

Keep away from mosquitoes

• from WEST NILE on page 1 completely enclosed, air-conditioned areas. Mosquitoes become infected by biting birds that carry the virus. Dead wild birds should be reported to the health department for testing.

skin. These aren't recommended for children under the age of 2 years).

Homeowners should also drain standing water in pools, roofs and eavestroughs, which can serve as a mosquito breeding ground.

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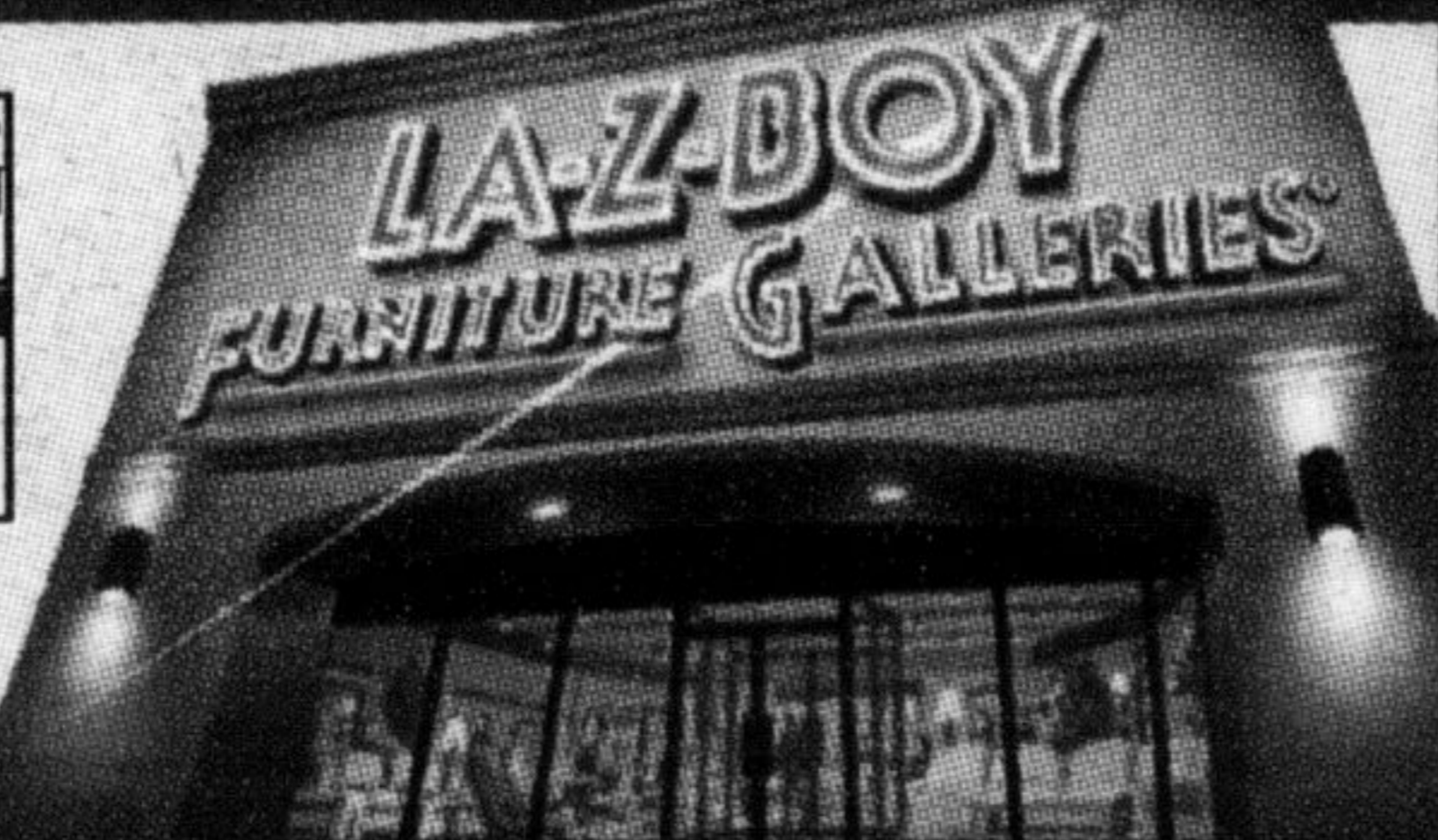


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90 DAYS SAME AS CASH

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Mohawk slots raked in whopping \$53 million from January to March

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC) revealed a winning hand with its recently-released quarterly financial performance report.

It showed charity casinos, commercial casinos and raceway slot machines have been hitting the jackpot across the province lately.

