must take on trust and you must feel comfortable enough with the person caring for your investment to talk about anything which involves your mutual relationship.

After you have done your initial research, talked to informed people, met several trainers and checked out their facilities and billing practices, you should have a good indication of what type of person would best suit your needs and personality.



Naturally, one of the most important questions to ask a trainer is how much he charges and how much it costs to keep a racehorse. Training fees depend on where you race, where your trainer is, the vet and blacksmith that you use, and the soundness of your horse. Training fees can vary as much as \$40 a day by individual trainers. The more successful trainers will naturally be charging the top prices. At the other end of the scale are young people willing to negotiate in order to attract owners until they get established.

If your horse finishes in the top five in his race, a percentage (usually ten percent, but it varies in different jurisdictions), of the purse money is divided between the trainer of the horse as well as the driver of the horse. (Some racetracks automatically deduct the trainer and driver fee from the purses.)

A trainer's daily rate is usually charged per diem and invoiced monthly. This fee buys you the trainer's professional services, feed, bedding, and the services of a groom during regular working hours.

The trainer will also have a daily rate, lower than the training rate, for horses which are receiving stall rest. When you interview trainers, ask them what their daily rate is and what their approximate monthly bill will be. It is important to know their base rate and their method of charging for extras, so there will be no misunderstandings when you receive your bill.

The trainer's daily rate usually includes:

- Feed
- Bedding
- Care
- Training

#### INITIAL SET-UP COSTS

Your horse will require certain equipment and essentials that will be a one-time cost for you:

- Harness/Tack Trunk
- Special equipment (shadow rolls, knee boots, etc.)
- Stable equipment (feed & water tubs, combs, etc.)
- Brace bandages and stall wraps

- Blankets & coolers
- Hopples
- Sulky (race bike)\*
- Jog Cart\*

\*may sometimes be rented from the trainer for a nominal fee

#### ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Most trainers invoice the following separately from their daily training rate as many variables can impact these charges:

- Blacksmith charges (usually once a month)
- Vet charges (worming, flu, electrolyte jugs, etc.)
- Vitamins and minerals
- Alternative therapies such as chiropractic, laser therapy, etc.
- Shipping (to the track to race)
- Paddock fees (for the groom taking care of the horse when it races)
- Stake payments (if you have a stake eligible horse)

Your initial investment will determine the type of horse you are buying or the extent of your ownership, and this is something you should research and discuss with your trainer. Ownership can be individual or shared depending upon the amount of your initial investment and the amount of control you want over your horse's career and expenses.

If you own a percentage of a horse, you will be billed for your percentage of the expenses and receive your percentage of the winnings.

#### CLAIMING HORSES

Review your racing jurisdiction's claiming rules and note 1) the point at which the horse becomes the property of the new owner and 2) the conditions under which the horse must make its next start.

A claiming race classifies the horses competing by price. Prices range from \$1,000 claimers at the smaller tracks to \$200,000 claimers. Qualified purchasers (those with proper licenses, etc.) may "claim" or buy the horse from the race. A certified cheque or cash for the claiming price (plus GST in most provinces) must be given to the claiming officer at the racetrack at a specified time in advance of post time of the race. Ownership transfers to the claiming party once the race begins, but any purse money earned by the horse in that race goes to the previous owner.

There are no guarantees in the horse business. Claiming proven racehorses or buying them privately are usually the safest methods of protecting your investment. You know the horse is capable of racing, you can gauge their

soundness by watching them warm up the day of the race and you can race them under your ownership the very next week.

Disadvantages include the fact that if a horse is hurt in the race you claimed it from it becomes your problem, and a horse which is good enough to be claimed once will usually be claimed again if you continue to race it in a claiming event.

#### BUYING PRIVATELY

Private transactions are common to the racing industry. Horses are advertised in trade journals, on web sites, on race-track bulletin boards or by word of mouth. Some trainers will approach another trainer about a horse in a claiming race and arrange to conduct the exchange privately. There are trainers who make their living by breaking (teaching the basics) and starting young horses which are all for sale.

The advantage to buying privately is that your trainer can thoroughly inspect the horse and drive it in a training mile if applicable and have a veterinarian examine the horse, if agreed upon by the seller.

Buying a young horse with proven potential is often one of the costliest purchases, but it has less risk than buying yearlings.

When trainers buy or sell horses privately, they often charge an "agent" fee or commission, to cover their time and expertise, which is added to the purchase price. This is an accepted practice and reputable trainers will tell you upfront what their fee will be.

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

"Mixed" sales are the public auctions of harness horses and feature young horses, breeding stock and racehorses. Sales companies provide racelines for each racehorse selling. Before the auction it is acceptable to have your trainer or veterinarian inspect the horses. Decide what you are willing to pay for the horse and stick to your decision.

#### GREEN HORSES

A green horse is usually one which has trained but never raced. They are mostly sold as two- or three-year-olds, and can be purchased privately or through public auction. Ensure you are buying from someone your trainer has recommended because he or she has been watching the young horse's progress, or someone with a legitimate reason for wanting to sell a horse in which they have invested time and money and whose potential has yet to be realized. These horses will often require time and patience.

#### YEARLINGS

Every Standardbred's official birthday falls on January 1st. Horses are born in the spring of the year and the following year many are sold as yearlings. There are numerous public auctions held, most in the fall, devoted exclusively to these year-old horses. Catalogues detailing the breeding and past performance of the horses in the yearling's immediate family are available about a month prior to the sale.

Most trainers and owners first examine the catalogue to determine which horses they are interested in based on pedi-

gree. They then examine each horse they have selected, either at the consigning farm or at the sale grounds prior to the start of the auction. This physical examination will further reduce their selections as they rule out individuals with conformation faults. It is essential to have a qualified trainer or veterinarian conduct these examinations, unless you feel competent to detect conformation faults which could affect the horse's chance of success.

The purchase price of a yearling is only the initial investment. You must be prepared to pay monthly training bills and incidentals from the time of the auction with no hope of seeing your horse race until the next summer. Only about 50 percent of all yearlings make it to the races as two-year-olds, and of these even a smaller portion qualify for stakes races. Consequently, yearlings are the biggest gamble for new owners. They are the lottery tickets of the business. However, as with so many other things in life, the greatest risk can carry the greatest reward.

#### BREEDING STOCK

Breeding stock (usually broodmares) is sold through public auction or private sales. The same procedures should be followed as for racehorses. Study the catalogue or research the pedigree of the horses you are interested in and examine them at the sale.

If you are buying a broodmare, it is recommended to have a veterinarian perform a rectal examination of the mare to determine the status of her reproductive tract. This is doubly important when buy-

ing a "barren" mare. Most sales companies have a veterinarian on hand to perform this procedure. It is also important to listen to all announcements from the auction stand, as a mare listed "in foal" in the catalogue may actually be barren by the time she is sold.

