



A MARITIME JIG

Honey Do Jigtime was the best three-year-old pacing filly in Atlantic Canada this year as she took on all comers and gave her owners a summer of memories. By Harold Howe • Photo by Kyle Burton



Her record is not flawless and she was beatable but you will not hear a word of complaint from the connections of Honey Do Jigtime, the top money winning three-year-old pacing filly in Atlantic Canada during the 2011 season.

Part of that reason is that she cost owners Morah Kerr of Greenfield and Phonsie

MacEachern of Port Hood, Nova Scotia, a mere \$3,000 two years ago. This racing season she banked over \$72,000 and usually slept in her own stall every night.

Outside of the east coast region few have heard of Honey Do Jigtime but she is a horse to be admired in the mind of her trainer Clare MacDonald.

“She never had a soundness issue this year and takes very good care of herself. She made 18 starts and is not worn out at all, there is a lot to like about one like this,” the trainer/driver praises.

Honey Do Jigtime is a daughter of Charlotte Ranch’s sire Coastcoast Yankee. She is the fifth foal of the Camluck mare Gold



Photo by Peter J. Thompson

Luck p,4,1:55.1s (\$37,577) owned by Blaine and Donna Hannay of Upper Rexton, New Brunswick. Her best performer to date is the Pacific Rocket gelding Icantwork Like This p,1:51f (\$185,485).

Honey Do Jigtime was entered in the 2009 Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Yearling Sale at Truro Raceway where she was first seen by MacEachern.

"We spotted this big knee right off the bat and that put a lot of people off but we wanted Clare to have a look at it," recalls Phonsie.

But it was the word from breeder Blaine Hannay which carried the day.

"I've known Blaine for quite a while and he told me she was perfect two days before the sale and he guessed it happened in the trailer ride to Truro. I took him at his word and the bidding stopped at \$3,000.

"That knee has never been an issue

"While everything we've said about the filly is true, a great deal of credit has to be given to Clare for her management of this horse. Clare is a true horse person who knows how to work through problems and that is something that racing seems to be losing," says Phonsie MacEachern of leading Maritime trainer/driver Clare MacDonald above.

although it did take a few days to come down," says MacDonald who bases her team at Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

"I think she will turn into a heck of an older mare and with her size have residual value as a broodmare. She is just that type that doesn't come along every day."

Luck comes in many forms in this racing game and it smiled brightly on Kerr and MacEachern this day. MacEachern, now retired from his own wholesale company dealing in patent medicines and sundry drug lines has been a horse owner for 40 years.

He now serves on the board of Standardbred Canada while Kerr has

been the president of the Atlantic Standardbred Breeders Association for the past five years. She is employed full time by a plastics company in Truro. The pair have owned five horses together now, all being fillies.

This filly did make the races at two but was a shadow of what she proved to be in 2011.

"It was not until the fall of her two-year-old season that her feet got grown out to where I wanted them to be. She'd been interfering up until then but once we had enough foot to get her shod properly that went away," explains MacDonald of the filly who was 4-3-0 in 10 appearances during her rookie season.

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ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Saturday, January 21, 2012
5:00 p.m.

Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel
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Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association

For more information contact
Aimee Adams 519-856-4431
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"While everything we've said about the filly is true, a great deal of credit has to be given to Clare for her management of this horse. She worked with the knee in the beginning and then dealt with the feet but there was very little veterinarian work which says a lot about how she maintained the health of this horse.

"Clare is a true horse person who knows how to work through problems and that is something that racing seems to be losing," points out MacEachern.

Honey Do Jigtime was a model of consistency this season. From her 18 appearances in the Maritimes she was 12-4-2. The biggest purse she raced for was the \$27,425 Breeders Stake which she won. But the most coveted prize was the \$24,000 Atlantic Breeders Crown in October at Charlottetown.

"If there was one thing that bothered me this year it was the fact that Honey and Moon Landing were the best of the three-year-old pacing fillies. Both were bred and raised in New Brunswick, the province that is the least supportive of breeding in the Maritimes," declares Kerr.

"In my role with the ASBA we've tried to make inroads but haven't gotten anywhere. Really, it is a shame."

The filly's Maritime career is now concluded as she was sold in December to the Let It Ride Stable, Robert Cooper Stables and Dana Parham and sent to the Ontario stable of Tony O'Sullivan.

For Kerr and MacEachern and his wife Frances, she provid-

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for happiness in the coming year.
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everyone who supported us in 2011.*



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A MARITIME JIG

ed a whirlwind summer as they skipped around the Maritimes watching Honey Do race. They missed just one start.

"It was really fun. Both Phonsie and his wife are wonderful people to share a horse with; it's not about the money for any of us racing here in the Maritimes," explains Kerr.

"Her chief rival was a horse called Moon Landing who beat her a few times. I remember one night she got us and that group was having a big feed afterwards. We went over to congratulate them and they invited us to join them. That's Maritime racing for you."

MacEachern agrees. Of all the horses he has been involved with only Armbr Norm, a son of Airliner that he raced in the mid-1970s, gave him as much pleasure.

"Nobody is going to get rich here in the Maritimes racing horses so you may as well have as much fun as you can.

"It's a shame we had to sell her but there just isn't anything for her to race for here. She should make a lovely broodmare because of her size to go with her ability."

Kerr and her partner Tom Hollis have also had some success over the years with the likes of Imps Finesse, Island Tradition and of course the Nova Scotia favourite Super S Crosby.

Although Kerr and MacPherson's connection to Honey Do Jigtime has come to an end she provided them with tremendous enjoyment every horse owner should experience. 🐾



Photo by Peter J. Thompson

Clare MacDonald, shown here being interviewed by Lee Drake, no longer trains and drives Honey Do Jigtime who was recently sold and is now in the Tony O'Sullivan stable where she won her second start at Woodbine on December 16 in 154.1.

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Greetings*



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Lisa Photo

*Best Wishes to everyone in racing and hoping
all have a great 2012.*

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