

Upstate New York



# Gaston E. Guindon

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Gaston Guindon drove his first horse (which by the way was also his first win) in 1965 at Rideau Carlton Raceway in Ottawa, Ontario. The horse's name was Altex Chief and that was the start of a thirty-nine year career in harness racing.

Guindon moved to the Western New York circuit in 1969 and had his first start at Batavia Downs. It wasn't long after that his career took off and the demand for his services was heavy. The horses he drove were a who's who for years and included names like the venerable Mr. Coal, Keystone Spectrum, Harbor Smoke, E C Oakie, Willow Hill Boy, Mucalee Bunt, Hot Shot Hamde, Skipper Frank and River Mouse.

"The Gasser", as he affectionately became known by the locals, won 3,080 races and earned \$6.9 million dollars in purse money. From 1980 through 1987 he averaged 225 wins per season, with a career high 274 in 1987. He was always one of the most sought after catch drivers on the WNY circuit. During his career, Guindon teamed with local trainer Dennis Cummings to win in excess of 700 races.

Guindon formally retired in 2004 and is now living back home in Canada.