

The 2011 Fall Classic Sale had terrific weather, full spectator stands and many horse try-outs. The horses came with great pedigrees and good presentation, particularly the 2-year olds. From this exceptional group of 2-year olds three were sold to Kansas City, Missouri -- Air-O-Matic, a very talented jumper son of Air Jordan; MJ Salsa, showing exceptional dressage potential, a daughter of Whirlwind II; and Grandus W a nice jumping son of Gervantus II. The high selling Section A horse, sponsored by Sparks Innovations, was Upstart, a weanling son of Uphill x Royale x Why Not G, bred and owned by Key Warmbloods and purchased by Donald Toney of Lethbridge. The high selling Section B horse, sponsored by Victory Tack Shop, was Cavaluna, a CWHBA mare by Silverstone x Riviera x Ferro, bred and owned by John and Jacqueline van den Bosch and sold to Nathalie Green of Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia.

In 2011, the Fall Classic Sale reflected the stock market -- up and down and all around. All averages were down except the 2-year old category, which slightly increased over 2010. The biggest average decrease was in section A, falling from a high of \$12,875 in 2010 to \$4,750 in 2011. This section offered some good horses but no special addition to drive up the average, like the Contender daughter, Contikki, offered in the 2010 sale. Buyers seemed very specific about the horses they wanted and were reluctant to pay over \$10,000/horse, only six reaching this threshold. Despite the prices, 58% of consignors were motivated to sell.

The Unigroup Gala played to a full house once again this year. This popular event, co-sponsored by Unigroup and JLT Insurance, started with a speedy battle of the breeds scurry driving competition, won by Judith Orr-Bertelsen and her Haflinger gelding Masterpiece. Following the driving, a fabulous demonstration of dressage movements up the progression to Prix St. George was presented by Lois Girard on her lovely CWHBA stallion Riolized. Then it was on to the big event, the young horse 3-bars jumping competition. Attended this year by seven competitors, a number of them sale grads, the excitement created a hotly contested Young Breeder Calcutta. The final jump-off at over 5 feet went to Belvedere, a sale grad and son of Beach Boy, bred by Touchstone Farm and owned and ridden by Erin Okada. Once the horses and jumps were out of the ring, DJ (and 3-bars competitor) Lyle Peterman started the music and much "dancing in the dirt" followed. A good time was had by all.