If you are interested in a broodmare who has had foals, it is a good practice to research her previous offspring if possible. You should find out what her offspring has sold for in previous sales. This information can be obtained from the trade journals or the Standardbred Canada resource centre. Don't be afraid to ask questions of the consignor at the sale. If the mare has missed a year or two foaling, find out why. Find out the status of her youngest foals; ie. are they in training, is the yearling being sold in the fall, etc. Find out why the consignor is selling.

At sales in the spring of the year, it is sometimes possible to buy a three-in-one package — a pregnant mare with a foal by her side. Broodmares selling in foal at most public auctions are sold with the stud fee paid. If the mare does not produce a live foal, the stud fee may be refundable. It is important to find out what applies, as stud fees can run to thousands of dollars.

Always remember that at a public auction any announcements made from the auction stand take precedence over what is printed in the sales catalogue.

#### MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP

Some new owners will obtain a partner or partners to share in the cost of horse ownership. Some trainers prefer to own

a portion of any horse under their care and some will purchase an expensive yearling or yearlings and sell shares to several owners.

The advantages of multiple ownership are that you can purchase a horse of higher quality than you could afford yourself, training fees are shared by the owners, and the gamble of yearling ownership is spread more widely.

The drawbacks are the same as any business venture entered with partners. It is essential that you and your partners have common beliefs and goals in the horse business. Draw up an agreement prior to the purchase and appoint one member of the group to make management decisions. This person should have sole authority to carry out all transactions.

#### LEASING

Leasing is not as common however requires very little capital.

Usually the lessee simply assumes responsibility for all costs associated with the board and care of the animal during the term of the lease.

The lessee enjoys the benefits of ownership with the obligation to share some of the benefits with the lessor per the terms of the lease.

Depending on the purpose of the lease and/ or the type of horse leased (race horse or broodmares), the parties may share in revenues derived through racing or sale, or in the ownership or management of progeny. It is highly recommended that a professional be consulted before entering into a lease.

**4 209**

**1** Consigned by: Daylon Farms, Agent For David Lemon  
 Raised by: David & Mary Lemon, Komoka, Ontario

**3 DAYLON CAM**

**2 E7**

**5** (Ontario Eligible)

Camluck p, T1:48.4 .....	Cam Fella p, 4, 1:53.1 .....	Most Happy Fella p, 3, T1:55 Nan Cam p, 2:05.1f
<b>6 BROWN COLT</b> <b>Tattoo #ZN210</b> April 7, 2002	Lucky Lady p, 3, 1:55 .....	Striking Image p, 2, 1:55 Just Our Luck
Daylon Tinsel ..... 1985	Trim The Tree p, 2, 1:53.3 .....	High Ideal p, 3, T1:55.1 Tinsel p, 3, 2:05.3f
	Ara Newton .....	Big Towner p, 4, 1:54.4 Belle Alba p, 2, T1:57

By **CAMLUCK** p, T1:48.4 (\$1,003,260). Sire of 13 in 1:50 - 253 in 1:55 - 610 in 2:00 including **BURNING POINT** p, 2, 1:58.3f, 3, 1:50.3s-'03 (\$1,292,171); **SIR LUCK** p, 2, 1:51.2s-'02 (\$1,255,804); **D M DILINGER** p, 2, 1:57.4f, 3, 1:51.3s, 1:49.3s-'99 (\$1,226,789); **REMEMBER WHEN** p, 2, 1:52.2s, 3, 1:50.4s-'03 (\$1,217,738); **LADY GRACEFUL** p, 2, 1:52.3s-'01 (\$1,113,376); **INTREPID SEELSTER** p, 2, 1:53.3f, 3, 1:51.2s, 4, 1:50.1-'01 (\$1,037,807) etc.

**7 1st dam**

**DAYLON TINSEL**, by **TRIM THE TREE** p, 2, 1:53.3. Dam of-  
**DAYLON TEMPO** (m, Camluck) p, 2, 1:57.2s, 3, 1:54.2f, 1:51.2-'99 (\$448,335) 19 wins. At 2, winner of ONSS Gold elim at Woodbine; third in ONSS Gold elim at Woodbine. At 3, winner of Cdn Breeders Ch elim at Mohawk, final at Mohawk, ONSS Gold elim at Mohawk, final at Rideau Carleton, elim at Hiawatha Horse Park, final at Windsor, Open at Mohawk; second in ONSS Gold elim at Rideau Carleton, final at Hiawatha Horse Park, elim at Windsor, Open at Mohawk; third in Open at Woodbine, Princess Pacing Series final at Mohawk, leg(twice) at Mohawk. At 4, winner of Cape & Cutter Series leg at The Meadowlands, Overbid Series leg at The Meadowlands; second in Open (twice) at Mohawk; third in Open (twice) at Mohawk, at Woodbine, Overbid Series leg at The Meadowlands. As aged, third in Roses Are Red Series elim at Woodbine. Dam of **JATES TEMPO** p, 2, Q1:57.2, 3, 1:56.2f-'03 (\$31,797) etc.

**DAYLON CAMEO** (m, Carlsbad Cam) p, 2, 1:58.4h, 3, 1:57h, 1:53.2h-'01 (\$299,922) 39 wins. At 2, winner of Trillium S. div at Flamboro Downs; second in Cdn Breeders Ch elim at Mohawk, Standardbred Retirement Fund at Freehold, Trillium S. div at Flamboro Downs; third in ONSS Gold elim at Elmira, elim at Flamboro Downs, elim at Woodbine, Robert Stewart S. elim at Mohawk. At 3, winner of Petticoat Series leg at Yonkers; second in Newcomer Series leg(twice) at Freehold, Petticoat Series final at Yonkers; third in Flamboro Breeders S. div at Flamboro Downs, Petticoat Series leg at Yonkers. As aged, winner of Open (twice) at Buffalo, elim at Buffalo; second in Open (twice) at Buffalo, elim at Buffalo; third in Open (twice) at Buffalo, final at Buffalo.

**DAYLON COMMAND** (g, Dexter Nukes) p, 3, 1:56.2s, 4, 1:52s-'00 (\$164,607) 13 wins. At 3, second in Youthful Pacing Series leg at Mohawk; third in Youthful Pacing Series leg at Mohawk.

**DAYLON CRUSOE** (h, Armbro Splurge) p, 2, 1:58.1f, 4, 1:54.4s-'94 (\$97,763) 13 wins. At 2, winner of Count B Series leg at Mohawk; second in Count B Series leg at Mohawk; third in Count B Series final at Mohawk, ONSS at Kingston Park. At 3, second in ONSS Gold elim at Barrie, ONSS Grassroots at Elmira.

**DAYLON CHOICE** (m, Camluck) p, 2, 2:00f, 3, 1:55.2s-'02 (\$53,485) 6 wins. At 3, winner of ONSS Grassroots at Western Fair; second in ONSS Grassroots at Quinte Exhibition, at Kawartha Downs.

