

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

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# From The Breeder Who Gave You...

## Selling at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale October 3-6

### #529 **HIGHLAND HOTTIE** b.c.

*Western Terror – HTF Cocoa – Jate Lobell*

First foal from a half-sister to OSS winner ICEY BREEZE

p,2,1:55.3, 1:52.2-'11 (\$167,861).

## Selling at the Forest City Yearling Sale October 15-16

### #120 **HIGHLAND GWYNS GUY** b.c.

*Ken Warkentin – Gwyneth Hall – Malabar Man*

Half-brother to the outstanding multiple stakes winning

filly GODIVA HALL 2,1:56.1, 3,1:54.4f, 4,1:53.3f (\$818,475),

GOLDEN GENES HALL 2,1:59.2f, 1:57.4h-'11 (\$112,575),

HIGHLAND RIDGE 2,1:59.4f. Family of ANDOVER HALL,

ANGUS HALL, CONWAY HALL, etc.

### #231 **HIGHLANDNIGHTLIGHT** b.f.

*Ken Warkentin – All Night Hall – Conway Hall*

Half-brother to the accomplished HIGHLAND STRIKES

3,1:56.4s (\$157,745), ALL NIGHT DWIGHT 2,1:59, 1:57.4

(\$111,479) and the promising two-year-old filly

HIGHLAND YANKEE 2,Q1:58-'11.

### #143 **HIGHLAND BADDIE** br.f.

*Badlands Hanover – Cams Sweet Luck – Camluck*

From a full sister to the millionaire pacer GIDDY UP

LUCKY p,2,1:55.1s, 3,1:50.4s, 1:49.1f (\$1,162,221).



## MYBROTHERGEORGE

P, 2, 1:51.1 -'11 (\$146,373)

*Winner of Bluegrass & Niatross, third in Woodrow Wilson final.*

Lisa Photo

*All of our yearlings were  
raised at Village Acres under  
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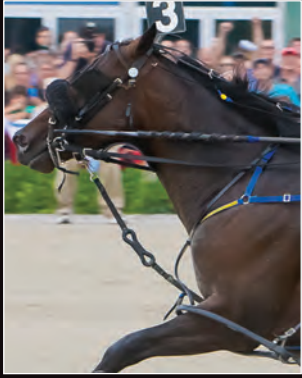


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Owner – Mary Clark



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Aaron Lambert is another in a growing line of Australian horsemen making his mark in North America.



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Mary Clark's farm may be named Highland Thoroughbred Farm but it's Standardbreds she's concentrating on primarily these days, and with some success.



### At The Tipping Point

Rod Boyd is having one of his best years ever as a trainer and realizes it could be the springboard to far greater days ahead.

## Regular Features



### The European View

The harness racing industry in Italy has been stunned with the charges of race fixing against the country's top drivers and trainers.



### The View Downunder

The racing and breeding industries in New Zealand and Australia are following the trends in Canada and the United States with changes happening rapidly.



*new for 2012*  
**BIG JIM**

Western Ideal – Bold Pink – Big Towner  
p, 2, 1:49.1s' 10 (\$1,544,580)  
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*Photos: Claus Andersen (main), New Image Media (small)*

# Fashion Farms

## LEXINGTON SELECTED SALE, OCT. 3-7



Featuring: **Norman Conquest**, full sister to 2011 fast 2-year-old stakes winner Stormin Normand 2,1:56f (\$107,904).

**Love My Muscles**, from Muscles Yankee and Amour Hall—a full sister to Andover Hall, Conway Hall and Angus Hall, having already produced: Amour Ami 3,1:54; 1:52.2f (\$620,809) † Sweet Love 2,1:56.2f (\$109,807)

**Fire Can Fly**, from full sister to Burning Point p,1:49.2 (\$2,810,194).

Two trotting colts by first-crop sire **Deweycheatumhowe**: Mister Molar, out of B Cor Tango, producer of Broadway Hall 1:56.4, 2-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year and Tom Cango 1:53.2s (\$447,368) † Fashion Gabby, out of Go Go Gabby 1:54.4 (\$303,000).

