



Volume 2

Newsletter



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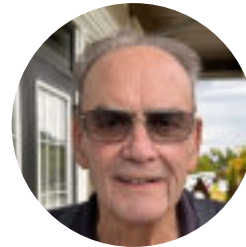
Meet the Team 2023 Executive Committee



Jim Whelan
President



Jean Marc MacKenzie
1st Vice President



Kent Baker
2nd Vice President



Orazio Valente
Treasurer



Anthony Haughan
Executive Director



Mark Williams
Executive Director



William Kirkpatrick
Executive Director



Bob Eaton
Executive Director



Doug Brown
Executive Director

Board of Directors

District 1



Dan Mayo, Carp
613-836-6076
dmayo@sympatico.ca

Rideau-Carleton Raceway
613-822-2211
rcr.net

Brian Cassell, Gloucester
613-223-7917
palmerrecycling@bellnet.ca

District 3



Doug Brown
Kawartha Downs
705-939-6316
kawarthadowns.com

District 4



Mario Rivest, Hanmer
705-451-0038
mariorivest@live.ca

Sudbury Downs
705-855-9001
sudburydowns.com

Gerald Lamoureux, Chelmsford
705-897-5981
neffnie@gmail.com

District 5



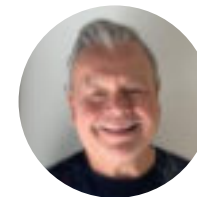
Kent Baker, Coldwater
705-686-3806
kentohhal@gmail.com



Keith Jones, Barrie
705-818-0757
keith.jonesgwg@gmail.com

Georgian Downs
705-726-9400
georgiandowns.com

District 6



Bob Eaton
613-340-2521
bobeaton@rogers.com

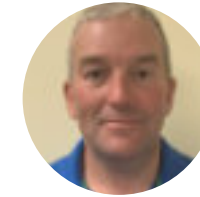


Geoff Maltby, Acton
519-853-5320
codyscows@bell.net

Woodbine Raceway
416-675-7223

Mohawk Racetrack
905-854-7805

District 7



Anthony Haughan, Cambridge
905-864-9146
anthonyhaughan@hotmail.com



Jim Whelan, Troy
519-770-5184
jamesaeneaswhelan@gmail.com

Flamboro Downs
905-627-3561
flamborodowns.com

District 8



Dave Boughton, Carlisle
Grand River Raceway
519-846-5455
grandriverraceway.com

District 9



Jim Watt, Clinton
519-482-5909
jojowatt31@gmail.com

Clinton Raceway
519-482-5270
clintonraceway.com

Hanover Raceway
519-364-2860
hanoverraceway.com

District 10

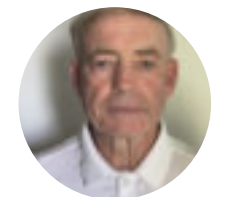


Bert Moore, Sarnia
519-344-5959
moorefarm.km@gmail.com

Hiawatha Horse Park
519-438-7203
westernfair.com

Western Fair Raceway
519-537-5717
hiawathahorsepark.com

District 11



William Kirkpatrick, Amherstberg
519-996-7689
billkirk@xplornet.com



Mark Williams, Cottam
519-800-4001
markwilliams58@gmail.com

Dresden Raceway
519-683-4466
windsorraceway.com



Save The Date

OHHA AGM 2023

Tuesday April 25, 2023

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Flamborough Baptist Church

41 Concession 5 Road East

Waterdown, Ontario

Agenda Items:

- Introduction of 2023 Officers and Executive
- Introduction of new Directors
- President's remarks
- Approval of 2020 annual meeting minutes
- Presentation of audited financial statements
- Appointment of 2023 Auditors
- Amendment to OHHA By-Law #5
- General Managers remarks
- Other business

For further information please contact the OHHA office at
905-854-6442 or 1-866-774-6442

A message from OHHA General Manager **Brian Tropea**

OEEEP is Back and Better Than Ever!

The Ontario Equine Education and Employment Program provides hands-on training and helps with job placement for future employees.

The Ontario Equine Education and Employment Program was a rousing success last year and is back for 2023, allowing barn owners to find educated employees for their operations, and enthusiastic grads to find meaningful and stimulating employment within the industry.

This program was created by the Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA) in partnership with the Ontario government through the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and is supported by Equine Guelph. It is absolutely free; participants learn about horse care and welfare during an interactive six-week training course given by industry experts. OHHA and VPI Working Solutions work with all participants to help them find suitable job placements at the conclusion of the program.



Brian Tropea, MPP Donna Skelly, Equine Guelph's Gayle Ecker

New for this year is additional course information which addresses previous student questions. Also implemented are virtual/live "Class Meetings" where short presentations

on subjects such as Social License to Operate for the horse industry and how our behaviour impacts that, examining Equine Welfare in more depth, career paths, and so on will be offered.

Successful participants should be 15-plus years old, Ontario residents, passionate about working with horses, unemployed or underemployed, and not currently in full-time education or other training programs. The next session begins May 1; the deadline to sign up is April 27th. Three additional cohorts will take place this year, spaced seven weeks apart. Space is limited, so register [HERE](#) today!

Another program change for 2023 is that employers are eligible for wage subsidies of 50% of the salary of the candidate, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Barn owners/operators are encouraged to invest in the future of the horse industry by signing up and mentoring keen new employees. For more information about the program OHHA has developed an online employer information session which is scheduled on April 18th, May 3rd, and May 18th.

OHHA employees attended the Can Am equestrian event from March 31 to April 2 and received tremendous interest and support from the industry. All sectors of the equine industry are experiencing difficulty finding good employees and we are confident that with the help of barn operators that are willing to provide hands-on experience, that we can attract, train and find jobs for interested individuals.

President’s Message
Jim Whelan

As summer wound down and stakes season concluded, our annual yearling sales wrapped up a busy fall schedule. And through it all the Ontario Harness Horse Association was going full throttle on your behalf.

