

Horse Racing Industry Report

A publication of the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association

Spring 2004

New Vision and Mandate

The Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association (OHRIA) has adopted a new vision, mandate and objectives for the organization.

New Vision

A customer-focused leader in horse racing and breeding, gaming and entertainment.

"I am particularly delighted that the new vision is focused on the customer. Customers drive the industry and the demand for the racing product, said Hugh Mitchell, Senior Vice President of Racing of the Woodbine Entertainment Group and Secretary-Treasurer of OHRIA.

New Mandate

To further the interests of horse racing in the province by being the driving force and champion; to develop positions that are supported industry-wide; and act as the industry advocate on these positions for activities impacting the entire industry.

"The new mandate reflects the Board's view that OHRIA will not take a position on an issue unless consensus is achieved." Said Dr. Moira Gunn, OHRIA Board Member for the Standardbred Breeders and Owners of Ontario. "If there is no consensus, then there is no industry position."

Celebrity Media Race



On April 24 Georgian Downs hosted a celebrity media race night and silent auction with the event proceeds of over \$8,000 going towards the Royal Victoria Hospital proposed regional cancer care centre.

Industry Addresses Need for Drug and Alcohol Treatment for Horse Racing Participants.

Members of the Ontario Horse Racing Industry have formed a committee to develop a program to include rehabilitation for drug and alcohol abuse into the Ontario Racing Commission's (ORC) regulatory structure.

Currently if a horse racing industry participant is caught under the influence of alcohol or drugs they may be fined or penalized. The process does not require a mandatory rehabilitation program. The Committee will also be looking at a more comprehensive approach to the issue of drug and alcohol abuse and incorporate prevention and awareness into the program.

Members of the Committee Include: Nick Coukos, Executive Director of the HBPA; Irwin Driedger, Managing Secretary of the JBAC; John Walzak, Chief Operating Officer of OHHA; Wendy Rinella, Executive Director of OHRIA will act as Chair; and, Rob McKinney, Director of Investigations at the Ontario Racing Commission will be represented ex-officio.

The Committee will also be supported by a panel of experts in the area of drug and Alcohol treatment. The Panel includes: Dr. Camille Frey, PhD.; Dr. David Korn, MD, CAS, DPTH; and Dr. Harvey Skinner, PhD.

Barn Fire Safety

April

Western Fair Raceway Tuesday, April 27

May

Hanover Raceway Saturday, May 1
Grand River Raceway Wednesday, May 19
Sudbury Raceway Tuesday, May 25
Georgian Downs Wednesday, May 26

June

Kawartha Downs Tuesday, June 8
Flamboro Downs Tuesday, June 22

July

Clinton Raceway Tuesday, July 6
Woodstock Tuesday, July 13
Hiawatha Horse Park Saturday, July 17
Dresden Raceway Sunday, July 18
Windsor Raceway Sunday, July 18
Woodbine Wednesday, July 21

August

Mohawk Wednesday, Aug 11
Rideau Carleton August 30 & 31

For more information or to register on line please visit www.ohria.com

LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society - Update

This year's annual Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society (CTHS) awards and dinner banquet will be held on June 18th with the proceeds from the silent auction going to LongRun. They are hoping to raise enough to support the 25 horses currently in foster care. In LongRun's 4 year existence they have placed close to 100 horses, 30 of which were placed in 2003.

Equine Guelph 2004

For 2004 the Ontario Horse Racing Industry will be contributing \$462,000 to Equine Guelph's research projects. Members contributing towards this total allocation include, OHRIA, EP Taylor Equine Fund and HBPA and OHHA.

This funding will support 12 new research projects, 6 continuing and 8 in their final stages of completion. One of the new research projects will be a comprehensive study designed to reduce musculoskeletal injuries and fractures at Ontario racetracks by improving the monitoring of horses and racetrack surfaces

The Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society - Update

Thanks to the new sponsor Forest City Yearling Sales, the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society (OSAS) can now increase the number of horses into the program from 20 to 25. Due to the high cost of fostering horses, OSAS is limited to the number of horses it can care for at one time. Currently the program spends over \$25,000 a year on foster care. OSAS has adopted out more than 220 horses since its inception in 1996.

www.ohria.com



OHRIA
7145 West Credit Avenue
Bldg. 1, Suite 201
Mississauga, Ontario
L5N 6J7 Canada