**DAYLON CONCORD** (g, Run The Table) p, 3, 2:01.2h, 4, 1:53.4s-'02 (\$45,029) 4 wins. At 4, third in City Of London Series elim at Western Fair.

Lady Marillion (m, Armbro Splurge) p, 3, 2:00.4f-'92 (\$7,437) 4 wins.

Classic Traveller (g, Village Jiffy) p, 3, 2:02.1h-'00 (\$6,389) 2 wins.

Totally Daylon (m, Totally Ruthless) p, 3, 2:03.1f-'95 (\$3,147) 1 win.

**8 2nd dam**

**ARA NEWTON**, by **BIG TOWNER** p, 4, 1:54.4. Dam of-  
**DAYLON TROOPER** (h, Camluck) p, 3, 1:51.4s, 1:50-'03 (\$695,757) 14 wins.

**DAYLON ALERT** (h, Camluck) p, 2, 1:55f, 3, 1:51.4s-'03 (\$191,332) 9 wins.

**DAYLON TOUCHDOWN** (m, Armbro Omaha) p, 3, 1:59.2f, 1:56f-'94 (\$175,727) 21 wins. Dam of **SPEEDY BOY SUE** p, 2, 2:03.1h, 3, 1:57.4h, 4, 1:56.3h-'03 (\$143,507) etc.

**DAYLON TARGET** (g, Run The Table) p, 2, 1:57.2s, 4, 1:57.1f-'96 (\$126,432) 14 wins.

**DAYLON TITAN** (h, Armbro Emerson) p, 3, 1:58.3f, 1:54.2s-'94 (\$121,554) 17 wins.

**DAYLON TYRANT** (m, Armbro Emerson) p, 1:57.2h-'01 (\$85,388) 17 wins.

**DAYLON TURBO** (g, Run The Table) p, 3, 1:59.2f, 1:56f-'03 (\$59,224) 13 wins.

**DAYLON TRANQUIL** (m, Camluck) p, 2, Q2:01.4f, 3, 1:59.2f-'02 (\$30,641) 5 wins.

**Daylon Treasure** (m, Armbro Splurge) p, 2:01.1h-'93 (\$7,671) 6 wins.

Kendraandemily (m, Dexter Nukes). Dam of **TOPOFMYGAME** p, 2, 1:56.3s-'03 etc.

**9** Breeders Crown Simcoe Cdn. Breeders Ch. Standardbred Champlain Stake Engagements Flamboro Breeders Little Brown Jug Ontario Sires



- 1** Name of Consignor (seller of horse).
- 2** Barn and stall, indicates horse's location at sale.
- 3** Registered name of horse selling.
- 4** Hip Number, in order of sale.
- 5** Indicates horse is eligible to race in the Ontario Sires Stakes.
- 6** Extended pedigree showing the family tree of sire (father) and dam (mother) of yearling.
- 7** The first dam (mother) of yearling and listing of her foals and their racing accomplishments.
- 8** The second dam of yearling and listing of her foals, etc.
- 9** Stake engagements indicates the stakes events to which the horse is eligible provided subsequent payments are made.



NOTE: *The Canadian Horse Racing Industry has formed an alliance to lobby the federal government for fairer taxation relating to racehorse ownership.*

The tax rules relating to horse racing vary considerably from other businesses. The three most significant areas are:

1. Reasonable expectation of profit;
2. Deductibility of losses;
3. Calculation of profit and loss.

#### REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PROFIT

The first consideration in determining tax consequences is the nature of your involvement in the horse business. If your activity is basically one of recreation and personal enjoyment and you are not particularly concerned about earning money, any expenses you incur can only be used to offset income. You are considered to be enjoying a hobby rather than carrying on a business. On the other hand, if you are actually pursuing a profit, operating in a business-like manner, and have sufficient resources both in terms of finances and knowledge to operate in a profitable manner, then you are carrying on a business. In this

case, profits must be reported on your tax return and losses can be claimed (within certain limits).

While it is relatively simple to classify people at either end of the spectrum, a large number of horse owners fall into the grey area between a business and a hobby. These people not only find their profit readily taxed by Revenue Canada, but also find that their losses are frequently not allowed by Revenue Canada.

In order to establish that you are operating a business, it is recommended that you manage your horse affairs following sound business practices as follows:

1. Prepare a plan before you start;
2. Prepare projections of income and expenses for at least one year in advance (preferably 3-5 years);
3. Join the necessary Standardbred Associations;
4. Subscribe to horse journals;
5. Maintain proper books and records;
6. Continuously oversee your horse operations and make changes as necessary.

If all of that sounds like too much work, maybe you're looking at the

wrong business. Learning more about the business of racehorses should be both enjoyable and profitable. The more you learn and the more you are involved, the greater your overall enjoyment and the better the bottom line.

#### DEDUCTIBILITY OF LOSSES

Many individuals express an interest in racing because they have visions of significant tax deductions. While there are tax breaks available to horsemen that are not generally available to other businesses or investments, there are some specific limits. Assuming you can meet the first requirement, which is that you are operating a business with a reasonable expectation of profit, you can deduct losses incurred. However, unless your main source of income is farming, which includes the racing of horses, your loss will be restricted to a maximum of \$8,750 per taxpayer in any one year. In order to claim this maximum amount, your losses would have to be \$15,000 because the tax loss deduction is 100% of the first \$2,500 of losses but only 50% of

the next \$12,500 of losses. If your main source of income is farming then you can deduct unlimited losses from a racehorse business. Unused restricted losses can be carried forward up to 10 years for application against farming (including racehorse) profits.

#### CALCULATION OF PROFIT OR LOSS

The Income Tax Act defines farming to include "maintaining of horses for racing" so all persons in the business of breeding, training, or racing of racehorses are, by definition, farming. For this reason you are allowed to report income and expense on the cash basis.

Income is reported when it is received. Expenses are reported when they are paid rather than when they are incurred. Income includes racing purse money, horse sales, board or training fees received and so on. Expenses include all reasonable and necessary costs incurred in operating your horse business. This can include horse purchases, feed, training fees, veterinary, blacksmith, driver fees, interest, subscriptions, etc.

The only costs that are reasonable and necessary that cannot immediately be claimed are capital costs. These include the costs of significant long-term assets such as a barn, horse trailer, or a harness. These capital items must be depreciated over a period of years in accordance with the income tax rules relating to capital cost allowance. If the expenses exceed the income for the year, the loss must be reduced by the tax value for inventory owned at the end of the year. For most

inventory, such as hay, oats, straw and medical supplies, the tax value is cost.

