



John Burness with stallion Signature Red at his Colebrook Farms

MALLORY HAIGH

# Cool Cole Man

*John Burness calmly handles the challenges at Ontario's Colebrook Farms*

BY LENNY SHULMAN

**ON AN EARLY** March morning that has seen a foot of snow cover his corner of Ontario, Colebrook Farms owner John Burness can't talk on the phone. He's too busy manning a truck and plowing out the place. Later in the month he'll be driving a horse trailer back and forth between Uxbridge, 45 minutes northeast of Woodbine Racetrack, and Florida, bringing north a few dozen of his horses that have been undertaking winter training in Ocala, Fla.

"I enjoy being a hands-on guy," said Burness. "Any day you come around, I wouldn't be in a suit and tie."

A longtime racehorse owner, Burness gradually added additional titles to his résumé as a farm owner and breeder who stands stallions for the Ontario market. When he's not handling chores and horses on Colebrook, he can be found in the

office of his automotive parts business, which is a more stable endeavor than being a horse farmer these days.

Burness grew up around cattle, sheep, and horses on his family's farm in Croatia before emigrating to Canada with his mother at age 8.

"Over there everybody was a farmer," Burness said of his birthplace. "If you didn't raise your own food, you were in trouble, so we were all farmers and I grew up, from what I can remember, in that environment."

Once in Canada, Burness left the agricultural life temporarily, beginning work while a teenager as a car mechanic. That led to several offshoots, including race cars, owning a taxi business, and starting up an automotive parts distribu-

