

2025 MINT JULEP CUP

DOM ROMEO

It has been 42 years since Dom Romeo purchased the filly Flashy Chestnut, a daughter of Briartic, from the CTHS's Ontario Yearling Sale for a little over \$16,000. From that purchase grew one of Canada's most enduring breeding and racing operations.

A soft-spoken, self-made businessman, Romeo built Terra Farm into one of the country's most successful Thoroughbred programs, one that has continued long after the era of powerhouses such as Sam-Son Farm, Kinghaven Farms and Gardiner Farms.

This evening, CTHS Ontario is honoured to present Dom Romeo with the Mint Julep Cup in recognition of his lasting contributions to Thoroughbred racing and breeding in the province.

Born in Calabria, Italy, on October 9, 1929, Romeo came to Canada as a young boy. He later studied motors and mechanics before building a long and successful career in the automobile business. He sold General Motors vehicles for six decades and became the owner of the well-known Pine View Auto Group.

In the 1980s, Romeo turned his attention to another kind of horsepower: Thoroughbreds. Along with partners including Rocco Marcello, he began investing in racing and breeding stock. Flashy Chestnut, a multiple winner, became the foundation of Terra Farm's success. She went on to produce multiple stakes winner Bold n' Flashy, who later became a successful Ontario sire.

Flashy Chestnut also produced Regent n'Flashy, who never raced but became the dam of Big Red Mike. In 2010, Big Red Mike gave Romeo the greatest moment



of his racing life when he won the Queen's Plate in front of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Romeo later called it "a moment of a lifetime," as he held the Plate trophy with the Queen, surrounded by his family.

Terra Farm's bloodlines have continued to grow stronger with time. Amalfi Coast, whose third dam Avens was also a daughter of Briartic purchased in 1986, was named Canada's Champion Female Sprinter in 2021. Fashionably Fab, a great-granddaughter of Flashy Chestnut, was honoured as Canada's Champion Older Mare in 2024.

Through the many challenges faced by Ontario racing, Terra Farm has endured. Its horses continue to race, win and carry forward the bloodlines that Romeo helped establish more than four decades ago.

Now approaching his 97th birthday, Romeo has always emphasized that the horse business is a family affair. Many of his horses have been named for his children and grandchildren, and today Terra Farm is owned and operated by his sons, Frank and Mark.

Dom Romeo's legacy is measured not only in stakes winners, champions and historic victories, but in the family, farm and bloodlines that continue to shape Ontario racing.

2025 BREEDER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY HBPA

CHIEFSWOOD STABLE

For Robert and Mark Krembil, involvement in Canada's Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry has always been about the horse.

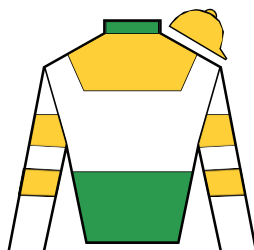
For some 25 years, the father-and-son team has been breeding to race blue-blooded Thoroughbreds from their farm in Schomberg, Ontario, with a strong emphasis on care before, during and after each horse's racing career.

Following in the tradition of legendary Canadian breeders E.P. Taylor, Ernie Samuel and Bud Willmot, the Krembil family has steadily built a program rooted in patience, quality and long-term vision. In doing so, Chiefswood Stable is establishing its own powerful pedigree lines, with influence that should continue to be felt in Canadian racing for years to come.

The 2025 season was a landmark year for Chiefswood. The farm earned its first Sovereign Award as Outstanding Breeder, adding to three previous Sovereign Awards as Outstanding Owner.

Last season, Chiefswood raced seven stakes horses, including Sovereign Award finalists and graded stakes winners Borealis Trail and Simcoe, along with Piper's Gift, among others. The farm's homebreds won 25 races in 2025 and earned more than \$2.1 million.

In recent years, Chiefswood has also enjoyed significant success in Canadian classics, winning three editions of the Breeders' Stakes, the third jewel of Canada's Triple Crown, with homebreds, as well as two Woodbine Oaks races for fillies.



The stable is managed by Robert Landry, who rode Niigon to victory in the 2004 Queen's Plate for Chiefswood. Horses in training are developed through Chiefswood's Loretto division before being sent to various trainers throughout North America.

Two of Chiefswood's leading runners, Gotham Stakes (G3) winner Weyburn, by Pioneer of the Nile, and his half-brother Yorkton, a graded stakes winner, became exciting additions to the Ontario stallion ranks in 2025.

For Robert Krembil, racing is also part of a family legacy. He remembers the love his father, Jake, had for the sport, particularly handicapping. Robert went on to found Trimark Financial, a Canadian mutual fund success story, before selling the company and establishing the Krembil Foundation, a philanthropic organization focused on advancing treatments for Alzheimer's disease, arthritis and immune system disorders.