For horses, inventory value is 70% of cost if purchased during the year or 70% of the previous year's tax value if purchased prior to the beginning of the year. Horses bred by the taxpayer have no value for tax purposes. The maximum value for mandatory inventory adjustment is the amount of the loss for the year so that no taxable income need be created by this inventory adjustment.

You must prepare a statement of income and expense and include it in your tax return. The profit or loss that you claim will then be shown on your tax return under income from self-employment-farming. The rate of tax you pay (or save), is determined by the total of all your income and deductions.

The most significant advantage of using the cash method of accounting is the opportunity it provides for deferring tax almost indefinitely. Since the cost of a horse can be fully expensed in the year it is paid for, horsemen find that they can wipe out all their profits for a year simply by buying additional or higher quality horses. A horse bought and paid for, even on the last day of your tax year, is fully expensed in arriving at your net income for the year. There is also an additional provision to carry forward horse costs into a future year should you have more expenses than you can use in any given year.

Whatever your level of involvement, you should keep records of all your income and maintain proper receipts

for all your expenses. While tax considerations are not the only reason for horse ownership, they also cannot be ignored. More tax problems are caused by lack of records than any other single reason.

The tax rules are complicated and the new owner is advised to obtain a copy of the Farming Income Tax Guide from Revenue Canada and to seek out the assistance of a professional, knowledgeable in horse tax matters.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES

##### TAXATION ON HORSE RACING

The Goods and Services Tax has resulted in additional bookkeeping requirements. However, as long as your horse business is registered with Revenue Canada for GST purposes there will be no GST tax cost. On a simplified basis, the GST will work as follows for your horse business:

1. You will pay GST on most purchases of goods and services;
2. You will collect GST on your sales (but not on purse money);
3. You will complete a GST form on a regular basis;
4. If you have collected more GST than you have paid, you will remit the difference;
5. If you have paid more than you have collected, the government will refund the difference to you.





Standardbred Canada is an incorporated non-profit organization whose mandate is to supervise, record, store and distribute information on all registered Standardbreds and to promote harness racing in Canada and beyond. Standardbred Canada was formed in 1998 as a result of the amalgamation of the breed's two national organizations, The Canadian Trotting Association and The Canadian Standardbred Horse Society.

Each member racetrack across Canada has a Standardbred Canada field representative who inputs race data as it happens into a computer system linked to the main data banks at the SC main office in Mississauga.

The computerized system has facilitated the production of race programs and provided the means for race secretaries and horse people to instantly establish a horse's eligibility to certain conditions in a race. Every qualified horse can be accessed and any pertinent information on that horse – colour, sex, date of foaling, current and past owners, breeders, money won,

lifetime record, past racelines – can be obtained. Detailed information is also stored on stallions and broodmares and their progeny. Virtually every bit of pertinent information about every registered Standardbred horse is recorded and can be easily accessed.

Standardbred Canada also offers a standardized insurance plan and all licensed trainers, drivers, grooms and officials may be covered by disability income and accidental death insurance. TROT Magazine is the official publication of Standardbred Canada and the monthly magazine is one of the best-read publications in the industry. Every Canadian member of Standardbred Canada receives TROT with his/her membership.

Standardbred Canada's vast archives of books, photos, videos, historical materials and publications about the Standardbred horse, as well as other breeds, are located in the resource centre at the main office location in Mississauga. This library also houses the impressive collection of silverware won by Hall of Fame horseman Bill Herbert

and donated to Standardbred Canada by Herbert's late wife Ruth.

Operated by an elected Board of Directors from across the country, Standardbred Canada is also responsible for managing and operating horse auctions, including a few mixed sales, and their signature yearling sale, The Canadian Classic, which is traditionally held in September.

The Industry Marketing department of SC promotes the sport of harness horse racing through many projects including New Owners' Workshops, Media Training Programs, the O'Brien Awards, Hall of Fame, etc. This Owners' Guide is just one of many Standardbred Canada initiatives designed to increase the awareness of the sport. We hope it helps in your quest to understand the wonderful world of Standardbred horses.

If you have any questions that we have not answered through this guide, we would be happy to help you by telephone at the SC office, or e-mail through our website at:

[www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.standardbredcanada.ca)

**STANARDBRED CANADA**

2150 Meadowvale Blvd.  
Mississauga, ON L5N 6R6  
tel (905) 858-3060  
fax (905) 858-3111 or 858-3089  
[www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.standardbredcanada.ca)

**RACETRACKS OF CANADA INC.**

c/o Standardbred Canada,  
2150 Meadowvale Blvd.,  
Mississauga, ON L5N 6R6  
tel (905) 858-3060  
fax (905) 858-3089

**AGRICULTURE CANADA****CANADIAN PARI-MUTUEL AGENCY**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
1130 Morrison Drive, Suite 100  
Nepean, ON K2H 9N6  
tel (613) 949-0735  
fax (613) 949-0750  
[www.cpma-acpm.gc.ca](http://www.cpma-acpm.gc.ca)

**CANADIAN HORSE RACING****HALL OF FAME\***

c/o Standardbred Canada  
2150 Meadowvale Blvd.  
Mississauga, ON L5N 6R6  
tel (905) 858-3060  
fax (905) 858-3089  
\*actual site at Woodbine Racetrack  
[www.horseracinghalloffame.com](http://www.horseracinghalloffame.com)



## HORSE RACING ALBERTA

#720, 9707 – 110 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2L9  
tel (780) 415-5432  
fax (780) 488-5105  
[www.thehorses.com](http://www.thehorses.com)

RACING DIVISION GAMING POLICY &  
ENFORCEMENT BRANCH

Suite 408  
4603 Kingsway  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
V5H 4M4  
tel (604) 660-7400  
fax (604) 660-7414  
[www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming)

## MANITOBA HORSE RACING COMMISSION

Box 46086  
R.P.O. Westdale,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3R 3S3  
tel (204) 885-7770  
fax (204) 831-0942  
[www.manitobahorsecomm.org](http://www.manitobahorsecomm.org)

MARITIME PROVINCES HARNESS  
RACING COMMISSION

5 Gerald McCarville Dr.,  
Kensington, Prince Edward Island  
C0B 1M0  
tel (902) 836-5500  
fax (902) 836-5320  
[www.isn.net/harness](http://www.isn.net/harness)

## ONTARIO RACING COMMISSION

20 Dundas St. W, 9th floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2C2  
tel (416) 327-0520  
fax (416) 325-3478  
[www.ontarioracingcommission.com](http://www.ontarioracingcommission.com)

## RACJ

(REGIE DES ALCOOLS, DES COURSES,  
ET DES JEUX/ ALCOHOL, RACING AND  
GAMING COMMISSION)

1, rue Notre-Dame Est, 9th floor  
Montreal, Quebec  
H2Y 1B6  
tel (514) 873-3577  
fax (514) 873-5861  
[www.racj.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.racj.gouv.qc.ca)