"The results have been tabulated and they point to the same conclusion," said Ron Barbaro, chair and CEO of the OLGC. "Charity casinos, slot operations at racetracks and commercial casinos produce significant, quantifiable tourism and economic benefits across Ontario."

According to the report, charity casinos and raceways alone raked in about \$192 million in the fourth quarter of the 1999-2000 fiscal year, which falls between January and March.

Locally, Mohawk Raceway pulled in \$52.9 million in that period, thanks to a flow of almost 5,000 visitors spending time and presumably money at the Guelph Line facility each day.

The track itself received 10 per cent of the gross take, or \$5.29 million, in the first three months of the year.

The same amount was handed to the

horse people, while the Town received about \$2 million of the quarterly profits.

Since launching operations last August, the Town has collected \$5.8 million in slots revenues.

One of the aims of adding slots to race tracks was to revitalize the racing industry, and it appears to be working.

Overall, horse racing has been pumped up by \$72 million over the fiscal year. As a result, race purses have been beefed up by between 40 and 360 per cent, the report stated.

All told, Mohawk's one-armed bandits grossed \$119.6 million in the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

And across Ontario, gambling facilities helped create 15,000 direct jobs, helping to increase the cash flow in the economy.

To soften the impact of gambling on Ontario charities, the Province directed \$100 million of gambling proceeds for circulation through the Trillium Foundation. About \$10 million was also sunk into Ontario gambling programs, a number that's expected to rise to \$17 million in the new fiscal year.

Though there had been whispers of turning Mohawk into a full-blown casino, the issue has been put on ice after a three-year moratorium was announced by the Province earlier this year.

END OF SEASON SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE

ALL BBQS

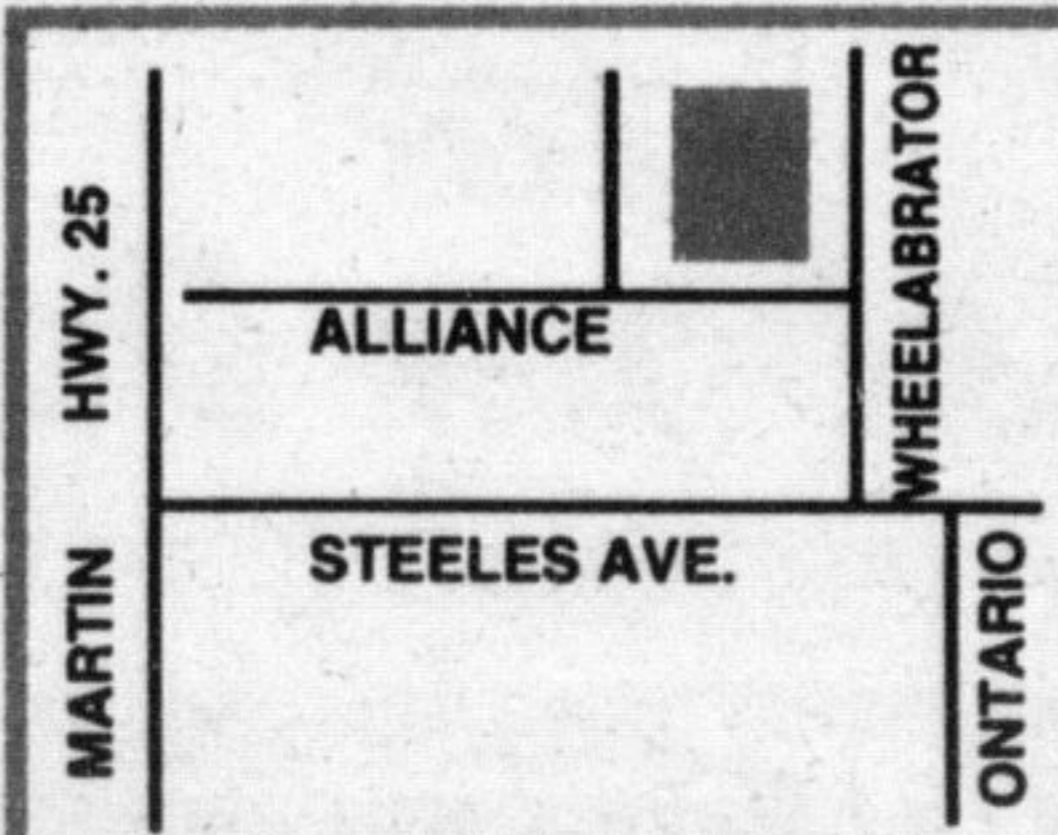
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