



Charles Fipke

Born: July 22, 1946, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Residence: Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

Education: Graduated with honors from the University of British Columbia in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology and was awarded an honorary doctorate in technology from the University of British Columbia at Okanagan in 1998.

Principal business: A renowned geologist, Fipke is a leading figure in the discovery of diamonds and precious stones in North America. His work is documented in the book *Fire into Ice: Charles Fipke and the Great Diamond Hunt*. Fipke is credited with initiating the largest mineral staking rush in North America since the Klondike Gold Rush of the 1890s when in 1991, in Canada's Northwest Territories, he and partner Stewart Blusson discovered the diamond pipe that became Ekati Diamond Mine. The mine inspired the name of his multiple Grade 1 winner Tale of Ekati.

Breeders' Cup record as owner: 10 2-0-1 \$2,552,000 as breeder: 10 2-0-1 \$2,552,000

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- After winning the 2017 Distaff with the homebred and eventual champion Older Dirt Female Forever Unbridled, Fipke returns to the 2018 Breeders' Cup as the owner and breeder of Distaff runner Verve's Tale and Dirt Mile contender Seeking the Soul.
 - Trained by Barclay Tagg, Verve's Tale is by Fipke's homebred Tale of Ekati, who was fourth in the 2007 Juvenile. Seeking the Soul, who is a Dallas Stewart trainee, is by Perfect Soul (IRE), the sire of 2011 Filly & Mare Turf winner Lady Shirl, who was trained by Roger Attfield.
 - In 2018 Fipke celebrated a win in the prestigious Metropolitan Handicap (G1) with homebred Bee Jersey, who is by his homebred Jersey Town and was trained by Steve Asmussen. Bee Jersey was retired earlier in the year and will stand at Darby Dan Farm in Kentucky beginning in 2019.
 - Fipke owns two farms encompassing nearly 400 acres in Paris, Ky. He purchased his first horse at a sale in his native Canada in 1981 and now owns more than 100 broodmares and about 50 racehorses in training.
 - Grade 1 winner Perfect Soul gave Fipke his first two Breeders' Cup entries, finishing eighth in the 2002 Turf and ninth in the 2003 Turf. After his two wins with the mares Forever Unbridled

and Lady Shirl, Fipke's next-best finishes came in 2007 with Tale of Ekati, fourth in the Juvenile, and in 2016 with Forever Unbridled, third in the Distaff behind champions Beholder and Songbird. His other entries are Jersey Town (sixth and fifth, respectively, in the 2011 and 2012 Dirt Mile); Seeking the Title (ninth in the 2010 Distaff); and Unbridled Forever (fifth in the 2014 Distaff). All seven horses were bred by Fipke.

- Fipke's 10th Breeder's Cup starter, Society's Chairman, was campaigned in partnership with George Waud. The horse finished ninth in the 2010 Mile.
- Unbridled Forever and Forever Unbridled are full sisters by Unbridled's Song out of Lemons Forever, winner of the 2006 Kentucky Oaks at 47-1. Fipke purchased Lemons Forever for \$2.5 million out of the 2007 Keeneland November Breeding Stock sale.
- Fipke is a regular presence at sales, focusing almost exclusively on broodmares. In 2016, he expanded his band with the \$530,000 purchase of 2005 Breeders' Cup Distaff winner Pleasant Home, then 15 years old and in foal to Orb, from the Keeneland November sale. He also purchased the stakes-placed mare Distinctively out of that sale for \$400,000. Pleasant Home is not the first older mare Fipke has selected. At the Keeneland November sale in 2005 he paid \$485,000 for Lady Shirl, then 18 years old. Two years later she produced his Breeders' Cup winner, Perfect Shirl.
- Two Fipke homebreds have finished second in Triple Crown races: Golden Soul, behind Orb in the 2013 Kentucky Derby at odds of 34-1; and Tale of Verve, behind American Pharoah in the 2015 Preakness at odds of 28-1.
- Fipke's racing operation is worldwide, with racehorses based in the United States, Canada, Dubai, France, South Africa and Ireland. The operation has had a presence in Australia as well, currently represented by one foal. Among his trainers are Barclay Tagg, Steve Asmussen, Dallas Stewart and Roger Attfield.
- In Canada, Fipke's multiple stakes winning homebred Not Bourbon won the Queen's Plate in 2008 and was that year's Sovereign Award champion 3-year-old colt. Perfect Soul won the 2003 Sovereign Award as champion grass horse, and Impossible Time, another homebred, was the 2010 Sovereign Award champion older female. Other top performers in Canada include Danish Dynaformer and Perfect Shower.
- Fipke breeds many of his broodmares to stallions he bred and raced: Tale of Ekati, Perfect Soul, and now Bee Jersey are standing at Darby Dan Farm in Lexington, Ky., and Java's War and Not Bourbon at Colebrook Farms in Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada.
- Homebred Jersey Town was relocated for the 2018 season from Darby Dan to British Columbia.

- Through Oct. 30, 2018 Fipke as sole owner has 330 wins, 299 seconds and 272 thirds from 2,192 starters for purse earnings of \$28.1 million.
- In 2016, Fipke donated \$100,000 to the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund. He has been generous with his alma mater as well, donating \$9.1 million to the University of British Columbia for research into Alzheimer's disease and \$6 million to the Okanagan campus of UBC to establish the environmentally-friendly Charles E. Fipke Centre for Innovative Research.
- Early in his career, Fipke's mineral explorations took him to Papua New Guinea, South Africa and Brazil for such companies as Kennecott Copper and Cominco. An expert in the study of indicator minerals that identify potential strikes, he founded CF Mineral Research in 1977 and Dia Met Minerals in 1984; the latter, a publicly traded company, was sold to Australia-based BHP in 2001. Fipke and Blusson began to search for diamonds in the Northwest Territories in 1988, resulting in discovery of what became the Ekati Diamond Mine. In 2014, Fipke sold his 10 percent share in Ekati to Dominion Diamond Corporation for \$67 million. He continues exploring for diamonds in Ontario with Metalex Ventures; for gold in the Yukon, Nevada and Yemen with Cantex Mine Development; and for uranium along the border of Manitoba and Saskatchewan with Northern Uranium.
- In 1992 Fipke was named Mining Man of the Year by *The Northern Miner* and Prospector of the Year by the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada. He earned the H. H. "Spud" Huestis Award for prospecting and mineral exploration in 1997; the Daniel C. Jackling Award for contributions to technical progress in mining, geology and geophysics in 2004; and the Robert M. Dreyer Award for outstanding achievement in applied economic geology in 2005. Fipke was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame in 2013.