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# 2016 LEADING SIRES IN CANADA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 Stud Fee Can\$	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2016 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>MILWAUKEE BREW</b> (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs North	\$6,000	38/13	0/0	0/0	(Hometown Gossip, \$27,300)	<b>\$233,826</b>	*527	24	1.21	1.52
2	<b>IMPERIALISM</b> (01, Langfuhr), Esquirrel Farms	\$2,500	40/13	0/0	0/0	(Miss Wilby, \$39,228)	<b>\$218,790</b>	217	4	0.79	0.99
3	<b>GOTTCHA GOLD</b> (03, Coronado's Quest), Strideawayacres	\$2,500	30/7	0/0	0/0	(Making Havoc, \$55,200)	<b>\$181,109</b>	*108	0	0.82	1.39
4	<b>OLMODAVOR</b> (99, A.P. Indy)	N/A	15/6	0/0	0/0	(Nardo, \$40,560)	<b>\$106,939</b>	*261	7	0.87	1.33
5	<b>WILKO</b> (02, Awesome Again), Adena Springs North	Private	20/2	0/0	0/0	(Qiaona, \$64,620)	<b>\$103,502</b>	*184	5	1.15	1.12
6	<b>OLD FORESTER</b> (01, Forestry), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$4,000	17/4	0/0	0/0	(Still Krz, \$28,810)	<b>\$102,482</b>	342	10	1.43	1.59
7	<b>WHERE'S THE RING</b> (99, Seeking the Gold), Colebrook Farms Stallion Stn.	\$3,000	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Delayed Engagement, \$19,174)	<b>\$96,689</b>	317	8	1.35	1.41
8	<b>SLIGO BAY (IRE)</b> (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	19/1	1/1	0/1	(Ol Winedrinker Who, \$45,000)	<b>\$91,536</b>	*377	10	1.22	1.42
9	<b>SKIMMING</b> (96, Nureyev), Pacific Stud	\$2,000	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Mah Gellin, \$34,944)	<b>\$83,996</b>	333	6	0.74	1.00
10	<b>NORTH LIGHT (IRE)</b> (01, Danehill), Adena Springs North	Private	20/3	0/0	0/0	(Lucky Shoes to Win, \$24,200)	<b>\$71,369</b>	*334	8	1.03	1.54
11	<b>WANDO</b> (00, Langfuhr)	Died, 2014	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Shake Down Baby, \$23,180)	<b>\$55,202</b>	*158	3	1.19	1.13
12	<b>SOCIETY'S CHAIRMAN</b> (03, Not Impossible), Shannondoe Farm	\$5,000	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Code Warrior, \$43,345)	<b>\$46,000</b>	21	3	4.54	1.11
13	<b>OMEGA CODE</b> (00, Elusive Quality), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$2,000	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Extreme Justice, \$9,660)	<b>\$45,812</b>	315	9	0.70	1.23
14	<b>LEONNATUS ANTEAS</b> (04, Stormy Atlantic), Colebrook Farms Stallion Stn.	\$3,500	4/4	0/0	0/0	(Piscean Realist, \$12,960)	<b>\$43,565</b>	74	2	1.12	1.21
15	<b>FINALITY</b> (99, Dehere), Red Rock Farm	\$2,500	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Princess Katie, \$11,600)	<b>\$42,540</b>	261	14	0.64	0.76
16	<b>SECOND IN COMMAND</b> (00, Silver Deputy), Road's End Farm	\$2,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Two Pump, \$15,580)	<b>\$41,734</b>	93	5	0.78	0.79
17	<b>DOUBLE HONOR</b> (95, Gone West), Esquirrel Farms	\$2,500	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Double Surprise, \$14,715)	<b>\$40,640</b>	*613	17	1.02	1.15
18	<b>SILENT NAME (JPN)</b> (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	13/1	0/0	0/0	(Silent Admirer, \$15,800)	<b>\$37,270</b>	*288	12	1.46	1.25
19	<b>GIANT GIZMO</b> (04, Giant's Causeway), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Winning Shot, \$20,345)	<b>\$36,024</b>	104	4	1.89	1.59
20	<b>NOT BOURBON</b> (05, Not Impossible), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$5,000	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Lockupthebourbon, \$12,374)	<b>\$35,328</b>	56	1	1.08	1.32
21	<b>THE TRADER'S ECHO</b> (94, Eastern Echo)	Pnsd	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Traders Pride, \$30,777)	<b>\$30,777</b>	62	1	0.68	1.06
22	<b>SARDEGNA</b> (02, Danzig)	N/A	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Global Moon, \$13,103)	<b>\$24,616</b>	73	0	0.60	0.63
23	<b>SINGING SAINT</b> (04, El Prado), Adena Springs North	Private	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Harp N Halo, \$21,600)	<b>\$24,277</b>	*51	1	1.18	1.01
24	<b>NIIGON</b> (01, Unbridled)	Died, 2012	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Corey's Princess, \$11,900)	<b>\$22,535</b>	177	6	1.85	1.15
25	<b>THUNDERELLO</b> (99, Montbrook)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Pineapple Julep, \$12,850)	<b>\$20,578</b>	*173	2	0.99	1.09

(continued from page 34)

tion company and then a parts manufacturing concern. He began going to horse races as well as car races, and when a friend offered to pay off a debt by giving Burness a piece of a horse, Burness was on his way.

Racing with trainer Frank Passero Jr., Burness owned stakes winners such as Hobbys Son, I Can't Believe, Miss Inquisitive, and Appealing Phylly. He also became a pretty fair handicapper, hitting a couple of Pick Six wagers that helped fund his farm acquisitions.

"I was with Frank Passero for 25 years and we had a lot of fun together," Burness said. "We'd go to Florida and do quite well.

I think there was more enjoyment and fun around racing then. You had 10,000, 15,000 people at the track and it was a more exciting and electric atmosphere. The business has changed drastically since then."

Retiring some of his race fillies for broodmare duty, Burness bought a 30-acre parcel and started breeding mares. He moved to a different location that had 35 acres and a view of 300 additional acres of empty farmland directly to his north.

"I kept looking at that land out my window thinking 'should I or shouldn't I,' and one day I got a little crazy and made a phone call and ended up buying the parcel. That was in 2000. In 2003 we began

building and put in a training track, training center, and stallion and broodmare barns. We built a new farm."

Today some 75 mares roam Colebrook, the overwhelming majority of whom are owned by Burness, who buys at sales, buys privately, and scours claiming races for possible acquisitions.