Our Ontario Equine Education and Employment Program (OEEEP) has been a tremendous success. We have posted a number of short videos on our site to illustrate our activities over the past 15 months. Please check them out. You will see that through our partnership with VPI Employment Services and Equine Guelph, OHHA has trained and placed a couple hundred new employees into our multi- billion dollar Ontario Equine Industry.

As evidenced in our videos the program couldn’t have come at a better time for our industry. Clearly, COVID has had a detrimental impact on our workforce. Many participants exited the business and like many other businesses, staffing shortages have impacted our ability to grow our labour intensive industry. Fewer workers means

work not getting done as it should and animals not receiving the all the extra attention and care they need and deserve. OEEEP has helped address some staffing pressures but there is obviously more to do.

There’s good news. Thanks to the support of our Provincial Government and in particular, Premier Doug Ford and Labour Minister Monte McNaughton, OEEEP was approved for another round of funding to address workforce issues in the Equine Agricultural Sector. I encourage employers to continue to reach out to us so that we can work in lockstep to not only sustain but grow industry opportunities.

On another related note, I was successfully elected to StandardBred Canada as an Active Director for Ontario. Thanks to all of you for your overwhelming support. I pledge that I will represent horse people with all my might and vigour.

Fall 2022 Season

Friends, our industry needs a strong voice and relentless advocacy to ensure our collective futures. There are a lot of interests constantly competing for recognition and prominence on the political radar. So now, more than ever we need a representative at SC who not only talks the talk but walks the walk. I will be that voice.

To all the hundreds of horse people who get up every day and give it every thing they’ve got; to all those who are pursuing their dream of owning a champion, who invested this past fall at the sales; to all the women and men who love the industry and are committed to our longevity, I say thank you. And remember, if we all pull together, for those who built our industry; to those whose hard work and investments sustain it; to those who are the future, we can do this. But we have to stick together.

Safe trip to all,

Jim Whelan
OHHA President



Autumn 2022 News

From the the Brampton Ontario Select Yearling Sale to the London Sale at Western Fair to Lexington to Harrisburg and stops in between, Ontario horse people have once again invested millions of their hard earned dollars into the future of the industry.

Not every yearling will develop into a champion, but that doesn't stop industry supporters from searching out the "next one." Armed with catalogues of bloodlines, supported by in-depth conformation checks, each and every fall for decades, Ontario's horse people invest way more than they often times earn into supporting our billion dollar breeding industry.

As we all know, there's a lot of money and time that goes into the production of a racehorse. First the purchase of a broodmare and likely some property; then the stallion fees; next the care of the mare while she's in foal; to birthing; raising the colt or filly; preparing them for sale and finally waiting anxiously for the hammer to fall on the right side of profitability, I salute the Breeders who each year take a leap of faith to continue producing the world class animals we rely on to sustain our future. And looking at the results of some of North America's most prominent stake races, nobody does it better than Ontario horse people.

While the six figure colts and fillies draw the headlines, there are hundreds more that go through sales, especially for small breeding operations, that barely return a profit and in fact, and at times may incur financial loss. While, no doubt fewer horses are being produced because of uncertain financial times, industry instability and unpredictable returns, it is heartening to see so many go through the sales ring and leave with owners and trainers ready to make the time and money investment to produce an actual racehorse. It's what we all do.

When a two year old hits the track, if indeed it ever does, the process is actually 4 years in the making. That's why it is imperative that we establish and maintain a

viable path to sustainability. And that's why getting into the ears of our politicians is so important. At OHHA we are committed to lobbying, educating and convincing politicians that our industry is truly value added and worthy of taxpayer support for everyone. It is especially vital to the economy of rural Ontario. No other group works harder than we do on the political front. Not even close. We are proud of being labelled the true voice of the Ontario's Equine Agricultural Industry. We take great pride in having advanced our cause with political decision makers. It's the only path forward. But there is still plenty to do. And, as always we are always stronger when we get it done together.



Millions Invested at Yearling Sales

A Path Forward

Sustainability and self reliance. That's our goal for promoting our industry's future. While we salute our provincial government for establishing some industry certainty for the near term, we can not and should not rely on government subsidies in the long term.

As mentioned earlier, developing a racehorse takes time. A lot of time. And breeders can not produce if they have no guarantees that the industry is going to survive. Owners won't invest if they have no where to race or are faced with dramatically reduced race dates on which to race. Trainers can't invest in equipment or skilled staff if they don't see a viable pathway to a profitable business model. Our world class driving colony isn't going to resist migrating south of the border unless they know that purse percentages are going to support them and their families.

How do we get there? In a word; money.

It's time we share the wealth that we create. After all, without us there is no show or product. It's imperative that we start sharing in parimutuel handle. And we must be treated as respected and equal partners in marketing and promoting the industry. We have to take control of our own future by working, first of all, to retain our current fan base, then modernizing to attract new and younger gamblers. We need to create an immediate buzz that draws interest from a younger fan base who have the financial resources to increase racetrack handle.

The competition is fierce. Slots in their current format are cannibalizing the industry. Lotteries are selling promises of cash for life and life changing wins for the very few who hit it big. There's only so many available gambling dollars in the economy. So, what to do?

Sports betting is an opportunity. While Woodbine has been highly critical of the government's approach to sports betting, we offer a different and more cooperative

perspective. We believe that horse people should be at the helm of any sports betting initiative and that all proceeds be returned to the industry and horse people's pockets. We have a ready made base of gamblers. Imagine how those fans and customers would gamble if they knew that the money they risked was destined to be returned to support the industry they love, support and invest in. We intend on presenting our vision for self reliance in a formal presentation to government in the very near future.

Another viable option is the establishment of a Southwestern Ontario Racino, owned and operated by horse people for horse people. Under this proposal, all slot proceeds would go into industry wide purses, promotion and representation. Some naysayers may dismiss this is as a pipe dream, but it's absolutely possible and best of all, both proposals can quickly but incrementally get us off the subsidy system.