**Some Heart Throb**, a pacing colt, by first-crop sire Somebeachsomewhere, out of the fast stakes-winning Oneinamilliongirl p,1:51.1 (\$617,159).

**Emeritus Maximus**, a Rocknroll Hanover colt out of the fast Jugette-winning Eternity's Delight p,3,1:51.4 (\$277,495).

### REAL ARTIST

p,2,1:52; 3,Q1:51 (\$424,947)

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# 2011 Yearlings

## Trotting Fillies

**Fashion Victory**

*Broadway Hall – Worldclass Victory*

**Norman Conquest**

*Broadway Hall – Idole Normand*

**Fashion Glide**

*Yankee Glide – Rompaway Quincy*

**Love My Muscles**

*Muscles Yankee – Amour Hall*

## Pacing Fillies

**Ice Box**

*Village Jolt – Western Ice*

**Fire Can Fly**

*Real Artist – Fire In The Sky*

**Blue Beyond**

*Village Jolt – Blue Artist*

**Beautiful Artist**

*Real Artist – Buenavista Hanover*

## Trotting Colts

**Mister Molar**

*Deweycheatumnhowe – B Cor Tamgo*

**Fashion Gabby**

*Deweycheatumnhowe – Go Go Gabby*

## Pacing Colts

**Some Heart Throb**

*Somebeachsomewhere – Oneinamilliongirl*

**Emeritus Maximus**

*Rocknroll Hanover – Eternity's Delight*

Yearlings available for  
inspection at Fashion Farms.



**BROADWAY HALL**

2,1:56.4 (\$583,762)

Conway Hall-B Cor Tamgo by A Go Go Lauxmont  
Total progeny earnings of more than \$15.9 million

If there is such a thing as reincarnation, I would like to return as one of Mary Clark's animals. I had the pleasure of visiting with Mary recently to write the story on her Highland Thoroughbred Farm which appears in this issue.

Unlike many people I've interviewed in the past, Mary does not come to the Standardbred industry with any kind of background or family connection to the sport. Rather, she and her late husband moved to the country when her husband was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease several years ago and they turned to raising horses as a way to use their land. It didn't take long for her to fall in love with the sport and the horses.

Mary's farm is breathtaking, with a very long laneway that ends at her beautiful home which boasts spectacular views for miles of nearby farmlands. She keeps her broodmares and foals at Village Acres, but has her retired and rescued horses at the home farm.

In addition, her lovely home is graced by an assortment of well loved dogs and cats, several of which she has rescued.

It didn't take long in talking with Mary to realize how important her animals are to her. She's adamant that all of her horses will live out their lives in a caring environment and to that end she'll keep them if she can't find the proper home for them when their racing or breeding careers are over.

Many people feel the same way Mary does, but circumstances dictate that they can't keep their horses and they donate them to the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society. OSAS has found themselves with a surplus of horses these days and I urge anyone considering adopting a horse, whether it be for a riding or buggy horse or simply a companion horse to others, to visit

the OSAS website [here](#) and view the many animals waiting for a new home.

The versatility of the Standardbred horse is one of the most attractive features when adopting one. Their dispositions, and the fact that they've been handled so much in their lives, make them very trainable and easy to work with. That can be seen in the photos from the recent OSAS horse show which may be [viewed here](#).

Another heartwarming story in this issue is that of the sophomore pacing colt Bestofbest Hanover who won this year's Confederation Cup but has now been retired for the year in order to have throat surgery. His connections are hoping he'll be back next year.

What makes his story compelling is the fact that both of his trainers, Gabriel Boily and Daniel Martin battled and overcame serious health problems recently which makes the colt's success that much sweeter.

Finally, I'd like to commend Colonial Downs which opened for its 14th annual season of racing in mid-September. The track featured some very unique promotions for the opening day which included some very non-traditional events which were sure to bring people to the track who had never attended before.

It's refreshing to see tracks thinking beyond the traditional when it comes to events on site. Colonial's efforts, which included horse races other than Standardbreds, a 5K running race, grape stomping and a blood drive, may be [read about here](#).