"I will look to claim a mare that has family and some potential, maybe a stakes-placed mare," said Burness. "Last year I claimed a few."

Burness bred many of his mares to his stakes-winning stallion Niigon, who was just coming into his own when he broke a femur and had to be put down. One of his top mares, A Familiar Face, produced two stakes winners to Niigon's cover. The filly Reconnect won the 2011 La Prevoyante Stakes and the 2013 Belle Mahone Stakes, both at Woodbine. Her full brother Seen It All Before took the 2012 Vice Regent Stakes and the 2015 Bunty Lawless Stakes. A Familiar Face is by the Storm Cat stallion Cloud Cover out of Gracious Belle, by Caucasus.

While he has moved into breeding, Burness still campaigns a substantial string of racehorses trained by his daughter Ashlee, who last year passed the 200-win plateau in her career. Thirty head are in training in the Ocala area at the Nelson Jones Training Center under her supervision, including eight 2-year-olds and an additional 22 3-year-olds and older horses as well.

"I don't race a lot of 2-year-olds," Burness said. (continued on page 38)



Burness with a Colebrook groom and stallion We Miss Artie

MALLORY HANIGH

# SILENT NAME

SUNDAY SILENCE – DANZIGAWAY, *by* DANEHILL ▶ \$7,500 LFSN

# #1

Son of  
**SUNDAY SILENCE**  
in North America

▶  
Canadian Sire  
Average-Earnings  
Index, Lifetime



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# SLIGO BAY

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# #1

Active Son of  
**SADLER'S WELLS**  
in North America

▶  
Canadian Sire  
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CTHS Sept. Sale



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MALORY HAIGH

Colebrook is home to 75 broodmares

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 ness noted. “Most of my horses are two-turn horses, so we take our time and don’t rush them. They don’t make 2-year-olds, and if you try to rush them, you end up without a horse. So we have a lot of 3-year-old maidens down there getting ready as well.”

Colebrook benefits from its deep and experienced staff, several of whom have been with the farm since its inception.

Gail Bosscher serves as farm manager and oversees the broodmares and weanlings. Larry Smelser is the stallion manager while Rob Johnston handles the development and training of 2-year-olds. Hallam Jones and Nancy Wheatley have been mainstays as well.

“We are very grateful to all of our attentive staff that have done a great job taking care of the horses for us and our clients,” said Burness.

Ontario horsemen are facing a challenging environment brought on by the sudden change in the provincial government’s stance on slots revenue. Four years ago an influx of stallions and mares came to the area when slots money from Woodbine was flowing into purses and awards programs. That came to a screeching halt two years ago when the government turned off the spigot, although an interim deal was worked out last year. No industry can successfully operate in an atmosphere of this kind of uncertainty, least of all breeders, who must make plans years in advance of their product getting to market.

“When the government decided to do away with the slots revenue, it kicked us right in the head,” Burness said. “People out on small farms that depend on breeding and selling horses and making a little bit of profit are struggling. We don’t have the large breeding operations of 20 years ago—like E.P. Taylor and Gardiner. The large farms and strong breeding programs are almost all gone. We’re down to depending on small breeders around Ontario that have three, four, five mares to support the program. The breeder always seems to take a backseat to everyone else.”

“We have organized and fought back. I’m on the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse

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2016 CANADA SIREs BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Imperialism	40	13
Milwaukee Brew	38	13
Gottcha Gold	30	7
Olmodavor	15	6
Where’s the Ring	16	5
Wando	14	5
Skimming	10	5
Old Forester	17	4
Finality	10	4
Leonnatus Anteus	4	4
North Light (IRE)	20	3
Omega Code	19	3
Not Bourbon	10	3
Double Honor	9	3



COURTESY COLEBROOK FARMS

An aerial view of Colebrook Farms

**Special Note For Sire Lists:**  
 For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2012 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 20, 2016. As supplied to Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2015 is \$21,782 or 50% of the 2015 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 50% before being credited to a sire’s progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 57%. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-black-type stakes results from all available countries. \*Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ♯) indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.