SASKATCHEWAN LIQUOR AND GAMING  
AUTHORITY HORSE RACING BRANCH

Box 5054  
2500 Victoria Ave  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4P 3M3  
tel (306) 787-4213  
[www.slga.gov.sk.ca](http://www.slga.gov.sk.ca)

## ALBERTA

**Alberta Standardbred Horse Association (ASHA)**

B – 15 6020 2nd St. SE  
 Calgary, Alberta  
 T2H 2L8  
 tel (403) 263 7765  
 Toll free in Alberta  
 1 (800) 852-5985  
 fax (403) 294-1510  
 www.asha.ab.ca

**Alberta Sires Stakes**

B – 15 6020 2nd St SE  
 Calgary, Alberta  
 T2H 2L8  
 tel (403) 263-7765  
 Toll free in Alberta  
 1 (800) 852-5985  
 fax (403) 294-1510  
 www.asha.ab.ca

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

**BC Standardbred Breeders' Society**

Box 34008, 17790 #10 Hwy.  
 Surrey, British Columbia  
 V3S 8C4  
 tel (604) 574-5558  
 fax (604) 574-5503  
 www.harnessbc.ca

**British Columbia Standardbred Association**

Box 34008, 17790 - #10 Hwy.  
 Surrey, British Columbia  
 V3S 8C4  
 tel (604) 574-5558  
 fax (604) 574 5503  
 www.harnessbc.ca

## MANITOBA

**Manitoba Harness Horseman Inc.**

Inquiries to Barry McNaughton  
 Box 36  
 Oakville, Manitoba  
 R0H 0Y0  
 tel (204) 267-2090  
 fax (204) 267-2740

**Manitoba Great Western Harness Racing Circuit Inc.**

Inquiries to Joyce Elder  
 Box 280

Holland, Manitoba  
 R0G 3S3  
 tel (204) 526-2005

**Manitoba Standardbred Sires & Breeders Association**

Inquiries to Roland Rey  
 Box 323  
 St. Claude, Manitoba  
 R0G 1Z0  
 tel (204) 379-2159

## MARITIME PROVINCES

**Atlantic Standardbred Breeders Association**

Inquiries to Jack Ferguson  
 RR#5 Tatamagouche,  
 Nova Scotia  
 B0K 1V0  
 tel (902) 657-3068  
 fax (902) 657-3068

**PEI Colt Stakes Association Inc.**

Inquiries to Norman Hall  
 Box 571 Charlottetown,  
 Prince Edward Island  
 C1A 7L1  
 tel (902) 368-2340  
 fax (902) 892-3522

**Maritime Breeders Association Ltd**

Inquiries to Wayne Pike  
 Box 1855 Truro, Nova Scotia  
 B2N 6C7  
 tel (902) 569-1682  
 (902) 964-2553  
 fax (902) 569-1827

**New Brunswick Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association**

Inquiries to Glen McEwen  
 Box 4417 Sussex,  
 New Brunswick  
 E4E 5L5  
 tel (506) 432-9087  
 fax (506) 433-9141

**PEI Harness Racing Industry Association**

Inquiries to Wayne Pike  
 420 University Ave, Suite 204A

Charlottetown,  
 Prince Edward Island  
 C1A 7Z5  
 tel (902) 569-1682  
 (902) 964-2553  
 fax (902) 569-1827  
 www.peiharnessracing.com

## ONTARIO

**Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA)**

2150 Meadowvale Blvd, Suite 2  
 Mississauga, Ontario L5N 5S3  
 tel (905) 858-5854  
 fax (905) 858-1680  
 www.ohha.ca

**Ontario Horse Racing Industry Assoc. (OHRIA)**

7145 West Credit Ave  
 Bldg 1, Suite 201  
 Mississauga, Ontario  
 L5N 6J7  
 tel (905) 812-0168  
 fax (905) 812-1948  
 www.ohria.com

**Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS)**

Box 231  
 Streetsville, Ontario  
 L5M 2B8  
 tel (519) 369-3545  
 fax (519) 369-2563  
 www.ontariosiresstakes.com

**Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association (SBOA)**

Contact Standardbred Canada  
 for further information

## QUEBEC

**SONACC (Societe Nationale du Cheval De Course)**

Hippodrome de Montreal  
 7440, boul. Décarie  
 Montreal, Quebec  
 H4P 2H1  
 tel (514) 873-5000  
 fax (514) 873-0296  
 www.sonacc.com

**CESQ (Cooperative des Encans de chevaux Standardbred du Quebec)**

Hippodrome de Montreal

7440, boul. Décarie, 2e Etage  
 Montreal, Quebec  
 H4P 2H1  
 tel (514) 341-2249  
 fax (514) 341-2699  
 www.cesq.qc.ca

**SPECSQ (Societe des Proprietaires & Eleveurs de chevaux Standardbred du Quebec)**

Hippodrome de Montreal  
 7440, boul. Décarie, 2e Etage  
 Montreal, Quebec  
 H4P 2H1  
 tel (514) 341-6603

**ATAQ (Association Trot & Amble du Quebec)**

5375, rue Pare, suite 230  
 Montreal, Quebec  
 H4P 1P7  
 tel (514) 731-9484  
 fax (514) 731-7687  
 www.trotetamble.ca

**CRCCQ (Circuit Regional courses de chevaux du Quebec)**

2885 avenue Royal  
 St. Charles de Bellechasse,  
 Quebec G0R 2T0  
 tel (418) 887-6572  
 fax (418) 835-6573

## SASKATCHEWAN

**Saskatchewan Standardbred Horseman's Association**

Box 4122  
 Regina, Saskatchewan  
 S4P SW5  
 tel (306) 586-8904

## ALBERTA

**Northlands Park 5/8**  
7600 - 115 Ave  
Box 1480  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 2N5  
tel (780) 471-7379  
fax (780) 471-7173  
www.northlands.com

**Stampede Park 5/8**  
2300 Stampede Trail SE  
Box 1060  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 2K8  
tel (403) 261-0214  
Fax (403) 265-7009  
www.stampede-park.com

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Fraser Downs 5/8**  
17783 59A Ave  
Surrey, British Columbia  
V3S 1R2  
tel (604) 576-9141  
fax (604) 576-9821  
www.fraserdowns.com

**Sandown Park 5/8**  
1810 Glamorgan Rd  
Box 2370  
Sidney, British Columbia  
V8L 3Y3  
tel (250) 656-1631  
fax (250) 656-7422  
www.sandownpark.ca/

## MANITOBA

**Great Western Fair Circuit**  
tel (204) 885-3330

## NEW BRUNSWICK

**Exhibition Park 1/2**  
Box 284, 159 McAllister Dr.,  
Saint John, NB  
E2L 3Y2  
tel (506) 636-6934  
fax (506) 636-6959  
www.epracing.com