Our industry will be best positioned for success when oversight, marketing and promotion is carried out by those with some skin in our game. In other words, those who know the industry and rely upon it to support their families and communities.

Under the current organizational power structure, there is an obvious and unjust disconnect. We all know our industry is being lorded over by those with little hands- on knowledge of the equine agricultural industry. They don't contribute but they sure do benefit. That has to change. Now.

***It's going to take hard work folks.
But it's now or never.
The stakes have never been higher.
Let's make our move.***



Doctor JD Adams, Brian Tropea, MP Lianne Rood, Jim Whelan



Rob Flack, Larry Freeman, Lisa Thompson, Jim Whelan



Brian Tropea, MP Chris Lewis, Doctor JD Adams, Jim Whelan



Doctor JD Adams, Jim Whelan, Monte McNaughton, Brian Tropea



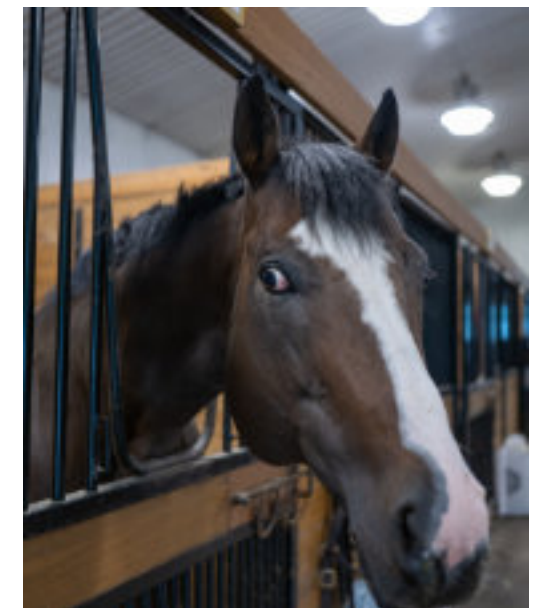
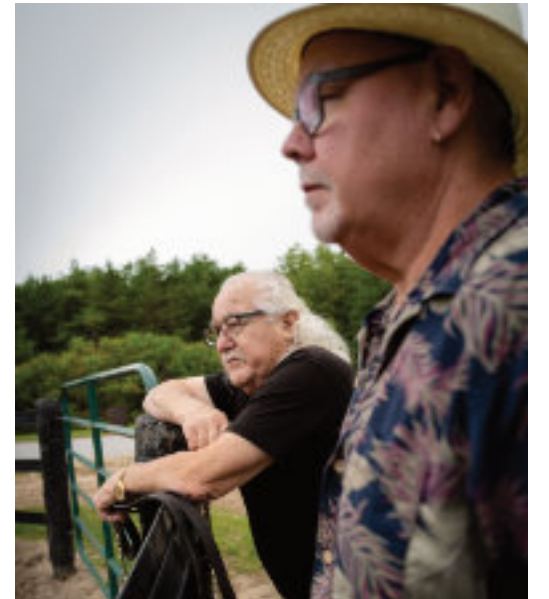
Agricultural Parliamentary Assistant Rob Flack, Jim Whelan



Bob Eaton, Jim Whelan, Peter Bethelvalvny, Monte McNaughton, Brian Tropea



Jim Whelan, Monte McNaughton, Premier Ford, Rob Flack, Denise Flack



President’s Message

Jim Whelan

Whenever I travel in racing circles, the same questions come up over and over again.

“How are we going to get more folks to bet on our product. How do we raise the para-mutual handle? How do we make our product more attractive to young people and established gamblers? How do we fix what’s broken? How do we guarantee our long term viability?

People are shocked at my answer. “We don’t”.

For more than 250 years horse racing has survived and flourished in Canada. Through two world wars, an economic depression, the dirty thirties, Black Monday, the financial crisis and too many global conflicts and crisis to count, we survived, even thrived.

Why?

Because we had a product. Our job as horse people was to breed, train and prepare our horses to perform; get them to the racetrack and present a clean, professional product. In short, we put on the show.

Racing venues were motivated to market and promote. They provided world class facilities, attracting the best owners, breeders, stables, drivers, caretakers and horses.

Winter 2022/2023 Season

It was in racetrack owners financial interests to be partners with horse people and promote the sport. Sometimes there were disagreements. As equal partners we worked to resolve conflict through bargaining and negotiations. But there was balance. Without horses and horse people, track operators realized there was no show. Horse people knew that without racetrack operators there was no venue. And it mostly worked. Sure, there were a few track closures in our history, but folks can recall heydays when horse racing was branded as “ North America’s fastest growing sport”.

But then along came the legalization of casino style gaming. Easy ways to gamble with slim opportunities to win big and large opportunities to lose bigger. For reference, consider the take out from slot machines vs pari-mutual betting. The rate of return to the gambler isn’t even close. Pari-mutual betting returns more dollars back to the pool and the bettor by a long shot.

When casino gaming was first legalized in Ontario, visionaries had the foresight to understand that slots had the potential to cannibalize horse racing handle. Established in 1998, in consultation with industry stakeholders, the Ontario Slots at Racetrack Program (SARP) was established to address that very issue.

SARP revenue share was 75% to the Ontario Government through the Ontario Lottery and Gaming branch, 5% to the host municipality and 20% to the horse racing industry (\$345 million per year), equally shared with horse people and race tracks.

In 2012, the Ontario Liberal Government under the leadership of Premier Dalton McGuinty and Finance Minister Dwight Duncan arbitrarily ended SARP without any consultation with their own caucus or our industry, effectively terminating any connection between gaming revenue and horse racing. That was the beginning of a steady decline.

In place of SARP, the Horse Racing Partnership Program was subsequently established, providing \$80.8 million in purses, \$5.7 million to breeder’s awards, \$11 million racetracks to smaller racetracks and almost \$2 million to marketing and administration.

