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Celebrating **53** Years

## David Arcand Jumps to Grand Prix Victory in Nation's Capital

Ottawa, Ontario – David Arcand of Boisbriand, QC, led the victory gallop after winning the \$25,000 Grand Prix held on Saturday, May 25, at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, ON.

The Montreal-based professional brought out his top horse, Phil v/d Wezelse Heihoefve, for the second week of competition in the Ottawa Welcome tournament. The pair were one of six horse-rider combina-

tions to jump fault-free over the first-round course set by Shane Wooley and advance to the jump-off.

Competing in Wesley Clover Parks' All-Weather Ring, the six jump-off contenders returned hoping to take home the win, along with the winner's share of the prize money. As the fourth jump-off challenger, Arcand laid down another clear round in a time of 36.71 seconds to move to the top of the leaderboard.

When the final two riders failed to improve on his performance, the victory went to Arcand. Stephanie Bourassa of Laval, QC, who had finished third in last week's \$15,000 Julia MacAngus Memorial Grand



David Arcand of Boisbriand, QC, riding Phil v/d Wezelse Heihoefve won the \$25,000 Grand Prix on May 25, 2024, at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, ON. Photo by Sunskist Media

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## Ontario Equine Education and Employment Program, Turning Darkness to Light

Have you ever dreamed of working with horses? That was the opening question we asked potential applicants when the Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA) launched the Ontario Equine Education and Employment Program (OEEEP) two years ago.

That simple introduction turned prophetic for OEEEP graduate Anne Theriault.

At the time, Theriault was at a crossroads in her life. On the surface things appeared as they should.

She had forged a blossoming career in the insurance industry as a successful account executive. Her personal life appeared stable and happy; nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

But inside, Theriault was fighting the demons of childhood sexual abuse and the paralyzing anxiety associated with unresolved trauma.

Anne thought that she had dealt with years of childhood victimization. She had ventured out on her own from Sudbury, established a promising career and settled in with a kind, supportive and understanding life partner. Like most of us, she was coping and making her way through life.

But PTSD has a way of sneaking up on you and ex-



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Material for the July 2024 Issue must be in our office by July 3rd, 2024. Copy arriving after that date will be used in the August 2024 Issue. Send to P.O. Box 378, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0 or call us at (905) 387-1900 • Price \$3.95 email: barry@therider.com • www.therider.com



## Wesley Clover

Continued from Page 1

Prix, was once again double clear to take second place riding Chrome d'Argouges while Ottawa's own Karen Sparks also jumped double clear with Lugano, owned by Brookstreet Stables, to finish third overall.

"I'm very happy," said Arcand, who purchased Phil v/d Wezelse Heihoeve when the Belgian Warmblood stallion (Cornet Obolensky x Mr. Blue) was a seven-year-old. "It's been a lot of work with the stallion. Last year, I was trying to be too fast and had trouble in the jump-off, so I told myself it was okay to slow down and be second or third. I went fourth in the jump-off today and tried not to look too much at what the others were doing and just stick to my plan."

"I was able to go fast even when taking it a bit easy in some places," continued Arcand. "I went slow between jumps one and two, then built up the speed as we went around the course. He's a careful horse and, as a stallion, a bit more emotional. He's a nine-year-old now but I have to be slow with him. I think he's a horse that will get better when he's 10 or 11."

"Phil" had previously been campaigned in international Young Horse classes as a six-year-old by Italy's Emanuele Gaudiano prior to being purchased by Arcand.



Stephanie Bourassa of Laval, QC, finished runner-up in the \$25,000 Grand Prix riding Chrome d'Argouges. Photo by Sunkist Media

The Ottawa Welcome tournament marked the pair's first show since returning to Canada, having spent the winter season competing at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL. Arcand, who operates Santos Stables in Boisbriand, QC, brought 12 horses to Wesley Clover Parks between his own and those owned by clients.

"I love the organization, the facility is amazing, and it's not only one of my favourite shows but also one of my clients' favourite shows," said Arcand of competing at Wesley Clover Parks. "Every time I put it on the schedule, everyone wants to go. It's one of my biggest shows customer-wise. We love to come here to Wesley Clover Parks and are looking forward to being back in July."

Arcand and the Santos Stables team plan to return to Wesley Clover Parks for the Ottawa Summer Tournament I from July 3-7; the Ottawa Summer Tournament II from July 10-14; and the Ottawa National from September 12-15.

International show jumping returns to Wesley Clover Parks from August 21-25 with Major League Show Jumping Ottawa, offering CSI5\* and CSI2\* divisions sanctioned by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). Attracting some of the highest-ranked show jumping athletes in the world to the Nation's Capital, Major League Show Jumping Ottawa features a unique jumpers-only format offering more than \$800,000 in prize money in team and individual events.

With a thrilling season

of show jumping competition ahead, Wesley Clover Parks is hosting two Grand Prix parties on July 6 and 13 as well as three days of first-rate hospitality during Major League Show Jumping Ottawa in August. Tickets and tables are available for purchase at [www.ottawaequestriantournaments.com/hospitality](http://www.ottawaequestriantournaments.com/hospitality).

Spectator tickets are also available for the Ottawa Summer Tournaments in July and MLSJ Ottawa in August. To purchase, visit [www.ottawaequestriantournaments.com/spectators](http://www.ottawaequestriantournaments.com/spectators).

For more information on the Ottawa Equestrian Tournaments, visit [www.OttawaEquestrianTournaments.com](http://www.OttawaEquestrianTournaments.com). All competitor information is available at [www.ottawaequestriantournaments.com/calendar](http://www.ottawaequestriantournaments.com/calendar) and full results can be found at



David Arcand aboard Phil v/d Wezelse Heihoeve is presented as the winner of the \$25,000 Grand Prix on Saturday, May 25, at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, ON, by Marketing Coordinator, Taylor Bond. Photo by Sunkist Media

[ottawa.showmanagementsystem.com/events](http://ottawa.showmanagementsystem.com/events).

Get the latest updates, news, and photos by following Ottawa Equestrian Tournaments on Facebook here and Instagram at @TenYearsOfTournaments. Share your Ottawa Equestrian Tournaments experience by tagging #TenYearsOfTournaments and #RideTheParks!

**\$25,000 Grand Prix - Saturday, May 25, 2024**

Rider / Hometown / Horse / Faults / Time

1. David Arcand / Boisbriand, QC / Phil v/d Wezelse Heihoeve / 0-0 / 36.71

2. Stephanie Bourassa / Laval, QC / Chrome d'Argouges / 0-0 / 37.31

3. Karen Sparks / Nepean, ON / Lugano / 0-0 / 37.95

4. Olivia Blaber / Ottawa, ON / Mauna Lani / 0-0 / 38.26

5. Marie Messier / Laval, QC / Chacco Mio Al Khair Z / 0-4 / 36.71

6. Jerome David / Saint-Lambert, QC / Lanicka / 0-4 / 40.54

7. Rayne Dubois / Ottawa, ON / Lazzaro / 4  
8. Paul Halpern / Saint Anne des Plaines, QC / 4  
9. Jade Lalonde / Candiac, QC / Hesmee / 4  
10. Maria Yerman / Montreal, QC



Ottawa's Karen Sparks was double clear riding Lugano for a third-place finish in the \$25,000 Grand Prix held at Wesley Clover Parks. Photo by Sunkist Media

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