\*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares’ COMPARABLE INDEX.



JOHN ENGELHARDT PHOTO

# WE MISS ARTIE

Artie Schiller – Athena's Gift, by Fusaichi Pegasus

## GRADE 1 WINNER AS A 2YO ON POLYTRACK

- Breeders' Cup Mile Winner Artie Schiller's leading earner.
- A synthetic specialist who won the Grade 1 \$400,000 Dixiana Futurity as a 2YO by 2¾ lengths. Winner of the Grade 3 \$550,000 Spiral Stakes.
- Favorite for The Queen's Plate after his victory in the Plate Trial.
- Weighted at 117 lbs in the Experimental Free Handicap above Grade 1 winners Orb, Tapiture, Wicked Strong and Danza.
- Broke his Maiden in Saratoga by 3 lengths.

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# 2016 LEADING SIRES IN INDIANA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	2016 Foals	Cumulative Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>MONBA</b> (05, Maria's Mon), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Rally Gal, \$30,000)	<b>\$113,731</b>	65	0	0.60	1.40
2	<b>STRONG CONTENDER</b> (03, Maria's Mon), R Star Stallions	\$3,000	21/6	0/0	0/0	(Shutter Speed, \$14,280)	<b>\$96,763</b>	*146	4	1.02	1.17
3	<b>SWEET RETURN (GB)</b> (00, Elmaamul), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	16/3	0/0	0/0	(Daddy's Boo, \$41,284)	<b>\$80,637</b>	97	0	0.63	0.86
4	<b>LANTANA MOB</b> (05, Posse), Southern Indiana Equine	\$5,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Avenement, \$47,389)	<b>\$74,589</b>	37	3	1.13	1.03
5	<b>ELUSIVE BLUFF</b> (06, Elusive Quality), Southern Indiana Equine	\$1,500	9/2	1/1	1/1	(A M Milky Way, \$31,220)	<b>\$55,260</b>	36	2	1.41	0.92
6	<b>MANCINI</b> (98, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2012	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Strong Composition, \$17,628)	<b>\$53,596</b>	*160	3	0.67	0.93
7	<b>DOMESTIC DISPUTE</b> (00, Unbridled's Song), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Vim, \$42,237)	<b>\$50,373</b>	*326	2	0.86	1.17
8	<b>STRONG HOPE</b> (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$1,800	14/2	0/0	0/0	(Kitai, \$8,030)	<b>\$43,407</b>	326	4	0.93	1.69
9	<b>FLYING FIRST CLASS</b> (04, Perfect Mandate)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Lukeyontheloose, \$26,120)	<b>\$41,065</b>	4	0	0.85	0.04
10	<b>CHIEF SEATTLE</b> (97, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2011	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Still Chief, \$14,610)	<b>\$33,549</b>	*431	9	1.12	1.29
11	<b>DEPUTY STORM</b> (01, Forestry), R Star Stallions	\$1,500	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Arkaybee, \$8,204)	<b>\$33,376</b>	88	2	0.98	1.25
12	<b>GOLD CASE</b> (94, Forty Niner)	Died, 2014	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Dive Bar, \$10,721)	<b>\$33,202</b>	*601	19	1.00	1.10
13	<b>CENTURY CITY (IRE)</b> (99, Danzig)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(City of Trix, \$22,980)	<b>\$32,762</b>	*172	0	0.54	1.25
14	<b>PASS RUSH</b> (99, Crown Ambassador), Swifty Farms	\$2,500	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Containment, \$10,030)	<b>\$31,633</b>	103	5	1.14	1.05
15	<b>ELITE SQUADRON</b> (04, Officer), Swifty Farms	\$2,500	15/1	0/0	0/0	(Draw Nigh, \$10,496)	<b>\$25,935</b>	56	0	0.62	1.09
16	<b>WILD ZONE</b> (90, Wild Again)	Pnsd	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Zoned In, \$24,375)	<b>\$25,622</b>	*485	10	0.79	1.05
17	<b>SILVER MOUNTAIN</b> (05, Victory Gallop), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	4/2	0/0	0/0	(She's Going Strong, \$12,355)	<b>\$21,180</b>	23	0	0.47	1.01
18	<b>VIBANK</b> (03, Silver Deputy), Hidden Springs	\$1,000	5/2	0/0	0/0	(B T's Baby, \$9,960)	<b>\$19,463</b>	100	0	0.89	1.28
19	<b>MUSTANFAR</b> (01, Unbridled), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	5/0	0/0	0/0	(Anmaat, \$9,660)	<b>\$12,508</b>	34	0	0.65	0.95
20	<b>ORIENT</b> (93, Forty Niner)	Died, 2014	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Senor Juan, \$5,185)	<b>\$10,798</b>	28	0	0.37	0.81