As always, good health and good racing to all,



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**This month's cover:**

*Our cover is by Harold Howe and features The Red Mile where the racing schedule has undergone several significant changes for this year's Grand Circuit meet.*

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**October 3 – 7**

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*Selling in the Northwood Bloodstock agent consignment.*

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Photo by Brianna L. Fenn

# THE BEST MEDICINE



**BESTOFBEST HANOVER** has proven to be the best medicine for a pair of Quebec trainers who battled illness and adversity and an owner who had never before won a stakes race. By Paul Delean

Confederation Cup champ Bestofbest Hanover is the best kind of race-track story, an uplifting tale with an undersized hero, a small-market owner who never stopped believing, and not one but two trainers battling back from physical adversity.

"There was a lot of emotion in the winner's circle because of what it represented, everything that happened before we got there. I still get choked up thinking about it," said owner Jean-Roch Perron, 61, operator of a Quebec City swimming pool business.



## THE BEST TO HIS CONNECTIONS



Photo by Racehorsephoto.com

Beaming next to him in the Flamboro Downs' winner's circle on Confederation Cup day was veteran Quebec City horseman Gabriel Boily, 62, who helped Perron pick out Bestofbest Hanover at auction, only to be diagnosed with bladder cancer a month later, dashing any hopes that he'd drive and train the colt himself.

Conspicuously absent, for what turned out to be the biggest win of his career, was trainer Daniel Martin, who got Bestofbest Hanover when his stable had shrunk to almost nothing, the consequence of a medical condition that left him temporarily unable to do anything strenuous.

Martin was at Rideau Carleton Raceway that day, starting two other horses from his eight horse stable at the Ottawa track, and left Bestofbest Hanover in the care of his partner Dominique Michel.

He watched on television as the Western Hanover colt made his electrifying charge up the inside for Jack Moiseyev to collar Mystician just before the wire in the \$532,500 final of one of North America's premier races for three-year-old pacers.

**Joining Bestofbest Hanover in the winner's circle following his Confederation Cup win is former Flamboro Downs' owner Charlie Juravinski, Dominique Michel (Daniel Martin's partner), his son Mathieu, Jean-Roch Perron (holding the flowers) and Gabriel Boily.**

It was two years ago, at the Harrisburg auction, that Bestofbest Hanover and his Quebec connections first came together.

If it had been business as usual at home, Perron and Boily probably wouldn't have gone to Harrisburg, instead spending their money at the Quebec yearling auctions. But with live racing in Quebec discontinued, Perron decided to try his luck south of the border.

He hadn't had much luck to speak of in the game to that point. In three decades of Standardbred ownership, Perron, who races as L'Écurie Triple P with partner Isabelle Paquet, had never won a single stakes race, not even a small one, on the Quebec circuit.

Perron was keen on Western Hanover's final yearling crop and circled Bestofbest Hanover in his Harrisburg catalogue because he liked the pairing with

former champion filly Bunny Lake, a winner of more than three million in her career. When another Western Hanover they liked sold for more than his \$60,000 limit, Perron focused on Bestofbest Hanover.

Boily, a Quebec City fixture who became Perron's trainer in 2007 after training for his ex-father-in-law years before, liked the colt's conformation. He didn't mind that he was small, and at \$27,000, the price was right.

"I thought he'd get bigger," Boily said. "He didn't, but he's got a big motor and an even bigger heart."

About a month after the auction, Boily started to feel a bit off and noticed blood in his urine. His worst fears were confirmed when medical tests revealed bladder cancer.

"It cuts the legs out from under you," he said. "You ask yourself a lot of questions."



**Yves Filion recommended that Bestofbest Hanover be sent to the stable of Daniel Martin (above). "You don't refuse a horse like that. It was an honour to have him in the stable," said Martin.**

After almost 40 years as a trainer and driver, his career was on hold as chemotherapy sapped his energy and strength.

Boily broke Bestofbest Hanover but could not carry on with the colt. That responsibility fell mainly on his assistant, Melanie Plourde, who like her boss, was patient with her precocious but high-strung pupil.

"We'd drive up next to the track (at a training centre in Levis, Que), Gaby and I, and watch him train from the car," Perron recalled. "He'd say 'this is the best medicine'."