Ontario Racing (OR) adopted a subsequent proposal jointly developed by the OLG, Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) and OR calling for \$93.4 million towards building a sustainable horse racing industry for a 17 year period ending in 2038.

Big winners. WEG and the OLG. Big losers. Horse people and Ontario’s equine agricultural industry, by a country mile.

While we are thankful to our current government for throwing us a lifeline after listening to our issues and respecting our views, we maintain that the current funding model actually discourages racetracks from racing and industry innovation. Since purses are not coupled to handle, horse people are virtually shut out of any gains reflected at the mutual windows. It doesn’t matter how much money is bet on our product, not one cent is going to the people who actually put on the show. Every penny goes back into the coffers of the OLG and WEG.

And what about the almost \$2 million allocated annually to marketing and racetrack administration? A few new decals on select horse trailers. Maybe an ad our two around a premier WEG event? Otherwise not much as far as I can see.

Back stretches have disappeared; no stables, restaurants or daycare even though SARP called for it. We’re lucky to get an order of fries from a chip truck after trucking into race and spending a whole day preparing for a race. So where did all that money go?

Don’t get me wrong. Casino gaming and horse racing can co-exist, but not in its present form. There needs to be a real partnership based on respect and equality.

The agricultural equine industry contributes billions of dollars of revenue to the Ontario economy. It has deep roots in this province. Our horses, owners, breeders, trainers, caretakers and drivers are world class, the most accomplished in the industry. The sport’s fastest horse was sired and trained and owned here. Yet, we are dying a slow but certain death, because despite our accomplishments on the world stage, racetracks would rather get rid of us all together and focus solely on gaming.

If you need proof, check out the tarmac at Flamboro Downs where no one under the age of 19 has access to indoor facilities or amenities. Or better yet, take a a close look at the 4,000 plus room hotel developed at Woodbine. A city within a city, marketed as a destination spot for gaming. I can’t help but think that this is not what the immortal EP Taylor envisioned when he gave that land for the promotion and future of equine industry in Canada. Seems to me Mr. Taylor would have preferred that money go to building appropriate facilities for the people who love and care for horses everyday.

So my answer to the questions that I hear everyday about the future of the agricultural equine industry can be summed up briefly.

Don’t worry about the bet at the window, instead worry about our window to a truly sustainable future, one that doesn’t depend on the good will or benevolence of the government of the day. We have a track record in excess of 250 years of getting it done right when we stick together. It’s about finding and establishing a respected and active voice. It’s about speaking truth to power. We are at the head of the stretch in this struggle and if we come together another 250 years isn’t out of the question.



Glory Days



As a new Executive Director of OHHA, I have had the privilege of accompanying President Whelan to several meetings to learn more about our industry. Full disclosure, I was an active participant in standardbred horse racing as a young lad, (owner, caretaker, driver) until opting to head off to university for other pursuits that more suited my abilities.

My Dad and I were located in Windsor Ontario, the evolving hotbed of the sport in the 60's and 70's. Windsor Raceway was the standard for horses, horse people, patrons and fans. I recall racing being held 6 days a week, with doubleheaders on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Cars were lined up with racing enthusiasts all the way down Highway 3, Machette and Malden roads waiting to pay to get into the parking lot. It was a heady time, an incredible all weather facility, fans by the carloads, rising stars of the sport and a racing circuit that included Michigan, Ohio, Dresden, London and and the Golden Horseshoe. There was even a racing section in the Windsor Star, complete with Jim Dandy's race selections for punters and fans alike. It seemed like the good times would never end. But sadly, they did, but that's not the reason I'm going down memory lane.

At one of the meetings of industry leaders the topic of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame came up and folks reminisced about some of the sports brightest stars. Ahh the good ole days. But to me a couple of stars were missing from the conversation and they both are a huge part of the Windsor story.

Many great stars emerged from Windsor Raceway to go on to achieve incredible success in the industry. Shelley Goudreau, Ray and Larry Remmen, William Gale, Dr Joe Johnston, John and Jim Campbell, Ken Hardy as well as Jerry and Wilf Duford.

But there was one driver/trainer who literally topped the charts no matter where he competed and that was Greg Wright. Greg was the standard that every horse person tried to match. As a driver, no one compared to Greg for his professionalism, patience and ability to rate and care for a horse during a race. I recall some of the champions he steered; Zip Tar, Blaze Pick, High Ideal, JR Skipper, Darn Vita, Ringo H, and my favourite Happy Spencer. Well, ole Spencer was more a 1,000 claimer but he carried my middle name, so he was easy to cheer for.

Yet, despite consistently leading the driver's colony in Windsor, Detroit, Cleveland and even the Meadowlands during its initial years of operations, somehow Wright is not a member of the Canadian Racing Hall of Fame. That needs to change.

A second person also deserves recognition in our builder category and that is Marty Adler. The long time voice of harness racing in the Detroit/Windsor area, Adler has been a devoted promoter of the sport he loves. He wasn't a bad driver either. Who can forget Marty's pursuit of his hundredth win, when he along with Earl Lennox hosted a dedicated horse racing show on TSN? Way ahead of its time, the broadcast provided the exact positive exposure we could surely use today. Arguably, Adler is one of our most dedicated ambassadors of harness horse racing. Just for his persistence and insistence on promoting our industry, he surely deserves a spot in the Canadian Racing Hall Fame.

Now, like me, both these fellas are getting up in age, but they deserve their due respect. Their names are not only synonymous with the glory days of Windsor Raceway but also with horse racing on one of the most talented, competitive and professional circuits that ever existed.