(continued from page 38)

Society board, and we deal with this constantly. Breeders never have a seat at the table in discussions on how to make things better. The mare population is going down, and if we don't look after the people in our backyard to produce horses, it's very difficult to get somebody new into the game in this environment, especially with our (Canadian) dollar being devalued, and get them to go to Kentucky to spend money buying horses to bring them up to Canada to race. I am hopeful that Woodbine Entertainment Group and the local Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association can work together to restore some of the Ontario-sired races. If not, there will be dire consequences to

the Ontario breeding industry for years to come.

"In breeding it takes four or five years to make decisions on what direction you're going. And if you don't have a program with some consistency to it, you end up with a breeding community that's all shook up and will decide not to breed anymore and perhaps get completely out of the business. And that's the last thing we need."

Burness must have a streak of optimism, because he is standing seven stallions at Colebrook this season. While a top Canadian stallion might get a book of 75 mares, Burness said that if you can attract 35-50 mares to a stallion, you are doing well today.

New to Colebrook this season is grade

I winner We Miss Artie (Artie Schiller—Athena's Gift, by Fusaichi Pegasus). We Miss Artie won Keeneland's Dixiana Breeders' Futurity (gr. I) and also the Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati Spiral Stakes (gr. III), proving he is adept on a synthetic surface, which is crucial for a market that races predominantly at Woodbine, where a Tapeta surface is replacing the old Polytrack this year. We Miss Artie is familiar to Canadians, having won the Plate Trial Stakes and finishing fourth in the Queen's Plate after a tough trip. He will stand for Canadian funds \$3,000 (\$2,310).

"He definitely fits the program up here," said Burness. "We're getting calls and people are coming out to look at him, so I think he will be supported. Mr. (Ken) Ramsey, who raced him, sent up seven mares in foal to Kitten's Joy who we will be foaling here and breeding them back to We Miss Artie, with another three mares on the way. So his support is certainly going to help."

Canadian champion 3-year-old male of 2008 Not Bourbon is be standing his third season at Colebrook in 2016. The Queen's Plate winner is a millionaire who won five stakes at Woodbine, setting a track record there in 2007 when he went six furlongs in 1:08.84. The son of Not Impossible—Bourbon Belle, by Storm Boot, was campaigned by Canadian diamond hunter Charles Fipke.

"He's the leading second-crop sire in Canada for 2015, and we're getting a good reception with him," said Burness. "Mr. Fipke has been supporting him from the start." Not Bourbon stands for \$5,000 (\$3,850).