## Fredericton Raceway 1/2

Box 235, Station A  
Smythe & Saunders St.,  
(361 Smythe St)  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 4Y9  
tel (506) 458-8819  
fax (506) 458-9294

## NEWFOUNDLAND

**Twin River Downs 1/2**  
Box 730, Lakeview Dr.  
Goulds, NF  
A1S 1G7  
tel (709) 747-5024  
fax (709) 747-5037

## NOVA SCOTIA

**Inverness Raceway (1/2)**  
Box 503, 112 Forrest St.,  
Inverness, NS  
B0E 1N0  
tel (902) 258 3315  
fax (902) 258 2248  
www.invernessraceway.net

## Tartan Downs 1/2

Box 941, Upper Prince St.,  
Sydney, NS  
B1P 6H4  
tel (902) 564-8465  
fax (902) 539-9784

## Truro Raceway 1/2

73 Ryland Ave., P.O. Box 422  
Truro, NS  
B2N 5C5  
tel (902) 893-8075  
fax (902) 897-0069  
www.truroraceway.ca

## ONTARIO

**Clinton Raceway 1/2**  
Box 778, Beech St.  
Clinton, Ontario  
N0M 1L0  
tel (519) 482-5270  
fax (519) 482-1489  
www.clintonraceway.com

## Dresden Raceway 1/2

255 Park St.  
Dresden, Ontario  
N0P 1M0  
tel (519) 683-4466  
fax (519) 683-6404  
www.dresdenraceway.com

## Flamboro Downs 1/2

Box 8220, (967 hwy 5)  
Dundas, Ontario  
L9H 5G1  
tel (905) 627-3561  
fax (905) 627-0480  
www.flamborodowns.com

## Georgian Downs 5/8

7485 - 5th Sideroad  
Innisfil, Ontario  
L9S 3S1  
tel (705) 726-9400  
fax (705) 726-8364  
www.georgiandowns.com

## Grand River Raceway 1/2

7445 Wellington County Rd. 21,  
RR #2  
Elora, Ontario  
N0B 1S0  
tel (519) 846 5455  
www.grandriverraceway.com

## Hanover Raceway 1/2

Box 20040,  
Midtown Postal Outlet (265 5th st)  
Hanover, Ontario  
N4N 3T1

tel (519) 364-2860  
fax (519) 364-7314  
www.hanoverraceway.com

## Hiawatha Horse Park 5/8

1730 London Rd  
Sarnia, Ontario  
N7T 7H2  
tel (519) 542-5543  
fax (519) 542-3538  
www.hiawathahorsepark.com

## Kawartha Downs 5/8

Hwy. 28 at Hwy. 115  
Fraserville, Ontario  
K0L 1V0  
tel (705) 939-6316  
fax (705) 939-6342  
www.kawarthadowns.com

## Mohawk Racetrack 7/8

RR#1, Box 160 (9430  
Guelph Line)  
Campbellville, Ontario  
L0P 1B0  
tel (905) 854-2255  
fax (905) 854-7828  
www.woodbineentertainment.com

## Quinte Raceway 1/2

18 Yeoman St.,  
Belleville, Ontario  
K8P 3X2  
tel (613) 968-3266  
fax (613) 968-3956  
www.quintexubetrace.com

## Rideau Carleton Raceway 5/8

4837 Albion Rd  
Gloucester, Ontario  
K1X 1A3  
tel (613) 822-0247  
fax (613) 822-1586  
www.rcr.net/

## Sudbury Downs 1/2

2070 Old Burwash Rd.,  
Sudbury, Ontario  
P3E 4Z4  
tel (705) 855-9001  
fax (705) 522-9242  
www.sudburydowns.com

## Western Fair Raceway 1/2

Box 7550, 316 Rectory St.,  
London, Ontario  
N5Y 5P8  
tel (519) 438-7203  
fax (519) 438-2388  
www.westernfair.com

## Windsor Raceway 5/8

Box 998, (5555 Ojibway Pkwy.)  
Windsor, Ontario  
N9A 6P6  
tel (519) 969-8311  
fax (519) 969-0888  
www.windsorraceway.com

## Woodbine Racetrack 7/8

Box 156, (555 Rexdale Blvd.)  
Rexdale, Ontario  
M9W 5L2  
tel (416) 675-6111  
fax (416) 213-2129  
1 (888) 675-7223  
www.woodbineentertainment.com

## Woodstock Raceway 1/2

Box 234 (hwy. 2 & Mckenzie St.)  
Woodstock, Ontario  
N4S 7W8  
tel (519) 537-8212  
fax (519) 421-7374  
www.woodstockraceway.com

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

## Charlottetown Driving Park 1/2

Box 308, (46 Kensington Rd)  
C1A 7K7  
tel (902) 892-6823  
fax (902) 368-8856  
www.charlottetowndrivingpark.com

## Summerside Raceway 1/2

477 Notre Dame St.,  
Summerside, PEI  
C1N 1T2  
tel (902) 436-7221  
fax (902) 436-6227  
www.summersideraceway.pe.ca

## QUEBEC

## Hippodrome d'Aylmer 1/2

788, chemin d'Aylmer  
Aylmer, Quebec  
J9H 5E5  
tel (819) 778-0500  
fax (819) 778-1612  
www.sonacc.com

## Hippodrome de Montreal 7/8

7440, boul. Décarie,  
Montreal, Quebec H4P 2H1  
tel (514) 739-2741  
fax (514) 340-2025  
www.sonacc.com

## Hippodrome de Quebec

Box 2053, Parc de L'Exposition  
50 boul. Wilfrid-Hamel  
Quebec, Quebec  
G1K 7M9  
tel (418) 524-5283  
fax (418) 524-0776  
www.sonacc.com

Hippodrome de  
Trois-Rivieres 1/2

1600, boul. des Forges  
Case Postale 1565  
Trois-Rivieres, Quebec  
G9A 5L6  
tel (819) 374-6734  
fax (819) 376-4453  
www.sonacc.com



**ALSO ELIGIBLE** Horse officially entered in a race, but not permitted to start unless field is reduced by a scratch.

**BACKSTRETCH** The straightaway on the far side of the racetrack. Also refers to the stable area.

**BARREN** A broodmare who has had at least one foal, but is not pregnant.

**BLANKET FINISH** One which finds several horses finishing very close together at the wire.

**BOXED IN** When a horse is racing along the pylons and cannot improve his position in a race because of the presence of other horses in front, behind and beside him. Also called Locked In.

**BREAK** When a horse breaks from its gait into a run or gallop. Denoted in the program with an X.

**BREEDING SEASON** The usual breeding season runs from February 15th to July 15th.

**BROODMARE** A mare who has had at least one foal.

**CARD** Another term for a program of racing. For example, someone might say there are ten races on tonight's 'card', meaning there will be ten races contested that night.

**CATCH DRIVER** A driver who doesn't train his/her horses and is hired by other trainers and owners to drive their horses.