That same sense of responsibility extends to the horses. The family operates its own Chiefswood Aftercare program for retired racehorses, run by Mark's wife, Stacey.

Through its commitment to breeding, racing, aftercare and the future of the Thoroughbred, Chiefswood Stable has become one of the most respected and influential programs in Canadian racing.

2025 OUTSTANDING FARM WORKER

SPONSORED BY ROTENBERG VETERINARY PC

GAYLE BOSSCHER

Gayle Bosscher has been around horses for as long as she can remember. Over the course of a lifetime in the industry, she has built a depth of knowledge and experience that has now been recognized with the Outstanding Farm Worker Award from the Ontario division of the CTHS.

Born in Toronto, Gayle's earliest memories of horses trace back to her grandfather, who owned Rice's Dairy, now Borden's, and kept horses. Her parents also rode, and it was not long before Gayle was riding and showing herself. She was especially drawn to Thoroughbreds and enjoyed preparing and showing them in line classes. She later shared her knowledge with others as a riding instructor at Seneca College, where she helped young people develop their horsemanship skills.

In the 1980s, Gayle met John Brnjas, an auto shop owner who had entered horse ownership almost on a whim but quickly developed a deep passion for racing and breeding. Gayle foaled John's first mare, and before long, the small farm he owned near Lake Simcoe was sold and replaced by a much larger operation.

Today, Colebrook Farms is a stallion station, training centre and nursery spanning more than 300 acres. It is one of the largest Thoroughbred operations in Ontario racing, and Gayle has been part of its story from the beginning.

Her responsibilities at Colebrook are extensive. She manages the stallion barn



and weanling barn and is always ready when mares are foaling. Over the years, Colebrook has stood many top stallions, while Brnjas has raced Grade 1 winners including Johnny Bear and Simply in Front. The farm has also supplied the Ontario racing industry with thousands of horses.

Gayle is proud to have played an integral role in Colebrook's success.

"It really isn't a job, it's a life," she said. "The staff we have here are some of the people I worked with before I met John. Most of the horsewomen and men on the farm deserve this award too."

She also has deep respect for Brnjas, who is known for his hands-on approach and enduring passion for the sport.

"John is a great boss and friend," she said. "He is tough but fair, and his love for the horses and the game has brought us through all these years to 2026."

Gayle may work largely behind the scenes, but her impact on Colebrook Farms, and on the development of Thoroughbreds and racing in Ontario, is undeniable.

2025 TOP ONTARIO STALLIONS

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BASED ON 2025 EARNINGS OF ELIGIBLE PROGENY

1ST PLACE | SOUPER SPEEDY



Bay Stallion, 2009; Indian Charlie (In Excess) – Speed Succeeds,
by Gone West 2025 Eligible Progeny Earnings: \$3,871,963
Chief Earner: Maximum Fifty, \$249,444

2ND PLACE | RELOAD



Chestnut Stallion, 2009; Hard Spun (Danzig)
– Hidden Reserve, by Mr. Prospector
2025 Eligible Progeny Earnings: \$2,957,721
Chief Earner: Ready to Collect, \$178,665

3RD PLACE | SILENT NAME (JPN)

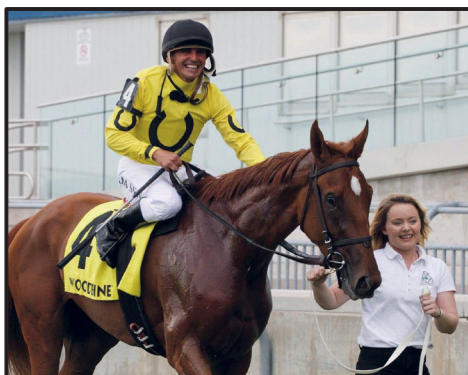


Bay Stallion, 2002; Sunday Silence (Halo) – Danzigaway,
by Danehill 2025 Eligible Progeny Earnings: \$2,102,197
Chief Earner: Hurricane Clair, \$130,977

2025 TOP BROODMARE

SPONSORED BY BALLYCROY BLOODSTOCK
BASED ON 2025 EARNINGS OF ELIGIBLE PROGENY

DIXIE CHICKEN



Chestnut Mare, 2007; Rahy – Minnie's Meadow
by Affirmed 2025 Eligible Progeny Earnings \$2,009,587
Bred by Sean & Dorothy Fitzhenry
Chief Earner: Dixie Moon (*Pictured*), \$632,301

US CURRENCY