Bob Eaton
OHHA Director

OHHA is Laser Focussed on the Future of the Agricultural Equine Industry

Since 1962, OHHA has been the recognized standardbred horse people's representative. We have a long history of effectively publicly advocating, bargaining, negotiating and defending our members at racetracks, hearings and tribunals and in the public eye. It was a good run but with the formation and funding of COSA, coupled with OHHA's defunding by the Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) and Ontario Racing (OR), we have decided to pivot and focus on the future sustainability of the entire equine agricultural industry. With the support of the Ontario Government, Premier Ford and the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and Minister Monte McNaughton, we launched the Ontario Equine Education and Employment Program in 2021.

The Ontario Agricultural Equine Industry is reliant on a pool of skilled, trained and dedicated workers to care for our horses. Whether it be pleasure, or performance horses, racehorses, eventing, dressage or therapeutic animals, OHHA is laser focused on providing the skills, training and opportunities to succeed. We have established strong partnerships with VPI Working Solutions and Equine Guelph to carry out our mandate. And so far the results have been excellent.

The agricultural equine industry is bigger than horse racing alone. Overall, we contribute almost 4 billion dollars to the Ontario economy, especially in rural Ontario where the industry has incredible economic reach and benefit to spin off business within close geographic proximity to our operations. Our front newsletter cover displays the financial complexities and relationships associated with the equine industry.

It's time for a more holistic and integrated approach to solving the issues we now face. And it all starts with education. Sure we need caretakers for our animals but our needs goes much deeper. If we want to be recognized as a bonafide industry, we need to take a more strategic and business centred approach.

OHHA's funding to represent horse people was arbitrarily terminated by WEG in 2019. That money was redirected to COSA . Regardless, OHHA remans committed to assisting and representing horse people and their interests whenever called upon. It's in our DNA and part of our unwavering commitment to our industry. We will continue to offer our members Life, Health and Dental insurance and remain as the sole administrator of our RRSP, we created for horse people in 1998.



OHHA will continue to focus our business model on ensuring there is a sustainable and successful agricultural equine industry in this province. Education, training, job placement, curriculum development and public and political advocacy with industry partners will be central to our core business.

The future is bright. The challenges are many, but there is now a path to long term sustainability and a future for generations to come.

Slainte
Jim

Let's Not Roll the Dice with Our Future



“I don’t think (participants) understand that the tracks-including me, if I’m just wearing my “track hat”- all want harness racing to disappear as quickly as possible. We lose millions of dollars. Everyone of us that have a racino lose millions of dollars on harness racing. They want to see harness racing disappear as quickly as possible, so they are going to do whatever they can do to make that happen and they are certainly not going to spend their money Marketing the product to delay the inevitable.

They want to see harness racing disappear as quickly as possible

The above quote attributed to Meadowlands, Vernon Downs and Tioga Raceway owner Jeff Gural, appeared in a March 18, 2018 “Harness Racing Update” column written by Dave Briggs. It’s exactly what we’ve been saying ever since the Slots at Racetrack Program ended in 2012. Racetracks have no interest in marketing, promoting or even conducting horse racing. They have absolutely zero interest in attracting new fans or increasing handle. Want evidence? Look no further than the amenities or lack thereof at Flamboro Downs. No one

under the age of 19 can enter the building. Check out the “city within the city” being promoted at Woodbine. It has literally nothing to do with horse racing except occupying the land that EP Taylor bequeathed to the sport.

Need further proof? Grab yourself, a beer approaching \$20 at Mohawk. Witness the tear down of back stretches, the lack of stabling, food services and decaying structural and track conditions. Still not convinced? Well, how about the record race dates cancelled due to weather, track condition, utility failure or parimutuel malfunctions.

In the past decade horse people have been systematically relegated to second class tenants on what was once our centre stage. Woodbine Entertainment Group, Great Canadian Gaming, Gateway Casinos and Hard Rock International are each focused on gaming and real estate. Full stop. Horse racing is a nuisance; a necessary evil. Well, at least so far.

None of these gaming companies have the internal expertise, experience or hands on knowledge of the industry, nor have they demonstrated any desire to learn. And most sadly, some of our representative associations have been complicit in our eventual demise by their silence. Meanwhile, while gaming companies oversee our industry literally rotting on the vine, our regulating agency- the Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGCO)- positioned as judge, jury and executioner, continues to mete out fines and suspensions at record pace. Together, these actions and inactions create a stench that the horse race industry is corrupt and not worthy of support.

Jeff Gural only said out loud what these race track owners appear to really think behind closed doors when they speak to each other. The ball is in their court to prove to government, the public and our industry that they are interested in a viable race horse industry. If not, it’s time for them to get out of the way and let the industry participants take over. People and families with skin in the game. If we are going to circle the drain, better we be the ones who pull the plug, rather than experience the slow drip of indifference. Those who came before and those young people trying to make their way in the industry deserve at least that. We can’t afford to roll the dice with our future.

In Memory of Kent Baker



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of long time Ontario Harness Horse Association member and renowned horseman, Kent Baker on April 7, 2023 at the age of 80.

Born September 16, 1942 Kent was a mainstay on the Ontario Jockey Club for many years, operating one of the largest and most successful stables on the circuit. Among his many stable stars were Jambo Dancer and Armbro Chronicle, two of the hardest hitting competitors to dawn the rigging. “Bake” never forgot his roots and was a true supporter of our industry. At the time of his passing he was a member of the OHHA Executive Committee and was an active Director for District 5.

Jim Whelan, OHHA President offered condolences to Baker’s family and friends. “ Bake was an extraordinary horse person, one of the very best and most successful horseman on the Ontario Jockey Club. He was also a beloved husband, father and friend of the highest quality. He was a true gentleman. We will miss him dearly. Drive on Bake. God speed.”

Ontario Equine Education and Employment Program

Time to take the first step.

Martin Luther King once said, “you don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”

Indeed, Dr. King knew a thing or two about pushing boundaries, taking chances and following your heart. He knew that change only comes when you pursue your passion and trust your dreams by taking that first leap of faith.