We Miss Artie winning the grade I Breeders' Futurity at Keeneland in 2013

KEENELAND/COURTNEY PHOTOGRAPHY

# 2016 LEADING SIRES IN MICHIGAN

➤ Go to [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com) for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2016 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Cumulative			
								2016 Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>UNBRIDLED ENERGY</b> (02, Unbridled's Song), Hubel Farms	Private	28/6	0/0	0/0	(Rosie My Way, \$23,400)	<b>\$97,998</b>	*233	5	0.88	1.16
2	<b>EQUALITY</b> (99, Mt. Livermore), Dickinson Farms	Private	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Chariot Char, \$9,987)	<b>\$36,318</b>	160	7	0.67	0.78
3	<b>DEMALOOT DEMASHOOT</b> (90, Bold Ruckus)	Died, 2013	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Grab the Cash, \$10,875)	<b>\$20,059</b>	315	5	0.86	1.08
4	<b>FIRE BLITZ</b> (99, Storm Cat)	Died, 2012	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Its On Fire, \$6,257)	<b>\$16,249</b>	56	3	0.56	0.69
5	<b>ELUSIVE HOUR</b> (00, Elusive Quality), Campbell Stable	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Im Just Good, \$7,120)	<b>\$12,779</b>	73	3	0.78	0.69
6	<b>BEAU CLASSIC</b> (00, Beau Genius)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Irish Cheer, \$9,877)	<b>\$11,141</b>	12	0	0.64	1.07

Colebrook boasts a second Canadian champion in its stallion barn—Leonnatus Anteas, who has resided there since 2010. He is a four-time stakes winner at Woodbine and was named champion 2-year-old male in 2006. The son of Stormy Atlantic—South Sea Blues, by Cure the Blues, won stakes on the main track as well as on the turf course.

“He’s more a sire of 3-year-olds than precocious 2-year-olds,” said Burness. “Unfortunately, people want those early horses because they want to get their investment back as soon as possible, at the expense of stallions that get classic horses that get two turns and maybe give you a Queen’s Plate winner. He’s very steady; he’s thrown stakes horses and gets good-looking babies and runners, but he hasn’t gotten the support I thought he would have.” Leonnatus Anteas stands for \$3,500 (\$2,700).

Where’s the Ring hails from a rock solid Pin Oak Farm family. The stakes winner is by Seeking the Gold out of Wedding Picture, by Blushing Groom.

“He stood at Gardiner until it dispersed, then went to a farm in Alberta,” Burness said. “I wanted to bring him back here because he’s been a steady stakes producer in Ontario and was the second-leading sire in Canada last year. He’s a horse that gets early horses and sprinters and hopefully he’ll continue to be well-received.” Where’s the Ring stands for \$3,000 (\$2,310).

Signature Red has stood at Colebrook since 2013. He is a winner on both synthetic and turf and twice won the Highlander Stakes (Can-IIT). Burness is a big believer in the son of Bernstein—Irish and Foxy, by Irish Open.

“I have several 2-year-olds by him training in Florida now,” he said. “His first crop just turned 2, and I love his babies. From everything I’ve seen I think they will be early. He was a good racehorse who defeated horses shipping in from the U.S., a very good sprinter.” Signature Red stands for \$2,500 (\$1,925).

# NOBLE'S PROMISE

CUVEE – THE DEVIL'S TRICK, BY CLEVER TRICK



Nominated to  
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**ASSIGNED SECOND HIGHEST WEIGHT ON HIS  
EXPERIMENTAL FREE HANDICAP**

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# 2016 LEADING SIRES IN OHIO