Boily said it was obvious the colt had talent. "But he had to stay healthy. That's the hardest part."

Plourde and the stable moved to Rideau Carleton to race and that's where Bestofbest Hanover schooled, qualified and made his first start as a two-year-old in the summer of 2010.

"She told us he was doing well," Boily said. "We'd go up once a week to see him work."

Well known Quebec horseman Yves Filion, who drove Bestofbest Hanover to a three-length victory in 1:58.4 in his first career start at Rideau, is the one who recommended Daniel Martin to them as trainer, because of his velvet touch with young horses.

"I'd made arrangements to send him to Ron Burke in Penn-

sylvania, who was recommended by Yannick Gingras, but I could see that Gaby was hesitating. Finally, I called Yves Filion.

"He said 'do you know who'll be looking after the horse there? I wouldn't send him without knowing who'll have him. You've got to be careful with a horse like that. With the wrong groom, you could lose everything in a day or two.' So I said 'if you had a horse like this, who'd you send him to?' Yves said Daniel Martin."

One of the most accomplished and successful Quebec trainers for more than a decade and the developer of such horses as Holding Court, Nagano and Marnie Hall, Martin had moved to Ontario, as many Quebec horsemen did, when provincial race-track operator Attractions Hippiques folded, leaving the industry in tatters.

It was a painful adjustment for Martin, in more ways than one. He'd just bought a dream farm with 48 stalls about 20 minutes south of Montreal. It went back on the market almost immediately (finally selling last year to someone who converted it into an equestrian centre).

"I couldn't keep it. I was paying for stalls in Ontario and a farm in Quebec at the same time."

Many of Martin's Quebec owners downsized or quit the game, leaving him with just a few horses.

Then one day shortly after his arrival in Ontario, an overpowering headache suddenly struck him while he was schooling horses at Mohawk. And it wasn't a one-time thing. It came back the next day, and any time he did anything strenuous or sudden.



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## THE BEST TO HIS CONNECTIONS

Even a sneeze could trigger it. He couldn't sleep.

Doctors in Guelph did a scan and diagnosed the problem as deformed blood vessels in the brain.

"I was scared. My brother (Vincent) died of a brain aneurysm at 24," said Martin, 52. "You wonder if you'll ever drive or train again."

Martin flew home a few days later to consult doctors at the Montreal Neurological Institute. He was told he required

an operation that involved opening the skull and he'd probably be sidelined at least three months.

That was longer than his owners could wait. Most moved their horses elsewhere. "That's the game," Martin said. "It's expensive to sit."

Martin then was presented with a second option: a medical procedure that involved blocking off the problematic blood vessels via a tube inserted through the groin.

That's what he chose. The procedure, performed in February of 2010, lasted about three hours and appears to have worked like a charm: Martin hasn't had a headache since.

But he also didn't have many horses, only the four in which he had an ownership stake.

That's why the call out of the blue a year ago asking if he'd take Bestofbest Hanover was both unexpected and appreciated. He'd never trained a horse before for Perron.

"You don't refuse a horse like that. It was an honour to have him in the stable," Martin said. "I don't know why they thought of me, but I'm happy they did."

Despite the colt's small stature, Martin liked him from the start. He was energetic, easily distracted, whip-shy, a bit fretful behind the gate, but with a quick turn of foot, "and he tries."

Bestofbest Hanover was fifth in his first start for Martin at Mohawk, then a closing third in 1:53.3 in his first pairing with driver Jack Moiseyev. He followed that up with back-to-back victories in 1:53 and 1:52.4 in condition races.

The connections opted to end his campaign there, in early September and Bestofbest Hanover returned to Quebec City for the winter.

His three-year-old campaign followed a similar path, with Plourde starting him at Rideau in May, then on to Martin at Mohawk.

In his stakes debut, Bestofbest Hanover won a \$100,000 division of the Somebeachsomewhere Stakes in June, providing Perron with his first stakes victory.

Then came the North America Cup. In his \$50,000 elimination, the colt trailed early and despite a late rally, wound up fourth. His connections were still hoping to make the final, since one of three fourth-place finishers normally would draw in, but a deadheat for third in the third elimination ended that scenario.