Have you ever dreamed of working with horses but didn’t know how to start or get involved? You’re not alone. As Ontario becomes increasingly more urban and less rural and as family farms give way to factory agricultural enterprises, fewer young people are exposed to animals and their needs. Still, the Ontario equine agricultural industry remains a multi-billion dollar proposition. That’s the good news. But amidst opportunity, there exists significant human resource challenges.

Simply put, there is a shortage of skilled workers able to hit the ground running. That was the starting point for the Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA) when we introduced the concept of the Ontario Equine Education and Employment Program (OEEEP) in 2021 to Premier Doug Ford and Minister Monte McNaughton.

We gratefully acknowledge their unwavering support for the rural Ontario agricultural equine industry. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and delivered in partnership with Equine Guelph and VPI Working Solutions, OEEEP addresses the skills training and resource gap in an extremely labour intensive industry. If you like horses or ever thought about working in an outdoor, fresh air environment with lots of opportunity and personal

freedom to advance quickly, then this is the program for you.

The Ontario Agricultural Equine Industry is virtually limitless in scope. From pleasure and performance horses to therapeutic riding to equestrian, eventing and multiple breed racing, OEEEP prepares candidates for an exciting and rewarding career in a very short period of time. We start by offering on-line classes delivered by Equine

Guelph, followed by career preparation and placement conducted by VPI in association with OHHA.

Participants are exposed to number of careers associated with the equine industry including but not limited to groom, vet, vet tech, trainer, farrier, hot walker, rider, jockey, driver and all the agricultural, administrative and ancillary positions associated with the industry. If you can envision it, we will help you accomplish it. Best of all, you will be competitively

compensated for your education training and subsequent full time employment.

We ran across an inspirational quote the other day that applies to the journey that we hope you are now thinking about and it reads, “horses do not care how much you know until they know how much you care”. These are loving, trusting animals; loyal and gentle giants who always give back more than then they take. They will test you until they trust you, but once that connection is formed between horse and human, it is a bond that can never be broken.

Dr King was right. You may not see the whole staircase just yet, but it’s time you take that first step. It’s a journey that will forever change your life and the life of equine friends just waiting to connect. And we will be with you every step of the way.

Interested participants can sign up at www.vpi-inc.com/equine
Potential employers should contact brian@ohha.ca



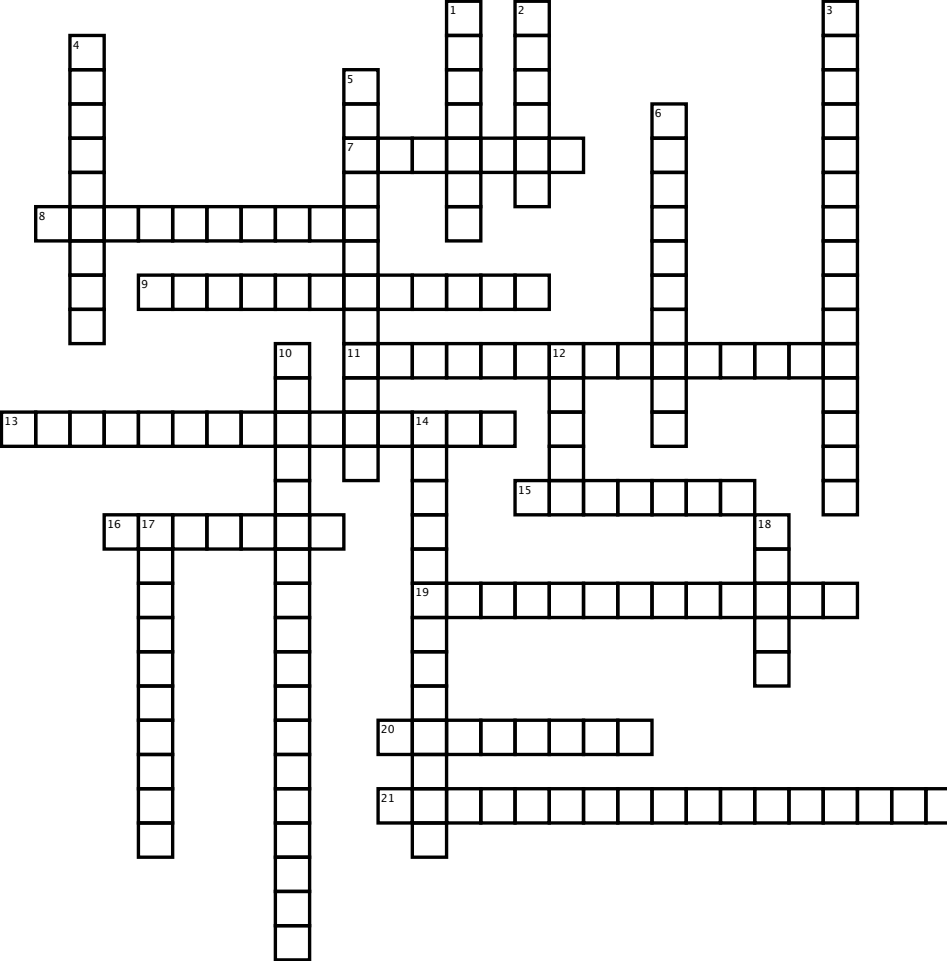
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Ontario Harness Horse Association is proud to administer and provide



This Employment Ontario project, is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