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2016 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>COWTOWN CAT</b> (04, Distorted Humor), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	52/15	0/0	0/0	(Hectors Pride, \$72,494)	<b>\$438,875</b>	175	2	1.12	1.30
2	<b>MAIMONIDES</b> (05, Vindication), Hand Ride Stables	\$2,500	28/10	0/0	0/0	(Lakota Warrior, \$24,280)	<b>\$160,102</b>	92	1	0.74	2.35
3	<b>INDY WIND</b> (02, A.P. Indy), Hand Ride Stables	\$2,000	21/5	0/0	0/0	(A. P. Cino, \$37,392)	<b>\$116,487</b>	64	1	1.10	1.10
4	<b>KISS THE KID</b> (03, Lemon Drop Kid), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$2,500	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Extravagant Kid, \$41,450)	<b>\$105,890</b>	35	0	0.91	1.77
5	<b>CITY WEEKEND</b> (02, Carson City), Meadow Springs	\$2,000	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Skip Royale, \$12,250)	<b>\$67,595</b>	100	1	0.74	0.94
6	<b>MR. MABEE</b> (01, Storm Cat), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,500	6/2	0/0	0/0	(She Mabee Wild, \$42,000)	<b>\$50,796</b>	67	0	0.66	0.86
7	<b>SAINTS N' SINNERS</b> (00, Saint Ballado)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Deniro's Saint, \$25,720)	<b>\$47,682</b>	23	1	1.06	0.21
8	<b>KENTUCKY DANE</b> (00, Danehill), Raimonde Farms	\$1,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Hope's Frog Song, \$27,200)	<b>\$38,675</b>	22	2	1.32	0.46
9	<b>PARENTS' REWARD</b> (98, Mr. Prospector), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Eightthehardway, \$31,578)	<b>\$33,740</b>	55	3	0.88	0.79
10	<b>HOSTILE TAKEOVER</b> (04, Dixie Union), Raimonde Farms	\$1,500	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Blueberry Bay, \$15,115)	<b>\$33,307</b>	11	0	0.49	1.07
11	<b>FLAGSHIP</b> (07, El Prado), Byerpatch Farm	Private	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Gabe's Flag, \$14,455)	<b>\$30,304</b>	9	0	0.29	1.08
12	<b>WESTERN PRIDE</b> (98, Way West), R.C. Cline Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Sweet Butterfly, \$19,200)	<b>\$26,953</b>	99	0	0.62	0.94

Bear's Kid is beautifully bred, being out of the Pleasant Tap mare Tap to Music and by Lemon Drop Kid. He is a grade II winner on the turf at Woodbine and was rescued by Burness and owner Danny Dion

from a breeder who had gone belly up and could no longer care for his horses.

"He has very few running, so we've had to support him," said Burness. "Danny Dion, who raced him, had a horse by him

## 2016 INDIANA SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Strong Contender	21	6
Pass Rush	12	5
Monba	16	4
Sweet Return (GB)	16	3
Mancini	14	3
Chief Seattle	9	3
Deputy Storm	9	3
Strong Hope	14	2
Gold Case	13	2
Elusive Bluff	9	2
Lantana Mob	8	2
Domestic Dispute	5	2
Vibank	5	2
Orient	4	2
Silver Mountain	4	2
Century City (IRE)	3	2
Flying First Class	3	2



Colebrook's training facility comes in handy during Canadian winters

MALORY HAIGH PHOTOS

# 2016 LEADING SIRES IN ILLINOIS

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>CHEROKEE RAP</b> (01, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2012	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Domain's Rap, \$156,100)	<b>\$193,859</b>	79	3	1.00	1.08
2	<b>STRAIGHT LINE</b> (02, Boundary), Fairberry Farm	Private	6/3	1/1	0/1	(Streamline, \$115,000)	<b>\$143,329</b>	44	1	0.79	1.21
3	<b>CASHEL CASTLE</b> (99, Silver Ghost), Hill 'N Dale Farm	\$1,000	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Cashel Rock, \$38,100)	<b>\$63,860</b>	106	2	0.91	1.00
4	<b>MALTESE DOG</b> (05, War Chant)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Doggerwinii, \$39,600)	<b>\$44,800</b>	4	0	0.99	1.91
5	<b>THREE HOUR NAP</b> (02, Afternoon Deelites), Oak Tree Farm	\$1,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Superstar Leo, \$24,670)	<b>\$41,072</b>	24	0	0.90	1.18
6	<b>COUNTRY BE GOLD</b> (97, Summer Squall), Cutsinger's Stallion Station	\$500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Right Squall, \$30,100)	<b>\$34,434</b>	58	0	0.59	1.12
7	<b>INDY SNOW (GB)</b> (01, A.P. Indy), Hondo Ranch	Private	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Sandia Crest, \$13,035)	<b>\$33,997</b>	38	1	1.19	0.84
8	<b>ELHAYQ (IRE)</b> (95, Nashwan)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Hayq's Fable, \$32,610)	<b>\$32,971</b>	54	0	0.41	1.15
9	<b>BEN BULBEN</b> (02, Pioneering), Ben Bulben Farm	\$1,000	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Artic Vortex, \$20,080)	<b>\$31,984</b>	41	0	0.74	0.85
10	<b>CHOSEN DEPUTY</b> (05, Deputy Minister), Hondo Ranch	Private	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Twisted Facts, \$17,171)	<b>\$29,425</b>	15	0	0.65	0.98
11	<b>BRAVE 'N AWAY</b> (00, Skip Away)	N/A	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Hoosessential, \$17,370)	<b>\$28,647</b>	44	0	0.45	0.59
12	<b>EL MEDWAR</b> (04, Elusive Quality), Hondo Ranch	Private	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Enchanted Facts, \$13,920)	<b>\$24,392</b>	15	0	0.76	1.25

