

Francois Lamontagne wins recent event in Palgrave

By Bill Rea

There were some unusual moments, including one rider falling off his mount, but in the end, Francois Lamontagne of Saint-Eustache, Quebec, took top spot in the recent \$30,000 Stonewood Grand Prix, the finale of the second phase of the Classic at Palgrave at Caledon Equestrian Park.

There were 24 horse-rider combinations in the event, and Lamontagne was among the 10 who turned in clear rounds to make it to the jump-off, riding Chanel du Calvaire.

Speed was definitely a fact in the jump-off. Carly Campbell-Cooper of Waterloo completed the course in 44.92 seconds on Fiero Van Orti, and it looked for a while like that was going to be good enough for victory. Conor Swail, who's been enjoying a very successful spring at the park, riding for Susan and Ariel Grange of Lothlorien, was able to shave almost two seconds off that time aboard Ariana, but he knocked down a rail at the very first jump, earning him four faults and dropping him to six place.

But Lamontagne proved he could step on the gas too, turning in a clear round in just 41.74 seconds.

They were the second-last combination in the jump off, and the time stood at the end.

Lamontagne was pleased with the steady performance he received from his eight-year-old mount. "We could not ask for better," he remarked.

Campbell-Cooper ended up in second place, followed by Kim Farlinger of Orangeville aboard Stanley Stone in third, Veronica Bot of Burlington on Calato's Charles in fourth and Nina Fagerstrom on Quel Cadans Z in fifth.



Francois Lamontagne of Saint-Eustache, Quebec, cleared this final jump to take the \$30,000 Stonewood Grand Prix.