Instead, the colt raced in the \$100,000 consolation, which he won impressively for Moiseyev in 1:49.1 faster than Up The Credit's winning time (1:49.3) in the \$1.5 million final.

For the Meadowlands Pace, Bestofbest Hanover drew poorly in the elimination won by Custard The Dragon, getting

# NSPE SELECT SALE



## HONEY DO JIGTIME

p,2,1:59.3h, 3,1:55.1h-11 (\$74,836)

B.f. Coastcoast Yankee – Gold Luck – Camluck

**Owners** – Morah Kerr & Phonsie MacEachern

**Trainer/Driver** – Clare MacDonald

**Breeder** – Blaine & Donna Hannay

Winner of 10 of 14 starts in 2011.

Graduate of the 2009 NSPE Select Yearling Sale.

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post eight. Driver Michel Lachance opted for an inside trip and was able to wrest the fifth and final spot for the final where the colt landed post nine.

He trailed early, caught no breaks and finished an unthreatening sixth behind Roll With Joe.

"With a good post, he'd have got a good cheque. He was only beaten four lengths," Boily said.

"He's as fast as any of them for the last quarter-mile, but in a balanced bunch like this, you need post position," Perron said.

The colt was no luckier for the Confederation Cup, at least initially. After getting the outside draw in his elimination, Bestofbest Hanover again was stuck at the rear and had to scramble to be fifth which did not guarantee a spot in the final.

Though he was closing the stretch, Martin felt something was amiss. "Off the trip he had, he should have been third."

Turns out the colt had flipped his palate in his heat. "We're lucky he didn't choke or break," Martin said.

The colt's day was not over, however, and his fortunes were about to change. Of the two fifth-place finishers, he won the draw for the final, and to boot got an attractive post, three.

"We were really happy then. Anything was possible," Perron said.

In the final, the last major stake on Bestofbest Hanover's 2011 schedule, Moiseyev put on a driving clinic. He got the colt away alertly and settled him along the cones in fifth through the first half, followed Prodigal Seelster's first-over move, ducked inside when pocket-sitter Up The Credit left it vacant after a break entering the final turn, then used the passing lane to reel in Mystician in deep stretch in 1:52. That race may be watched by clicking here.

"I was in front of the winner's circle and didn't see Up The Credit break, but I heard our horse's name, so I expected to see us three-wide coming out of the final turn," Perron said.

"Instead, we were down on the inside, taking the lead. I was just overcome with joy. I've dreamt of winning a stake like this. I'd even imagined doing interviews in English. I'd never been to Flamboro before, and seeing the names of past winners as I came in made me really want to win, if only to be able to join the list."

Martin has been in million-dollar races before and won purses as large as \$300,000 in Quebec, but the Confederation Cup was by far his richest and most prestigious win.

"It was emotional; I was jumping and yelling at Rideau," said Martin, who now lives in a fifth wheel and winters in Florida.

"This won't change my life, but hopefully it will bring me a few more horses. I'd like to have more. In Quebec, I could pretty much buy anything I wanted at the sales. It's harder here."

The victory was also a career peak for Boily. He has more than 5,200 wins as a driver and trainer, most of them in Quebec City, not one of them six-figure.

"I think sometimes of what would have happened if I'd been healthy. Normally, I'd drive him, though maybe not in the biggest races. But these are the circumstances. I'm very happy anyway," he said.

His cancer's in remission, he's gained some weight and even

**"I was just overcome with joy. I've dreamt of winning a stake like this. I'd even imagined doing interviews in English. I'd never been to Flamboro before, and seeing the names of past winners as I came in made me really want to win, if only to be able to join the list." - owner Jean-Roch Perron**

drove a few times this summer at Hippodrome de Quebec, but: "I live day-to-day," he said.

"That's why this horse will always be so special," Perron said of the pacing prodigy who to date has collected more than \$400,000.

"He represents Gaby's battle to overcome this illness. Gaby's not a guy who talks much, but he had tears in his eyes in the winner's circle. You could see how much it meant to him. He never got to drive him, but it's the horse of his life." 🐾



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