# 2016 LEADING SIRES IN NEBRASKA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>SHADOW HAWK</b> (99, Mr. Prospector), Rogers Ranch	\$1,250	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Ubetcha Ima Bumper, \$15,540)	<b>\$47,257</b>	87	0	0.72	0.69
2	<b>DAZZLING FALLS</b> (92, Taylor's Falls)	N/A	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Diamond Joe, \$15,600)	<b>\$23,010</b>	162	4	0.70	0.75
3	<b>MINE FOR GOLD</b> (05, Mineshaft), Westermann Thoroughbreds	Private	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Run Nice Boy, \$6,448)	<b>\$22,518</b>	19	0	0.55	0.39
4	<b>BLUMIN AFFAIR</b> (91, Dynaformer)	Died, 2012	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Blumin Irish, \$6,760)	<b>\$21,544</b>	298	7	0.73	0.85

who ran fourth in the Plate. We've had to start over with him, and his oldest since we got him are just yearlings now. But we have an opportunity to really make him, and he should be a good stallion. The pedigree is great, and he's shown he can throw a stakes winner." Bear's Kid stands for \$2,500 (\$1,925).

Nonios had an interesting racing career, running second to older horses such as Game On Dude in grade I races while he was 3. He won the Affirmed Handicap

(gr. III) and placed in two grade I events.

"He performed exceptionally well as a 3-year-old," said Burness, "and I love his pedigree (Pleasantly Perfect—Stylish Manner, by Touch Gold), so I took a shot and bought him. He has yearlings on the ground this year." Nonios stands for \$2,000 (\$1,540).

There is a sense of excitement as Burness discusses another Canadian winter because it is also breeding season, and he thrives on it. So he will oversee the manu-

facturing of brake calipers and pistons; he will plow the snow; and he will drive the trailer down to Florida and back, all because it allows him to help create another crop of newly minted horses.

"I enjoy everything about it," he said. "Obviously, I enjoy the horses. It's exciting when you buy a horse and see him running and winning, but there's nothing like watching one grow up in the backyard and seeing him perform on the track. That's the ultimate high." **BH**

## Indiana- A Good Program Getting Even Better!

### Top Ten Indiana Sire of 2015



**For Irish Road and Star Cat:**  
Special consideration for Stakes-Winning and Stakes-Producing Mares, and Multiple Mare Discounts

### IRISH ROAD - Private

Unbridled's Song - Twin Propeller by Known Fact  
2015 Winners incl. SPW **Irish Nuggets** (\$120,591), 4 wins by 18 lengths, on-the-board in 7 of 9 starts incl. Churchill's \$100,000 Debutante S.; SPW **Mani Income**; allowance winners **MAJOR HIGHWAY** (\$435,541, 9 wins by nearly 25 lengths), **IT'S TIME TO LAUGH** (\$184,164, 8 wins), **MISO BAD** (\$124,187, 3 wins), etc.

### STAR CAT - Fee \$2500

Storm Cat - Ashado, by Saint Ballado  
2015 Winners incl. **ANGEL CHOIR** (\$112,599), Indiana-bred back-to-back Belmont winner by 2 & 2 1/2 lengths; **PURRPURRPURR** (\$88,893), 6 wins by over 25 lengths, on-the-board in \$85,000 Indiana Stallion S.; **ATHENA STAR**, 4 1/4 -length allowance winner

### Top Five Indiana 3rd Crop Sire in 2015



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