**CHALK** The favourite horse in a race.

**CHART** A comprehensive account of a race showing the positions of all horses at various stages of the race.

**COLOURS** The special colourful jacket worn by drivers in a race. Unlike Thoroughbred jockeys, drivers register their own colours and wear them every time they race.

**COLT** A male horse three years of age or younger.

**CONDITIONED RACE** A race where eligibility is based on age, sex, money won or races won. An example would be: 2 Year Old Colts, Non-winners of \$5,000 or 2 races life.

**CONFORMATION** The physical attributes of and bodily proportions of a horse; how it is put together.

**COVER** A horse which races with another horse in front of him is said to race with cover, as the leading horse cuts the wind resistance.

**CROSS FIRE** When a horse's hind foot strikes the opposite front foot or leg.

**DAM** The mother of a horse.

**DEAD HEAT** When the judges cannot separate two horses at the finish line even with the aid of the photo finish, it is called a dead heat.

**DISTANCED** When a horse finishes more than 35 lengths behind the winner.

**DIVISION** A race that has too many entries and must be split into two or more divisions.

**DRIVER** The person holding a license or permit to drive harness horses. There are different types of licenses, which correspond to differing levels of experience.

**EARLY/LATE CLOSER** A race requiring payments which start much closer to the actual race date than a stake 'Early' and 'Late' involve specified periods of time.

**ENTRY** Two or more horses starting in a race owned by the same person.

**FARRIER** Also called blacksmith. The farrier specializes in shoeing the horse.

**FAVOURITE** The horse considered most likely to win based on the odds and past performance.

**FILLY** A female horse three years of age or younger.

**FIRST OVER** The first horse to make a move on the leader in a race, moving up on the outside.

**FREE LEGGED** A pacer which races without wearing hobbles.

**FOAL** All baby horses are called foals.

**GARDEN SPOT** The second position on the rail during most of the race.

**GELDING** An altered (neutered) male of any age.

**GESTATION PERIOD** The gestation period for a mare is 11 months.

**HAND** A unit of measurement (four inches) by which a horse's height is measured. A horse which stands 15 hands is five feet tall at its withers.

**HANDLE** The total amount of money wagered on a racing card.

**HANDICAPPING** The first step in successfully picking a winner (or handicapping) is becoming familiar with reading the racing program. Each program has a section explaining the information format used at that track. Probably the best place to start when handicapping Standardbreds is time. Since over 99 percent of all harness races are conducted at the one mile distance, valid comparisons can be made among the horses.

**HARNESS** The gear which is used to attach the sulky to the horse, to carry the hobbles and to enable the driver to steer the horse.

**HOME STRETCH** The straight length of the track, nearest the spectators, where the finish line is situated. It is called this because it is the final part of the track a horse travels down during a race, on its race home (or to the finish line).

**HOPPLES** The straps which connect the front and rear legs on the same side of a horse. Most pacers wear hobbles to help balance their stride and maintain a pacing gait. The length of hobbles is adjustable and a trainer registers the length that best fits his/her horse. There are also trotting hobbles that work through a pulley system to help trotters maintain their gait.

**HORSE (STALLION)** A male horse four years of age or older.

**IN FOAL** A pregnant mare.

**INQUIRY** A review of the conduct of a race, called for by the judges.

**LAPPED ON** At the finish when a horse's nose is at least alongside the hindquarters of the horse which finishes ahead.

**LAME** The term used to describe a horse which is limping or has difficulty walking properly.

**LEASING** As opposed to buying a harness horse, people have the option of leasing one. Just like some people lease a car instead of paying the money up front, leasing a horse gives people use of a horse without large capital outlay. An agreement or contract must be drawn up between the two parties and the lease must be registered with the relevant controlling body.

**LENGTH** Measure of distance based on average length of horse.

**LONGSHOT** Refers to a horse that appears NOT to have a good chance to win a race. When the longshot wins, it usually pays very well.

**MAIDEN** A horse who has never won a race at a particular gait. (Also refers to a mare who has never had a foal.)

**MARE** A female horse four years of age or older.

**OBJECTION** A claim of foul lodged by a driver, upheld or dismissed by the judges.

**PARKED OUT** When a horse cannot find a position along the rail in a race and is forced to race outside those on the inside. Is also called taking the overland route.

**PHOTO FINISH** When two horses cross the finish too closely to identify a winner, officials call for a photograph of the race, taken exactly at the finish line, to help them determine the winner.

**PEDIGREE** Refers to a horse's family tree, paternal and maternal ancestors. A horse's pedigree provides insight into its potential ability and value.

**POST POSITION** Generally, the closer a horse starts to the inside rail, or barrier of the track, especially on smaller tracks, the better its chance of winning. At the start, horses must either "leave" (start quickly) to get a good position or else find a place on the rail to avoid racing on the outside of other horses. When racing on the outside the horse is said to be parked out and loses ground on every turn. A horse on the inside has a better chance to get to the rail or quickly get a good position.

**POST TIME** The starting time of a race.

**PURSE** The prize money which is offered and paid in each race to owners of horses finishing in the first five positions.

**QUALIFIER** A race in which a horse must go a mile below an established time standard to prove itself capable of competing in pari-mutuel races.

**RIDGLING** A male horse with one or both testicles not descended into the scrotal sac.

**SCRATCH** The removal of a horse from a race after its entry has been accepted.

**SIRE** The father of a horse.

**SIRES STAKES** Stake races designed to promote Standardbred breeding and racing within a jurisdiction. Eligibility to compete in the Sires Stakes events depends upon the rules of the jurisdiction.

**SPAYED MARE** A neutered female horse of any age.

**STARTER** The person responsible for starting a harness race. The starter controls the start of the race from the back of the mobile starting gate.

**STRETCH** The final straight portion of the racetrack to the finish.

**STUD** A stallion used for breeding.

**SULKY** Also known as the cart or racebike, the sulky is attached to the harness and carries the driver which the horse pulls.

**TIME TRIAL** An attempt to have a horse beat its own best time in a non-competitive event. A time trial is not a race. Galloping horses hitched to sulkies, called prompters, are used to push a horse to its best effort.

**TOTE BOARD** An electronic board, usually in the infield of a racetrack, which posts the odds, amount of money bet, results of a race and the wagering pay offs.

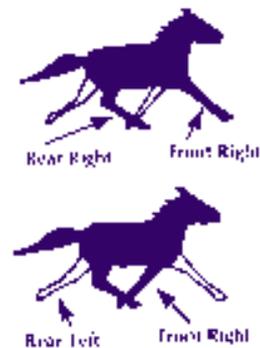
**WEANLING** Foals weaned from their mother until they reach their first birthday.