OHHA Crossword Puzzle



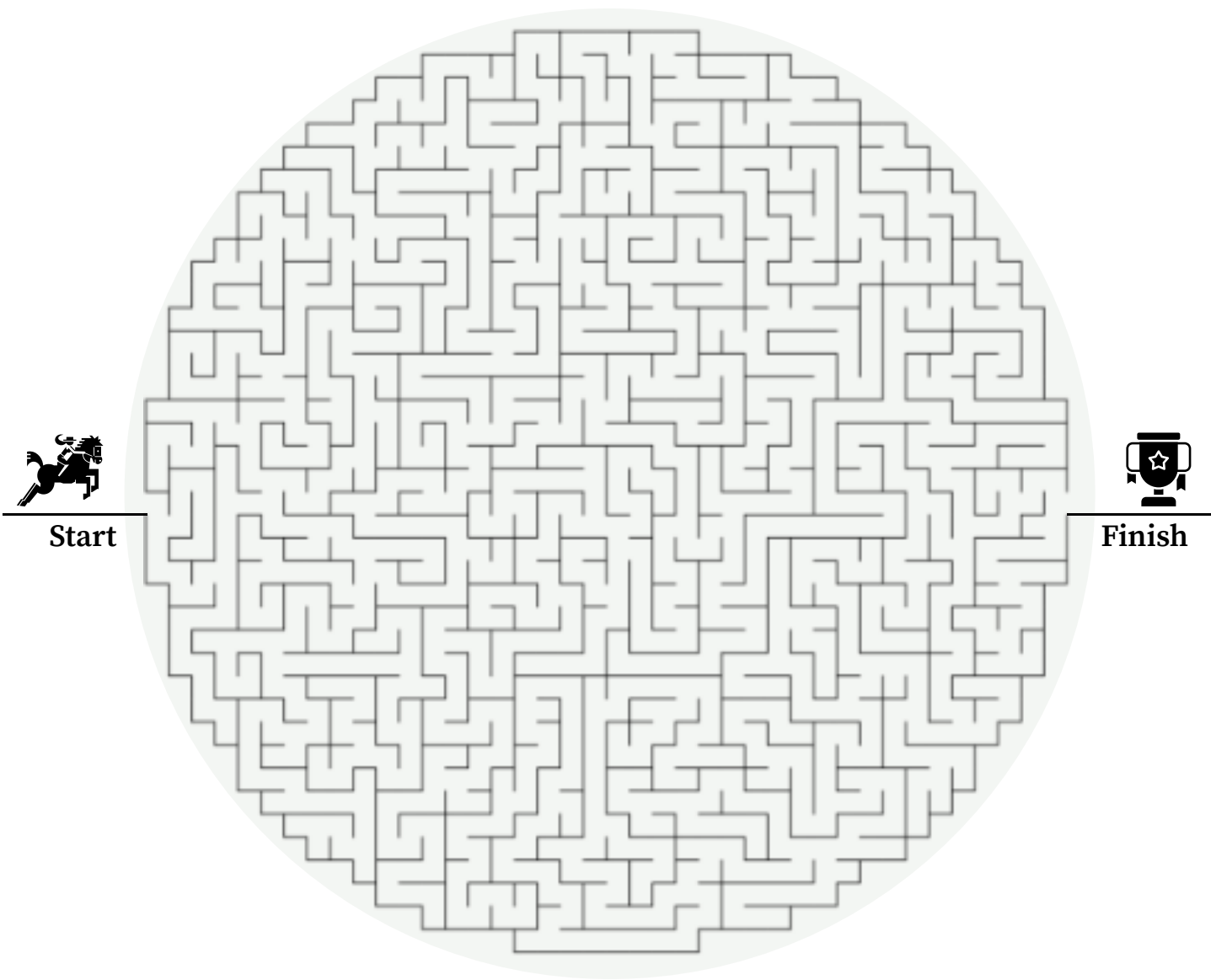
Down:

- 1. another word for blacksmith
- 2. equine pilot
- 3. keep on trucking
- 4. making it work
- 5. what up doc?
- 6. if the shoe fits?
- 10. facility help
- 12. I love to get my picture taken in the winners' circle
- 14. long in the tooth?
- 17. I balance the books
- 18. a horses’ best friend

Across:

- 7. keeping a stable environment
- 8. outfitting the athletes
- 9. bringing the gavel down at the right price
- 11. here comes the judge
- 13. Sales ring is my thing
- 15. I supply the future stars
- 16. making good things grow
- 19. wind in the sale
- 20. Keeping it all legal
- 21. right hand person

