

# LOFT of BIG ANDY

by Ted Brown



**"GEORGE"**  
B.00-2111465

**"GEORGE & ELIZA"**

The Golden Couple of Deleus/Schellens

Their offspring have acquired:

1st Combine	210 KM	1,152 b.
1st Combine	151 KM	1,008 b.
1st Combine	249 KM	1,328 b.
3rd Combine	151 KM	1,008 b.
4th Combine	206 KM	1,151 b.
6th Combine	253 KM	1,187 b.

I first met Andy Larentzakis in the early 1990's, Both of us were in the process of importing birds from Bob Koch, of Hummelston PA. It was Bob's idea that it would be easier and cheaper to ship the birds into Canada in one shipment, rather than both of us having to pay vet fees, etc.

When the birds arrived, Andy and I got together to split the birds and expenses. At that time, Andy was young and new to the sport, whereas I was already turning grey and had raced pigeons non-stop since 1961. Despite his youth, I was impressed by Andy's dedication and desire to rise to the top of the race sheet. Honesty and friendliness were other characteristics that I observed. In those days Andy went to local auctions looking for quality birds. Besides Bob Koch, Andy purchased birds from some of America's best including Rick Mardis.

Andy's results have always been good. Due to business commitments (Andy owns two restaurants), Andy can only fly young birds. When he moved to Oakville in 2001, Andy decided to put more emphasis on the breeding side of the sport. With almost two acres of land, Andy built two new lofts that he could use for housing and breeding quality birds on a scale comparable to any breeders in North America.

Over the last six years, Andy has made numerous trips to Europe where he visited many of the top lofts in both Holland and Belgium. The three lofts that have made the biggest impression on Andy's stock loft are Serge van Elsacker, Theo Yskout and Henk

Kuijlaars. Besides importing birds from these lofts, Andy uses these masters as his eyes and ears in Europe.

The first importation consisted of 30 birds direct from Serge van Elsacker. Andy gives Rick Mardis credit for introducing him to van Elsacker. Many of these 30 birds remain at Andy's and have performed well in the breeding loft.

Another kit of birds brought in were Schellens importing from the master breeder, Deleus Louis. There were 17 quality birds in this shipment. Although I like most of Andy's birds, perhaps the Schellens are my favourites. Andy had real success in 2005 with a Schellens (#5978) which won 1st combine/40 lofts/1208 birds, as well as 1st combine/40 lofts/1075 birds. "5978" also took several other top 20 positions in 2005 and won the Ace Pigeon Award. That year, Andy topped the combine 5 times. Not bad for someone who only flies young.

The top stock cock in Andy's Schellen collection is "George" banded B-00-2111465. This bird has bred numerous top racers for Andy including 3 Combine winners. Excellent results have been achieved in numerous One Loft Races here in Canada. "George" was the grandfather of 4th overall one loft race "Le Tour Des Maritimes" (8 race series) in 2004. "George" was also grandfather of the 18th overall Le Tour Des Maritimes race of 2005.

In the 2005 Regina One Loft race, "George" was grandfather to the 1st place winner.



**"RIVALDO"**  
B-6243601-00

The 2005 Victoria Challenge One Loft Race saw another grandson of "George" win 3rd position. This race is sponsored by the Capital City club of Victoria, B.C., and is one of the largest and most successful races in Canada.

The birds that Andy brought in from Theo Yskout, of Belgium, have produced tremendous results for Andy and numerous other fanciers. "Rivaldo" (B-00-6243601) was a top racer for Yskout (3 firsts) and has produced exceptional young for Andy. A member of the Central Jersey Combine got 1st Club, 3rd Combine vs. 242 lofts and 3495 birds. The same fancier got 21st, vs. 731 birds/124 lofts at 366 miles with another grand youngster of "Rivaldo". Still another grand youngster got 24th vs. 61 lofts and 465 birds at 366 miles in the Patterson Air Derby.

While I was visiting, Chris Mellidas from Montreal phoned. Chris had tried birds from numerous Canadian breeders, but really didn't have success until he tried birds from Andy. In the Empire Classic One Loft Race with 500 entries, Chris got 24th with a grandson of "Rivaldo".

Several other birds from Yskout also impressed me. "Blue Thunder", winner of 6 races for Yskout, "Loverboy" and the parents of "Loverboy" are also at Andy's.

If you are a Janssen lover, Andy has them. Andy paid \$15000 two years ago to bring in a pair of "real cracker", "Mixed Red" banded NL 01-0179763 is a beautiful red hen bred by Dick Marijnissen. A recent article published in the Racing Pigeon America and written by Bert van Est highlighted the success achieved by Dick Marijnissen and his birds.

A second ace breeder, "Gooden Crack 755", was also bought from Dick. The birds used by Dick in his stock loft were obtained from Jos. van Limpt also known as "de Klak" and direct from the Janssen Bros.

With his Dutch connections, Andy was able to buy 3 Janssens at a total clearance/auction. These are birds that competed in the same combine as Marcel Sangers and Hans Eijerkamp. Andy calls these birds the "3 Musketeers". One of these birds won 10 races and was 1st provincial Ace Pigeon. The second bird was the nest brother of the first. It was 6 times 1st, and 2nd Provincial Ace. The 3rd Musketeer got 13 prizes and was 1st vs. 5000 birds. All three birds had strong bodies and good eye sign.

Andy's most recent imports come from Chris Hebberecht of Belgium. Arrangements for this deal were made by Serge van Elsacker. They are basically a crossing of Vereecke, Delbar and Desmet. Andy is very hopeful for these birds.

One of Andy's most successful seasons was 2003. Flying with the Central Ontario Combine, Andy won both of the Gold Band races. Perhaps the biggest accomplishment that year was in the Englehart Open, sponsored by the Hamilton Federation Combine, with fanciers from all over southern Ontario participating in this classic event. In the past, the monetary payout has been as high as \$45,000. In 2003, Andy won 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the tough West Section. Quite an accomplishment.

2006 was another good year for Andy's birds. Rob Roti flew the Ace pigeon old birds 2005 and 2006 in the Up North Combine (Canada's largest) at distances up to 600 miles. These were both out of Andy's birds. The winner of the Empire Classic One Loft race was also a grandson from Andy's son of "Den 55" (de Klak).

Andy's goal has always been to supply the racing pigeon fancy with the best birds possible.



**"THIRD MUSKETEER"**  
NL-03-1995499

**Nestbrother of**  
"SIMPLY THE BEST"

**Fullbrother of**  
"EQUALLY WELL"