

Horse Racing Industry Report

A publication of the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association

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Horse Racing Industry Growing

A recent study indicates that horse racing is the third largest agricultural sector in Ontario and the most labour intensive providing more than 60,000 jobs. Annual expenditures of breeders and owners are in excess of \$1.3 billion. This is an expenditure increase of 33 per cent in 2 years. The economic benefits of horse racing for Ontario continue to grow as the additional revenues from slot machine revenues and the pari-mutuel tax reduction are reinvested in racing and breeding.

There are more people working at the racetracks and more race dates since the tax reduction and slot

revenues came on stream in 1997-98. In its 2001/02 report, the Ontario Racing Commission licenced 26,454 people to own and train racehorses and work at racetracks, an increase of 20 percent since 1997. Race dates have also increased by almost twenty per cent since 1997.

On the agricultural side, the number of equine farms grew by 8.9 per cent between the 1996 and 2001 census in Ontario. There are about 5,000 person-years of employment sustained by horse racing in Ontario's agricultural sector.



Wando

OHRIA Congratulates Triple Crown Winner

The Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association (OHRIA) congratulates Wando and its jockey Patrick Husbands, trainer Mike Keogh and owner Gus Schickedanz for capturing the Canadian Triple Crown. On Saturday August 9, Wando clinched the Breeder's Stakes at Woodbine Racetrack to become the first horse in a decade to win all three races of the Canadian Triple Crown.

"We recognize the skill, dedication and teamwork that go into raising champion racehorses and congratulate Gus Schickedanz, Mike Keogh and Patrick Husbands for their achievement," stated Wendy Rinella, Executive Director of OHRIA. "In addition Wando's triumph has generated a lot of excitement with the public and media which benefits our industry."

Industry Launches Barn Fire Safety Program

In addition to raising funds for the victims of barn fires the industry has joined together to launch a barn fire safety program. This program is designed to advise those working in the backstretch and paddock areas of best practices for fire prevention. The awareness

campaign will include seminars and information bulletins.

All sectors of the industry, racetracks, horsepeople, breeders, and the Ontario Racing Commission have been involved in the development of the program.

For more up-to-date information, please visit our website at:

www.ohria.com



Amigo Hall

Ontario Sired Horses Achieving International Success

Two Ontario-sired horses, Amigo Hall and Rotation cleaned up at The Meadowlands in New Jersey on August 2nd. Amigo Hall scored a tremendous upset in the \$1 million Hambletonian Trot. While Rotation beat the world's elite older trotters in the \$450,000 Nat Ray Free For All stake. Currently Balanced Image, the sire of Rotation and Amigo Hall is the leading Money Winning Trotting Sire of 2003 for all age trotters with earnings of \$3.3 million according to the United States Trotting Association.

“The victories of Amigo Hall and Rotation both sired by Balanced Image demonstrates the success of the Ontario Sires Stakes program in meeting its objectives to improve the quality and quantity of racing stock in Ontario,” said Wendy Rinella, Executive Director of OHRIA.

Yearling Nominations Increase 72 percent

Yearlings nominated to the Ontario Sires Stakes program reached 2,937 by the registration deadline for 2003. The nominations for these yearlings sired by Ontario stallions have increased by 72 per cent since 1997. The increase in yearlings is a positive indicator for the future health of Ontario's breeding sector.

Elmira Fundraiser a Success

In June 2003, a fundraising dinner and silent auction was held to support the victims of the Elmira Raceway barn fire. Sponsored by the Ontario Harness Horse Association with prizes donated from many friends and members of the horse racing industry, the event raised \$45,000. In May 2003, the Elmira Raceway barn fire resulted in the loss of 18 horses. The Fire Marshall's office is still investigating and has yet to release its report.

Dreams come true at HHYF Camp

12 children who dreamed of feeling the wind in their helmet had their wish come true as part of the second annual Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) Camp at Mohawk and Woodbine Racetracks. The aspiring horse people, aged 11 to 13, spent the week learning the ins and outs of the harness racing industry before making their driving debut on Woodbine's Thursday evening program.

This year's lucky campers, selected on the merits of a 250-word essay they submitted entitled "The wind in my helmet — why I want to feel the thrill of driving a horse," were: Laura Baker, 12, Midland, ON; Devi Bains, 12, Malton, ON; Angie Gubbels, 12, Delaware, ON; Catherine Harding, 12, Green Valley, ON; Brianna Kerr, 13, Orton, ON; Heather Klinard, 12, Paincourt, ON; Dayna Noltie, 12, Campbellville, ON; Shea O'Neill, Kleinburg, ON; Jasmine Radway, 13, Toronto, ON; Logan Taylor, 13, Monkton, ON; Lorne Thomas, 13, Acton, ON; Acacia Tostes, 12, Mississauga, ON.



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To be a world class leader in horse racing and breeding