OHHA Maze

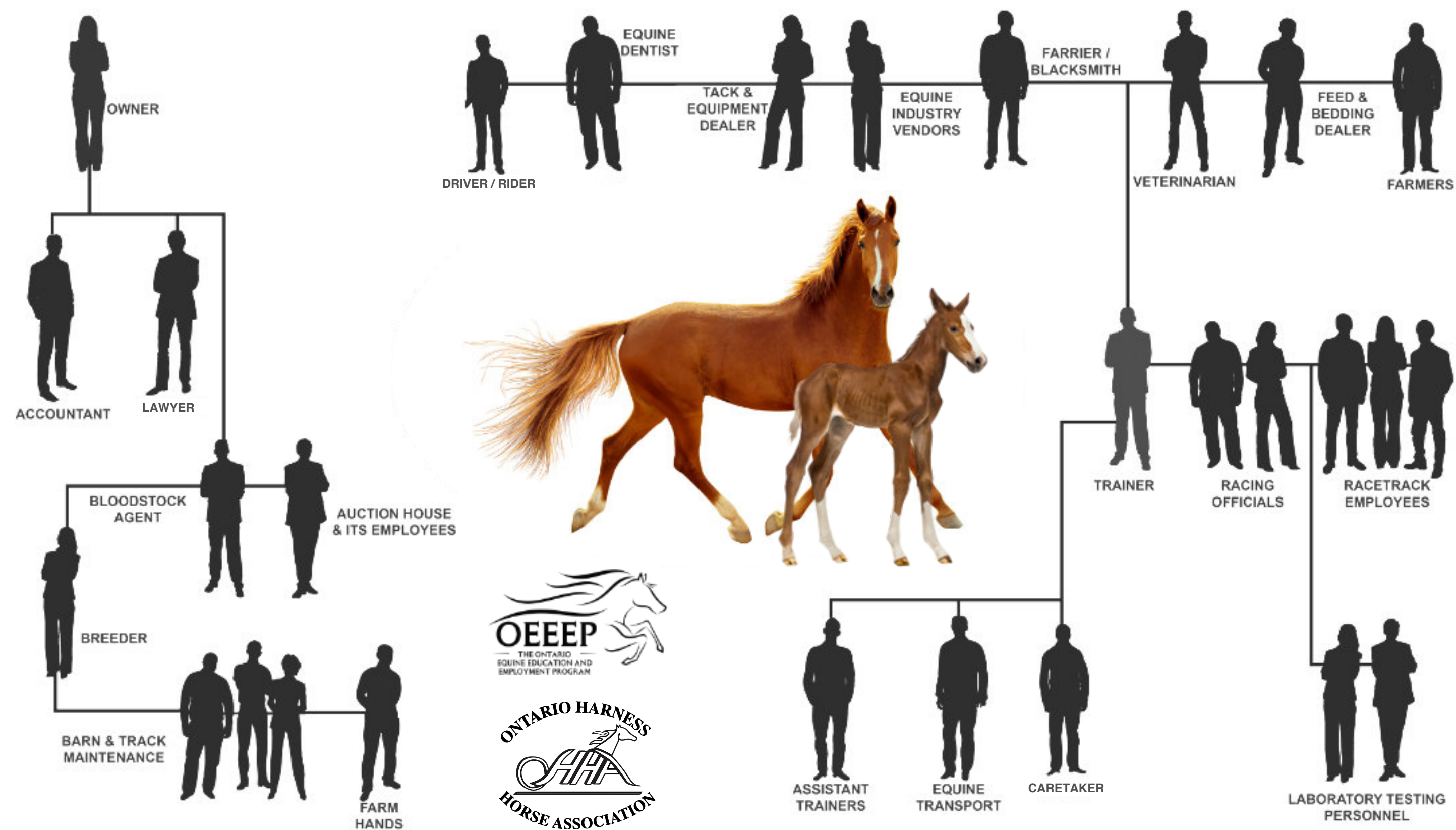


OHHA Word Search

Z	R	U	B	U	Z	P	O	L	Q	S	T	G	I	U	E	X	Q	C	N	Y	K	Z	P	C	P	A	Z	F	D
A	D	N	B	C	T	W	I	C	U	C	M	Q	U	O	Z	M	M	I	Z	H	L	K	A	V	C	I	H	B	X
F	R	V	K	O	S	S	T	N	H	X	X	Y	G	V	R	J	P	T	N	U	Q	I	S	K	B	E	P	F	E
B	O	X	G	P	S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	B	R	E	D	J	L	J	R	I	S	J	T	B	R	H	N	Q
P	E	G	M	D	K	O	Q	B	Q	B	K	S	J	R	O	H	A	Q	O	H	F	P	B	L	T	I	M	Q	W
K	S	R	L	C	X	K	W	W	X	N	S	G	Q	S	B	B	D	S	G	Y	Z	W	D	C	Y	U	Z	V	Z
M	E	Y	F	V	J	J	I	V	E	M	P	D	M	A	R	Y	L	V	S	I	M	E	W	H	S	L	C	I	P
D	Z	V	C	I	B	H	N	J	C	O	M	K	P	O	Q	W	P	L	J	O	D	E	R	V	Y	U	M	I	O
Q	T	E	S	U	L	J	X	B	L	H	G	R	O	O	M	N	C	X	U	M	C	L	N	I	Y	W	Q	U	L
F	V	Z	B	J	F	L	G	X	F	C	C	S	B	D	C	M	A	E	P	C	O	I	N	T	F	G	P	M	G
L	N	E	H	A	U	F	Y	J	H	A	R	N	E	S	S	K	R	Q	O	K	L	G	A	A	J	N	D	U	N
H	R	U	G	E	V	S	W	I	F	E	O	W	E	E	S	R	E	U	I	D	J	C	A	T	Q	U	H	S	H
B	W	S	C	U	D	B	E	Y	K	E	J	I	K	U	Z	F	E	I	Z	Z	D	N	R	V	I	P	K	T	M
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J	E	A	J	T	Y	O	W	B	T	I	B	Y	U	F	Y	X	A	I	V	G	M	J	B	G	K	J	R	C	S
L	F	I	M	A	D	H	S	I	O	J	O	O	W	Q	P	Z	I	I	D	U	P	J	D	D	V	M	S	Y	M
E	L	N	I	L	O	F	I	G	F	W	G	N	U	Z	P	X	Z	F	Q	X	L	T	R	A	I	N	E	R	S
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C	T	Y	Q	V	X	A	R	H	R	I	P	S	F	T	R	S	L	U	H	J	M	T	S	A	R	Z	F	Z	H
C	J	G	V	L	O	I	D	H	H	I	O	Y	D	G	X	O	T	Y	R	H	G	C	K	R	A	C	I	U	R
M	I	F	J	X	E	V	Y	X	O	S	J	B	R	O	N	C	O	E	W	M	R	A	F	E	M	P	B	T	B
D	X	X	P	A	Y	W	R	C	R	O	E	G	N	Q	X	Y	D	G	R	F	P	Q	B	A	C	H	S	T	P
C	R	N	S	H	B	P	E	U	S	C	L	H	S	X	S	Z	Y	N	Z	C	G	S	S	D	N	C	J	K	W
R	E	P	F	A	O	U	I	I	E	E	A	W	X	B	U	H	N	O	Q	U	P	T	C	B	U	A	S	X	D

Standardbred	Association	Employment	Filly
Education	Minister	Employer	Grad
Training	Stallion	Harness	
Program	Trainers	Drivers	
Ontario	Mustang	Equine	
Owners	Bronco	Labour	
Career	Guelph	Horse	
Groom	Mare		

Ontario's Equine Agricultural Industry Impact





The Ontario Harness Horse Association
35 Crawford Crescent
PO Box 429
Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0

Tel: 1-866-774-OHHA (6442)
Tel: 905-854-OHHA (6442)
ohha.ca