**YEARLING** Any horse between its first and second birthday.

## GAITS

**PACER** Pacers move the legs on one

side of their body in tandem-left front and rear, right front and rear. Pacers are also referred to as sidewheelers. Pacers account for approximately 80% of all harness horses and are aided in maintaining their gait through plastic loops called hobbles. Some pacers perform without the aid of hobbles and are called free-legged pacers. Pacers are generally faster than trotters due to the sureness of their action.



**TROTTER** Trotters move with a diagonal gait, the left front and right rear legs move in unison, as do the right front and left rear. Trotting is the more natural gait for the Standardbred, but it takes a great deal of skill to train and maintain a trotter.

## CONDITION SYSTEM

**CLAIMING RACE** A race in which each horse carries a price tag (claiming price) and may be purchased. Claiming races are established according to price; ie. \$25,000 claimers.

**CONDITIONED RACE** A race in which eligibility is determined based on age, sex, money or races won. Example: Four-year-olds and younger, non winners of \$50,000 lifetime, or 7 races.

**EARLY & LATE CLOSING EVENTS**  
A race requiring payments starting closer to the actual date of the race compared to stake events. Early and late refer to the time period involved.

**INVITATIONAL (OPEN OR FREE FOR ALL)** Usually a weekly race for the top horses at that racetrack.

**STAKE RACE** An event or series of events in which horsemen have made payments well in advance to keep their horses eligible to compete. If a payment is missed, the horse becomes ineligible to race.

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENTRY** Some stake events allow you to make a supplemental payment days prior to the running of the stake if your horse(s) is ineligible to the stake.

**BETTING TERMINOLOGY**  
**WIN** The horse you select must finish first in the official order.

**PLACE** The horse you select must finish first or second in the official order.

**SHOW** The horse you select must finish first, second or third in the official order.

**DAILY DOUBLE** You must select the winners of two consecutive races.

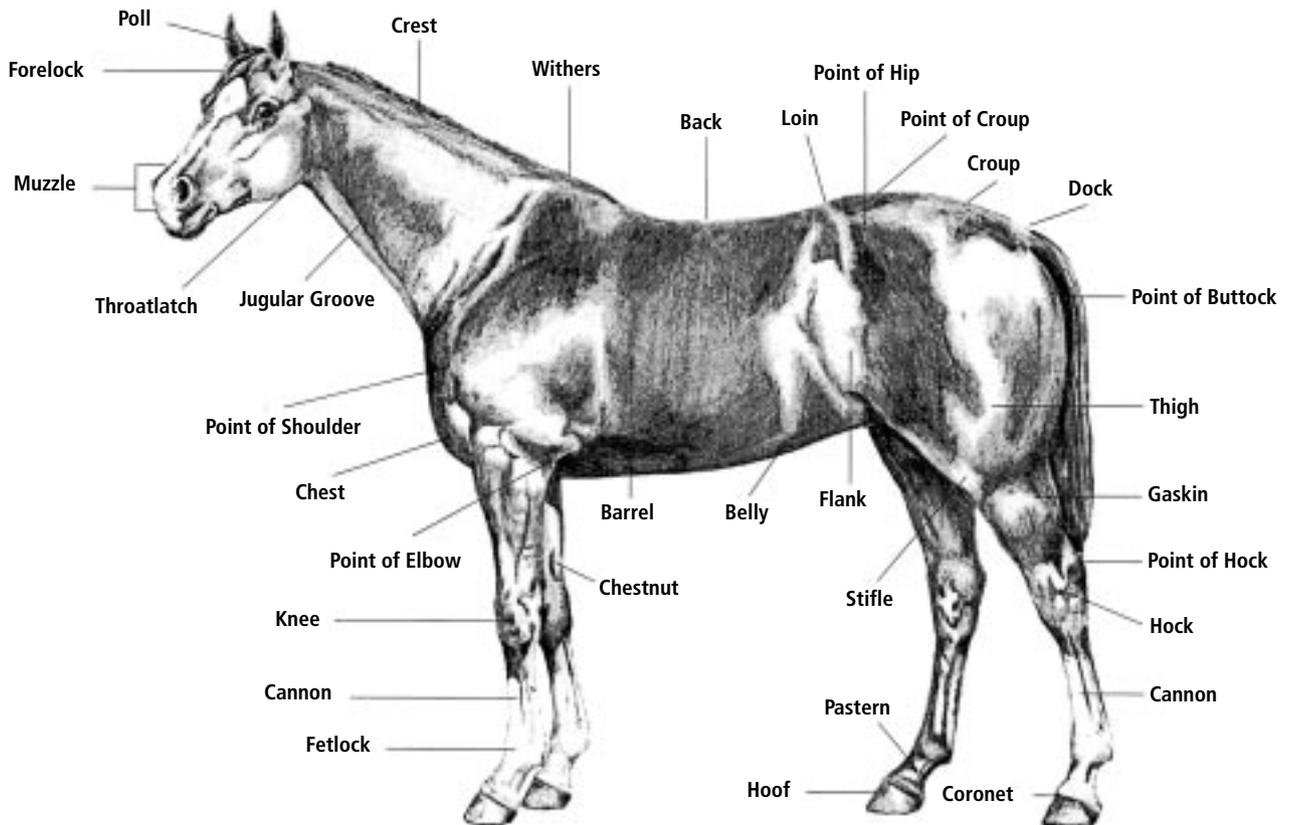
**EXACTOR/PERFECTA** You must select the first two finishers in exact order.

**TRIACTOR/TRIFECTA** You must select the first three finishers in exact order.

**QUINELLA** You must select the horses that will finish first and second in any order.

**SUPERFECTA** You must correctly select the first four finishers in the exact order of finish.

ANATOMY OF A HORSE







There is no experience that matches the thrill that comes with cheering your horse on to victory or standing in the winner's circle as the proud owner of your very own horse. Racehorse ownership can raise the excitement level in your life and win or lose, successful or not, has the potential to be one of your most enjoyable and unique experiences.

It's a sport in which the non-athlete by virtue of a small investment has the chance to quickly become a major league participant.

Standardbred owners come from every walk of life and every economic level. It is a unique sport in that neighbours who share the ownership of a \$5,000 claiming horse rub shoulders and are every bit as important as the tycoon who spends a million each year on yearlings. They share a common interest in their love of this exciting sport and the beauty of the animals.

There are many Canadian success stories, the two school teachers who paid less than a thousand dollars for a trotting mare and had great fun spoiling her before she repaid their kindness by winning over \$400,000; the young couple whose homebred earned them an expense-paid trip to Sweden to win the prestigious Elitlopp and close to a million dollars; the businessman whose three-year-old won over two million and became horse of the year.

Realistic hopes would be to recoup the money you have invested and have a lot of fun doing it. However, this business has turned a lot of pragmatic people into dreamers and a lot of dreams into reality.

We hope that you will get the love of harness racing in your blood, as it is in ours, that you will use common sense and every available resource to get started. Good luck!