

Steps have been taken to ensure horse racing's future, says Snobelen

www.insidehalton.com | MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION | Thursday, May 16, 2013 | 30

Environment and Food.

"Significant strides have been made over the past months to ensure there is horse racing in Ontario for this year and beyond," said Snobelen. "The panel looks forward to continuing our work with the government and the horse racing industry to ensure a sustainable future for the industry."

March 31 marked the end of the Slots at Racetracks Program, a profit-sharing agreement between the government and track owners that saw 20 per cent of slot revenues fund purse pools, maintain and upgrade the facilities and enhance the sport of live racing.

The government has since renegotiated agreements with 14 tracks

across the province.

In its re-released final report, the blue-ribbon panel recommends the province allocate \$179.4 million in funding over three years.

"When you consider that the industry was getting about \$345 million per year, then it looks fairly insignificant, especially given the fact that none of that money goes towards the horse people," said Brian Tropea, general manager of the Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA). "It looks like it's not enough money to have a sustainable industry, certainly not at the level we are accustomed in Ontario."

The panel estimates that the cost to operate racing at the premier thoroughbred level will be \$175,000 per day — or \$28 million per year. At the signature level, thoroughbred races would cost \$60,000 daily. The cost to operate events at the stan-

dardbred levels vary greatly, costing track owners \$175,000 for each premier race day, \$60,000 daily at the signature level and \$30,000 per day for grassroots races, totalling \$46.7 million annually.

However, the cost to operate racing across the province under the new Sustainable Horse Racing Model should not exceed \$78.3 million annually, stressed the panel.

While track owners were able to secure transition funding from the province, horsemen and women weren't so lucky, said Tropea. Horse people will receive revenue from pari-mutuel wagering.

With racing opportunities slashed by roughly 50 per cent, individuals are struggling to race their horses. "And when they finally do get an opportunity, they are going for way less money than they used to go for," said Tropea. "The whole indus-

try is predicated on racing opportunities and prize money. Without sufficient amounts of either of those, the industry starts to crumble, and people are seeing it now."

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the panel will work closely with industry partners, the Ministry of Finance and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation on integrating horse racing with the province's gaming strategy to offer new gaming products and generate additional revenue.

But Tropea doubts there's a product out there that will replace the \$345 million generated by the now defunct Slots at Racetracks Program.

The panel's draft plan is due in June and should be completed by October. Until then, the horse racing industry will continue to hold out for hope that the industry will prosper, said the OHHA representative.

NOTICE

LARVAL MOSQUITO MONITORING AND PESTICIDE USE

407 ETR Concession Company Limited will conduct larval mosquito monitoring from May 27 to October 11, 2013 and, as may be required, a larviciding program from May 27 to October 18, 2013. 407 ETR is undertaking these measures to meet any requirements of local Medical Officers of Health to control larval mosquitoes to prevent their development into potential carriers of the West Nile Virus. Applicators, licensed by the Ministry of Environment, or trained technicians will apply the larvicide in storm-water detention ponds and catch basins on Highway 407 ETR throughout the municipalities of Halton, Peel, York and Durham only where it is determined prudent to do so.

The pellet formulation of the larvicide VectoBac 200G (Bti), Pest Control Products Act No.18158, will be placed into storm-water detention ponds and the briquette formulation of the larvicide Altosid (Methoprene) Pest Control Products Act No. 27694, will be placed into catch basins on Highway 407 ETR throughout the municipalities of Halton, Peel, York and Durham, only where it is determined prudent to do so.

For further information,

Contact:

407 ETR Concession Company Limited
Office: 905-264-5380 – please call collect
Fax: 905-264-2662

407 ETR
Express Toll Route

407 ETR Concession Company Limited

**LINEN WAREHOUSE
CLEARANCE SALE!**

WEEKLY
IN-STORE
SPECIALS!

We're on
flyerland.ca

**UP TO
70% OFF
RETAIL
BRAND NAMES**

1ST QUALITY MERCHANDISE

- Comforters & Sheets
- Kitchen Linen
- Bed in a Bag
- Bath Rugs
- Decorative Cushions
- Area Rugs
- Pillows & Duvets
- Luxury Drapes
- Sheet Sets
- Shower Curtains
- Bath Ceramics
- Towels & Mattress Pads

ALL SALES FINAL!

SHOP EVERY WEDNESDAY FOR AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF YOUR PURCHASE

576 Evans Ave., Etobicoke
(beside Canadream)

Wed. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:00pm • Sun. 11:00am - 5:00pm

Bring this
ad in for an
ADDITIONAL

10% OFF

This coupon must be given to
cashier at time of purchase.
NOT valid on Wednesdays or
with other discounts.
Expires June 2nd, 2013.

"The
business
that
considers
itself
immune to
the
necessity
for
advertising
sooner or
later finds
itself
immune to
business."

Derby
Brown



Maximize your Job Search

The Centre helps job seekers define career goals, craft a successful resume, interview effectively, and improve the skills necessary for landing work.

This Month's Workshops: Mock Interviews, IMPRESS Customer Service & much more! **FREE** to Register.

Milton Employment Centre
550 Ontario Street South, #208
905.693.8458 |
thecentre.on.ca/milton

The Centre
Skills Development & Training
Building a better future

EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO