

PONIES 24-7

VOLUME 7/ISSUE 5/2021
\$2.95 CDN

John Hayes

Ontario Racing's Independent
Chair, Helping To Revive Horse
Racing In The Province

Ron Waples

Retirement Agrees With This
Harness Racing Legend

'Don't Horse Around with Lymphoma'

Read More Inside About Our
Upcoming Online Silent Auction

The Racer's Edge

Successful Thoroughbred
Handicapping Is More Than Just
Speed Figures



PONIES 24-7

HORSE RACING LIFESTYLE EXPERIENCE



WE DO
FUN

From your favorite Vegas-style games
to a relaxing hotel, there's no telling what kind of fun
you could get into.

SIMULCASTING: WEDNESDAY- SATURDAY: 11:30am-11:30pm & SUNDAY: 11:30am-8:00pm

TIOGA DOWNS
CASINO RESORT

MUST BE 21+ TO ENTER CASINO. GAMBLING PROBLEM?
CALL (877-8-HOPENY) OR TEXT HOPENY (467369). STANDARD RATES MAY APPLY.

FUN IS WHAT WE DO

tiogadowns.com



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BURNS

Radio that informs, engages, entertains...

PONIES²⁴⁻⁷
THE RADIO MAGAZINE

SATURDAYS 8:30 AM (ET)

Hosted by Jim Lang and
Ponies 24-7 Publisher, Larry Simpson

Sponsored by Woodbine, Woodbine Mohawk Park,
Ontario Racing and Rocket Ship Racing

STREAMING LIVE AT 1059THEREGION.COM
TUNE IN OR AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

EXCLUSIVE TO
105.9
The Region

For advertising opportunities and to receive a downloadable link to the
show, email Larry Simpson at, theponies247experience@gmail.com

AT THE POST



A MESSAGE TO OUR VALUED PONIES READERS

Welcome back, to PONIES 24-7 and another great issue. For many of our Standardbred horse racing readers, you are going to love the interview with Hall of Fame driver Ron Waples, who graces our Front Cover as he enjoys retirement after achieving tremendous success both on the racetrack and as a horseman, as Ron enjoyed an exceptional career as a trainer as well. The interview that I did with Ron is extra special for me, as I have known him since the late '70's, early '80's, not only from watching his exploits on the track as a teen, but later on, as we got together for a regular game of racquetball, as that was one of our games of choice back then. I hope you enjoy reading this interview as much as I did authoring it.

Also in this issue of PONIES 24-7, we check in again with John Hayes, Independent Chair of the Board for Ontario Racing, who with his Board members, continues to work at the tireless job of getting the Province's horse racing products back to a new normal, while working at a revitalization program for the racetracks, breeders and horsepeople.

Finally, lymphoma is again front and centre in this magazine, as we announce our upcoming online silent auction to support our magazine and radio

show cause, 'Don't Horse Around with Lymphoma'. The auction will include a collection of horse racing and sports memorabilia, exclusive items and fun experiences, with all proceeds from the auction benefiting Lymphoma Canada. And still on the subject of lymphoma, check out a new feature in PONIES 24-7, called *Play It Again...*, where we revisit key interviews previously heard on our 'Ponies 24-7, THE RADIO MAGAZINE. This issue we feature Hanover Shoe Farms Executive Vice President, Bridgette Jablonsky, where the major topic of conversation was the great *Somebeachsomewhere*, who succumbed early in his breeding career to a form of lymphoma.

Enjoy this issue of PONIES 24-7 and if you want more 'PONIES', then don't forget to tune in Saturday mornings to 'Ponies 24-7, THE RADIO MAGAZINE' on the FM channel 105.9 The Region and live streamed at 1059theregion.com. It's 30 minutes of action-packed interviews of the 'who's who' of horse racing, handicapping selections and informative content for racing fans everywhere and it all starts at 8:30am ET.

Until next time

Larry Simpson
theponies247experience@gmail.com

EDITOR Larry Simpson

Larry Simpson is an avid and passionate writer, horseplayer, handicapper, and marketer for both Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing. He has published and edited several horse racing journals, conducted handicapping seminars for both breeds and is a major proponent for the education of new racing fans through publications like PONIES 24-7, and initiatives that develop 'fresh' demographics for racing, produce cultured bettors and promote the value of the horse racing advertising space!



LIVING THE HORSE RACING LIFESTYLE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5
OCTOBER, 2021

PUBLISHER & EDITOR
LARRY SIMPSON
ONLINE EDITOR
KELLY SIMPSON
ART DESIGN
MICHELLE SANTO

PONIES 24-7 Magazine is published by PONIES 24-7 Inc., and distributed bi-monthly across North America to racing fans, racetracks, racing associations, equine supporters and those devoted to the love of horseracing. The contents are published as a matter of news, information and entertainment only and reproduction in whole or in part are prohibited.

04 At The Post

A message to our Ponies readers.

06 Ron Waples

Retirement Agrees With This
Harness Racing Legend.

14 John Hayes

Ontario Racing's Independent Chair, Helping
To Revive Horse Racing In The Province.

22 Don't Horse Around with Lymphoma

Learn All About Our
Upcoming Online Silent Auction.

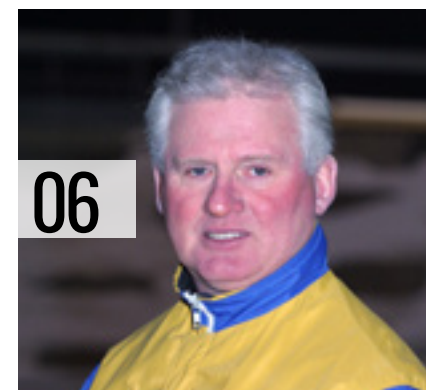
26 Play it Again

In Conversation with Larry Simpson:
Bridgette Jablonsky.

30 The Racer's Edge

Successful Thoroughbred Handicapping
Is More Than Just Speed Figures.

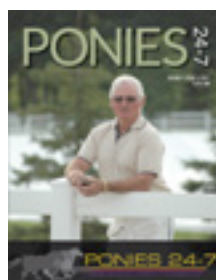
TABLE OF CONTENTS



06



14



ABOUT THE COVER

Hall of Fame Harness Driver Ron Waples is enjoying retirement and is the subject of our Cover Story this month.
Photo courtesy of TROT Magazine.

COVER STORY

RON WAPLES

For Him Driving And Winning Races Was In The Genes

By Larry Simpson

If you were someone like myself that grew up in the confines of both famed Greenwood and Mohawk Racetracks, it's a pretty safe bet that you watched the man in the Blue and Gold Driving Colours win a fair amount of harness races. Chances are too, that you probably cashed a few winning tickets courtesy of Ron Waples—well you should have because he won slightly over 6,900 races as a driver, this in a period of time when compiled computerized stats were basically unheard of. Added to this is the fact that Ron drove the winners of over \$74 million in purse earnings and also trained the winners of 2,205 races with purses of \$3.9 million, again numbers that are inconclusive being from an era well before the large purses of today and the plethora of six figure stakes events found in current day racing. Whether you loved him or hated him though, Ron put the *'show in showman'*, during a time when the harness racing industry was open to colourful superstars, both equine and human.

Recently Larry Simpson had an opportunity to speak with Hall of Fame harness driver Ron Waples and the following interview transpired.

PONIES 24-7: I believe the first question for our readers Ron is an obvious one, why did you choose harness racing as a career?

RON WAPLES: Well, I left school when I was 15

years old and I had to do find something to do, as I wasn't a good enough hockey player. I went to work for my cousin's Keith and Murray Waples and everything just seemed to fall into place from there.

PONIES 24-7: You mention Keith, a Hall of Famer and a racing legend as well, did he become one of the biggest influencers in your career?

RON WAPLES: I would have to say so, actually Keith and Murray both, but probably in different ways. I had a great relationship with Keith and Murray and I can honestly say that in all those years that we were together, I don't remember having any type of misunderstanding with either one of them. With Keith, I started working for him, then later on we owned some horses together and honestly Larry, if you couldn't get along with Keith, I don't think you could get along with anyone!

PONIES 24-7: Did you try to pattern your driving style after Keith?

RON WAPLES: No, actually when I was just starting out as a driver there was nobody like Keith and there was no sense in even trying to copy him, because you couldn't. He was one of the greatest, so instead, I tried to do the best I could with the talent I had to work with. Also, it didn't matter what racetrack I was driving at, as I would always watch the guys that were doing



Ron, third from the right and pictured with several fellow Hall of Famer's.
Photo by New Image Media

all of the winning and try to pick up a few driving tips from each one of them.

PONIES 24-7: It's funny you mention that, about a year ago I interviewed Bill O'Donnell and John Campbell for this magazine and Bill mentioned that when he first went to the Meadowlands to drive, he would stand back and watch what the successful drivers were doing on the track to help them win races. Same thing for you?

RON WAPLES: I would say so, when I went to the Meadowlands, Billy and John were the ones winning all of the races, so I thought that if I stayed close enough to them on the track in every race, I may not win that many races, but at least I'm going to get some money. *(Laughs)* That's how it pretty much started out for me, doing my own thing, maybe win a few races and then

hopefully you start getting better horses to drive.

PONIES 24-7: Speaking of Bill and John, you had a pretty good relationship with both of them, correct?

RON WAPLES: Yeah I thought so! *(Laughs)*

PONIES 24-7: Was it because all three of you were Canadians, a sense of mutual respect on the track for each other, or a combination of both?

RON WAPLES: Well in my case, I had known John and his family since he was about 12 years old and I think Billy since he was maybe 15. Billy and I actually worked in the same barn at Greenwood when we were in our teens, but I think from my end, it was more of a respect of what they both could do and how they handled themselves on the track.

Maybe you could say that I wanted to drive like them, but I never could!

PONIES 24-7: Do you remember your first win as a driver?

RON WAPLES: It was at Sunnysdale Raceway in North Bay, Ontario with a horse by the name of Ferndale Prince. Back then there was heat racing and I remember I got *'set back'* in the first heat for drifting off the rail too much, but the second one I believe I won by maybe 10 lengths. I made sure not to make any mistakes the second time around. *(Laughs)*

PONIES 24-7: What about the first win at a major racetrack?

RON WAPLES: Oh boy, I think that you got me on that one! I can tell you that my first stakes win was after I left Keith and driving for John Hayes. He sent me to New York to drive Keystone Pat



With over 6,900 driving wins, Ron was no stranger to the Winner's Circle.
Photo by New Image Media

and we won the Westchester Pace at Roosevelt Raceway, which at that time was going for a purse of \$50,000. I knew the horse, but not really that well and didn't have a clue who we were in against that night, but for a kid going to New York and looking over the fence at maybe 30,000 people in the stands either booing you or cheering, it was very intimidating. It's something though that pretty much stays with you for the rest of your life.

PONIES 24-7: You had a little bit of success on the track, no?

RON WAPLES: Well maybe a little bit, but I always wanted more. *(Laughs)*

PONIES 24-7: Who was the toughest driver to drive against?

RON WAPLES: All of them, they all wanted to beat me! *(Laughs)* That's actually a tough question Larry, but I guess I would have to say that the two that come to mind would be Bud Fritz and Bill Wellwood. They seemed to be a little tougher than the 'Average Joe'.

PONIES 24-7: What made them more difficult to drive against than the other drivers?

RON WAPLES: I really don't know what it was, but they always seemed to be much tougher for me to get around.

PONIES 24-7: Ron you are a member of two Harness Racing Hall of Fames, Canada's Sports Hall of Fame and won and drove many great Standardbreds throughout your career, would it be difficult for you to pick just one horse that was perhaps the best you ever 'sat behind'?

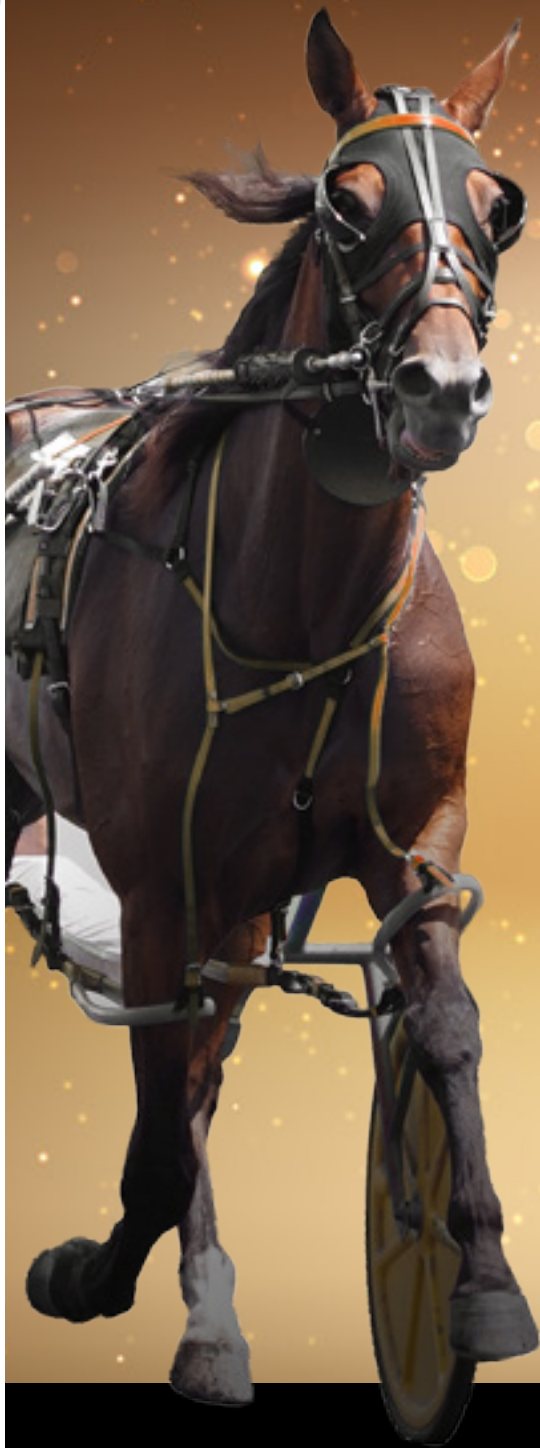
RON WAPLES: You know, I think it is very difficult as there were some great horses that raced and that I drove maybe 20 years ago and to try and compare them with more recent horses, well they are a different animal entirely. It's like hockey, I don't think that you can compare Wayne Gretzky with say Connor McDavid as it's a very different era, much like trying to compare horses. Actually, I think that it's very unfair to try to compare one horse to another from a different decade.

PONIES 24-7: Harness horses are faster now than when you were at your peak as a driver; in your opinion what makes them faster, is it the breeding, the training, equipment, or all of the above?

RON WAPLES: I would say all of the above. The broodmares now are so well looked after and are producing a better and stronger foal and by the time their yearling goes through the sales ring, it is definitely more advanced and ready to 'break' after you buy them. Once they 'hit the track' to race, then you have some great catch drivers and the 'bikes' and equipment are much lighter. Overall though, I think that you just have better a product that shows up both at the sale and then on the racetrack.

PONIES 24-7: If you had to pick just one horse though that was maybe the greatest ever, not necessarily one you drove or raced against, but perhaps saw race, who would it be?

RON WAPLES: I would have to say *Niatross*, but you know *Somebeachsomewhere* was great also, so maybe it would be a tie between those two! In my opinion, they were just two great horses and actually it's funny, but I still remember when *Somebeachsomewhere* raced in the Battle of Waterloo at Grand River Raceway and I was doing the Pre-race show with Kelly Spencer. I went into the paddock to have a look at the 'Beach' because



MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

Breeder's Crown

PRESENTED BY THE Libfeld/Katz BREEDING PARTNERSHIP

\$6.6 MILLION IN STAKES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

2YO FINALS

POST TIME 6:20 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

3YO & OPEN FINALS

★ POST TIME 12 NOON ★

THE CARD

\$300K Breeders Crown Mare Trot

\$300K Breeders Crown Mare Pace

\$600K Breeders Crown Pace

\$600K Breeders Crown Trot

\$600K Breeders Crown 3YO Filly Trot

\$600K Breeders Crown 3YO Colt Trot

\$600K Breeders Crown 3YO Filly Pace

\$600K Breeders Crown 3YO Colt Pace

Early Pick 4
RACES 6-9

\$50,000
Guaranteed

Late Pick 4
RACES 10-13

\$50,000
Guaranteed

WHERE TO WATCH

• Meadowlands, Breeders Crown or COSA Facebook & Youtube Live; • RTN

• FS2 12 Noon – 4:30 p.m.

• SNY 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

I had been told by someone from 'Down East' that this horse was a 'monster' and I took a look at him and I couldn't believe that he was a two-year-old. I remember I went over to Kelly and she asked me if I saw anything interesting in the paddock and I said that if this horse (*Somebeachsomewhere*) can get around the track, then the rest aren't going to get close to him, as he looks like a four-year-old. You know I think (driver) Paul MacDonnell got a lot of recognition for driving 'Beach', but I really think he deserved more as he protected that horse and raced him to the best of his ability, every time.

PONIES 24-7: Let's talk about the harness racing industry now, as I know in the past you and I worked together on promotions that were designed to try and attract new fans, especially the younger ones. Sitting on the outside looking in now, what do you think the industry as a whole needs to do to help attract new people into harness racing?

RON WAPLES: I don't know if this is the correct answer, but I honestly think that we need more people like Anthony MacDonald and his owners' partnerships. It's funny, at the time I didn't think that his concept would even take off, but look at what it has done for the sport in attracting new owners. The industry also needs to receive better recognition from the schools and perhaps arrange to bring the kids to the races and the qualifiers, so that they can be around the horses. Once they are introduced to the horses, they will fall in love with them on their own.

PONIES 24-7: Do you ever regret retiring?

RON WAPLES: No, it was time and I knew that it was as I had

accomplished all I could ever do as a driver. I think O'Donnell said it best though that *'when they stop putting you down on the overnight sheet to drive, then you know that it's time to quit.'* (*Laughs*) But seriously Larry, you can just feel retirement coming on and I actually started years before I did quit driving by changing my mindset and I guess you could say, gradually considering retirement. I started watching the young horses race more and following the younger drivers and trainers and that's what kept my interest in the sport. I actually don't watch a lot of live races now though, probably just stakes races, but every morning at 5:30, I'm in front of the computer looking at the race results from all of the tracks and that helps to keep me interested.

PONIES 24-7: There never was an urge to make a comeback?

RON WAPLES: Never, as I knew that once I shut it down that was it. We still own some horses and probably always will, but that is the extent of it.

PONIES 24-7: As you know, we have had Billy O'Donnell on our *Ponies 24-7, THE RADIO MAGAZINE show*, and I asked him whether he missed the driving side and he said not really, but that you can still watch a race from your easy chair and still drive the horse pretty good. Do you get the same reaction?

RON WAPLES: I think that's true in any sport, you never lose the competitive juices, so to speak. The key though is walking away without regrets. Both Billy and John (Campbell) have done that and are still involved in the business, as is Mike Lachance, who retired from driving and



An early photo of Ron with Sandy Hawley. Photo by New Image Media

now works with his son, who is a trainer. What you don't want to see though is someone who retires from a successful career in horse racing and then gets bitter because they can't find success anymore. It's a young man's game now Larry, it was when we got in and it will still be when these guys who are winning all of the races now, get out!

PONIES 24-7: You have a pretty good eye for driving talent, who do you like of the current crop of young drivers?

RON WAPLES: It's funny that you would ask that, as every year I see someone that I kind of like the way that they drive and when James MacDonald came up from the Maritimes to drive here, he caught my eye. I obviously knew about Mark and Anthony, but James seemed to be something special and I actually gave him one of my horses to train. James was so calm and sure of himself and has a tremendous amount of talent. In the past, I also watched Scottie Zeron a lot and he drove

a couple for me and was always quite obliging and like James, very calm in the bike. Scottie has done very well in this business too.

PONIES 24-7: Ron, I always wanted to ask you this, but when you were the 'top dog' at Greenwood and Mohawk, the fans would boo you and get on you a bit when you didn't win, especially with a favorite? Could you hear the boos when you were on the track and did you let it get to you?

RON WAPLES: Actually, you couldn't really hear it on the track, but I do remember a few instances at Greenwood, which if you remember, had that long walk from the track to the paddock. There was one lady that would get on my case pretty much every time that I would get beat on a couple of false favorites. She'd be calling me everything under the Sun and I'd tell her to just stick with me and I would get lucky and win a couple of races later that night. Next thing you know she would want to adopt me! (*Laughs*) All the ridicules I could take unless they said something against my family and it was then that I would flip out. Saying things like I was

a lousy driver never got to me though and I just took it in stride. Actually, I wish that there were twice as many people doing that now!

PONIES 24-7: I read somewhere that years ago you wanted to ride a Thoroughbred and break it from the Starting Gate, is that true?

RON WAPLES: Yes, but I couldn't get insurance to do it. I will tell you who my coach was, it was Hall of Fame jockey Avelino Gomez. Dr. Harley Waxer, who was my Vet and I got talking one day and I know that I have done some crazy things in my life, (*Laughs*) and I said to him that I just wanted to break one out of the gate once. I didn't care if I had to claim a horse to do it, but the Insurance Company kind of got in the way. Harley and Avelino were the best of buddies back then and I would go down to Greenwood once in a while to watch the Thoroughbreds and to talk to Avelino, as I could sit and listen to him all day. I always liked watching the Thoroughbreds and when Sandy Hawley began his career I followed him quite a bit. I



Photo courtesy of TROT Magazine

remember going to a hockey game at Maple Leaf Gardens and I met Sandy there and I thought it was such an honor. His career and mine kind of went side by side and then later I met Robin Platts and some other jockeys. Recently, I became friends with Eurico Rosa da Silva, as you know I'm a people person and I like to talk and ask a lot of questions.



Photo by New Image Media



Two generations of Hall of Fame Drivers, Ron and Randy.
Photo by New Image Media

PONIES 24-7: I have to ask you Ron, you had a very successful career as a driver and a trainer, are there any regrets?

RON WAPLES: Yeah that I didn't win the Confederation Cup at Flamboro Downs with Armbro Dallas. (Note in 1985, Armbro Dallas actually won the Confederation Cup but was disqualified from the win.)

PONIES 24-7: You were pretty settled in as the leading driver on the Ontario Jockey Club circuit, what prompted the move to try the Meadowlands in 1985?

RON WAPLES: It was actually one thing that was always in my mind to try my luck there. I used to hear Keith say all of the time that 'I should have gone to the States and tried it and I didn't' and didn't want the same regrets. I wanted to try it and if I failed, I failed. I think I was there 10 years and I never won a Driving Championship, but I was in the Top 10 every year.

PONIES 24-7: Was it difficult getting accepted by the other drivers there?

RON WAPLES: Not so much the other drivers, more so from the trainers and owners because they didn't know that much about me and they also had a pretty good colony of drivers already there to choose from. I remember one of the first nights I drove there, I was down to drive for Art Unger, and I didn't know him and also that he had been a leading horsemen in New York during his career. I said to O'Donnell, 'I'm driving three for Art Unger, anything I should know?' and he said to me, 'That's your initiation, as everyone starts here by driving for Art Unger as he doesn't really have a lot of stock now.' So, I went out and won with the three of them and was off to the races so to speak.

PONIES 24-7: Was it difficult for you to pack up and move to the Meadowlands?

RON WAPLES: Well, it was and it wasn't, as I had a two-fold agenda. First, I wanted to see my sons Ronnie and Randy get started and as long as I was here, that was going to be difficult. Also, I wanted to try driving on the Meadowlands circuit, so that I wouldn't have any regrets later.

PONIES 24-7: Did it take you some time to adjust to the Meadowlands style of racing, which was more out and going and different to what you were used to here?

RON WAPLES: Well the style of racing at the Meadowlands was quite different from what I was used to, but now it is quite similar to Mohawk racing. Back then though, it seemed to me that racing at the Meadowlands had more strategy to it, where the drivers would move and then you would expect them to move again. They would be out and going constantly.

PONIES 24-7: Who was the greatest driver that you ever raced against?

RON WAPLES: Again, that's a tough one to answer. Right off the bat, I would say Keith and I was a big Herve Filion fan and of course, how could you not pick John Campbell and Billy O'Donnell. Again, it was a different era that we are talking about. This driver from Australia who has been driving regularly at the Meadowlands now, Dexter Dunn, I believe that he is a super talent and when Randy was doing well, he also had a special talent. Really though, I don't think it is fair to try and compare one driver to another, especially when they are from different eras.



WAGER ON LIVE RACING WITH A HPIbet ACCOUNT

GET \$100*

PLUS YOUR FIRST BET IS ON US!†



- Ability to Bet online or onsite, any time
- FREE to watch up to 4 live streams simultaneously
- Bet on over 500 tracks from around the world
- Receive HPIbet Rewards and much more!

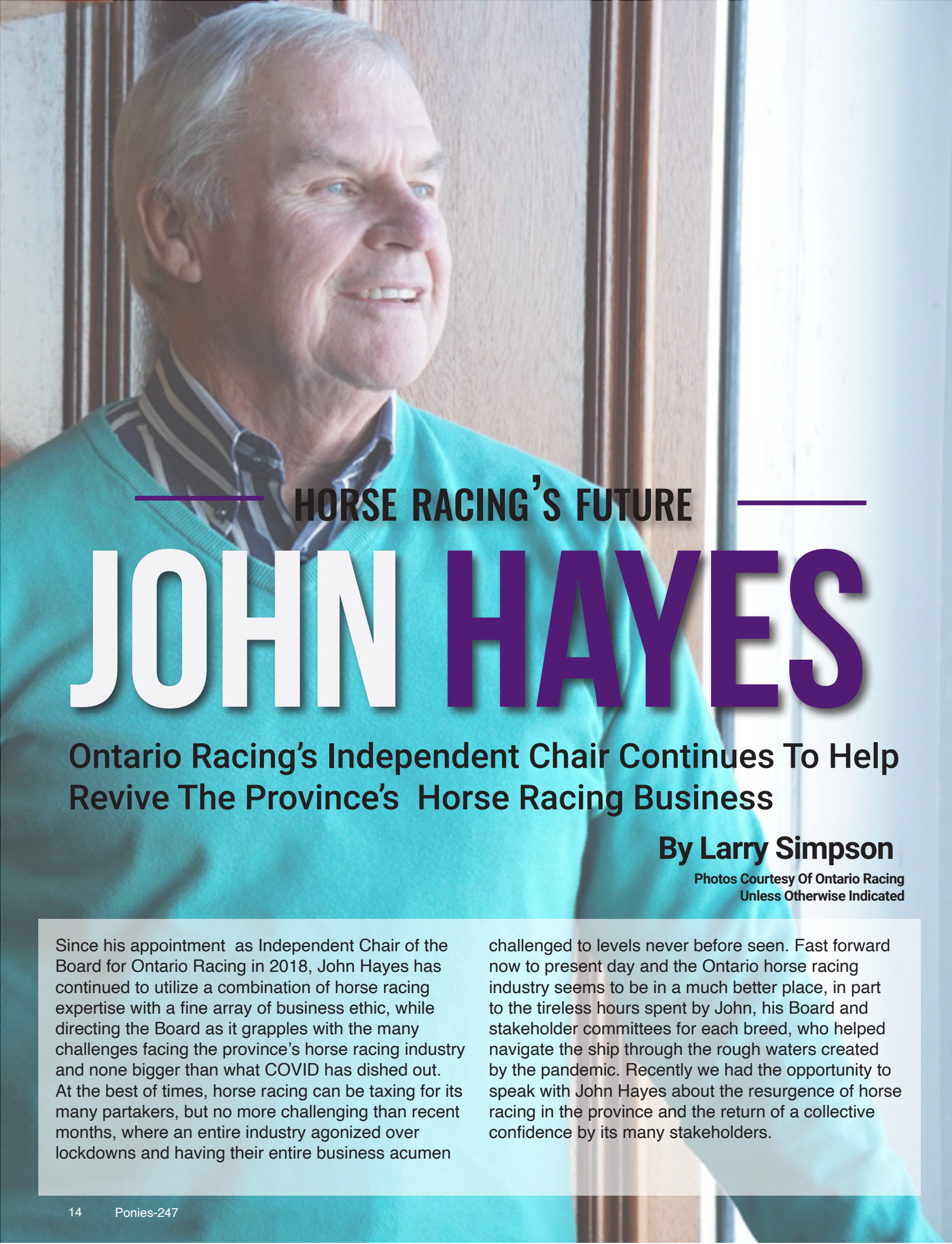
LIVE RACING.
HAPPENING NOW AT
HPIbet.com



JOIN FOR FREE TODAY!



*Visit HPIbet.com and click Promotions to view full terms and conditions. Know when to take the reins. ResponsibleGambling.org



HORSE RACING'S FUTURE

JOHN HAYES

Ontario Racing's Independent Chair Continues To Help Revive The Province's Horse Racing Business

By Larry Simpson

Photos Courtesy Of Ontario Racing
Unless Otherwise Indicated

Since his appointment as Independent Chair of the Board for Ontario Racing in 2018, John Hayes has continued to utilize a combination of horse racing expertise with a fine array of business ethic, while directing the Board as it grapples with the many challenges facing the province's horse racing industry and none bigger than what COVID has dished out. At the best of times, horse racing can be taxing for its many partakers, but no more challenging than recent months, where an entire industry agonized over lockdowns and having their entire business acumen

challenged to levels never before seen. Fast forward now to present day and the Ontario horse racing industry seems to be in a much better place, in part to the tireless hours spent by John, his Board and stakeholder committees for each breed, who helped navigate the ship through the rough waters created by the pandemic. Recently we had the opportunity to speak with John Hayes about the resurgence of horse racing in the province and the return of a collective confidence by its many stakeholders.

PONIES 24-7: John, first off perhaps you could explain your role as Independent Chair of Ontario Racing's Independent Board and maybe some history leading up to its formation?

JOHN HAYES: The Board was originally set up by the Ontario Racing Association, as successor to OHRIA and originally there were 12 members made up of representatives from racetracks, horsepeople, breeders and two Independent members. When the restructuring was put into place with the new Long Term Funding Agreement (LTFA), the Board's makeup was changed to 10 members including breeders, racetracks and horsepeople associations with an Independent Chair. Back then, there was a major push to get the government's long term funding in place and have an agreement finalized before the looming provincial election. The newly elected Provincial Conservative Government enhanced the original agreement and it was actually signed off by the current Provincial Conservative government in March, 2019. I had been an original Independent board member and took on the role as the Independent Chair on an interim basis, until a suitable replacement could be found (*Laughs*) and I'm still here which is not surprising, as I have always found that these interim positions always seem to turn into full time ones. I feel that the Board is a very good example of how the horse racing industry can work together for the betterment of racing and for the most part, I could say that 95 per cent of our votes have been unanimous, although there have been a couple of occasions where the Chair had to cast the deciding vote which left half the room upset. (*Laughs*) The Board



is a very cohesive group and has worked together with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) and Provincial Government, to address the grave situation faced by the horse racing industry due to COVID. The LTFA in place has allowed us to navigate through these tough times, allowing each breed through Board established committees to equitably manage distribution of funds to feed and maintain racing stock. At the end of the day, I believe that Ontario Racing has been good overall for horse racing in the Province and I would hate to think where the industry would be without it and the LTFA in place.

PONIES 24-7: Obviously when you took the position of Independent Chair, you didn't expect to go through a year and a half of a pandemic, right?

JOHN HAYES: Exactly, and I believe that it is safe to say that no one had ever been through a period where so much time and effort was needed to get the relief programs in place and payments out essentially for something never contemplated as part of our culture. Also, the fact that we

weren't racing and that there was no significant wagering, only made things more difficult, as there were difficult staff cuts which resulted in more work for fewer people at O.R., the racetracks and the OLG. There was a task force represented by stakeholders set up for each breed (Standardbred, Thoroughbred and Quarter horse), on how the relief funds would be distributed and I think overall the distribution process worked well and as equitable as possible, although as I mentioned, a little slower than expected due to reduced headcount. There were a few instances of upset horsepeople but at the end of the day though, I think that 98 per cent of the Province was appreciative. Without the full support of the Board, the hard work of the three committees, the OLG and the Provincial Government and with the LTFA in place, we were able to get through.

PONIES 24-7: You say you made 98 per cent of the province's horse racing industry happy,

JOHN HAYES: Maybe 99 per cent, (*Laughs*).



Advocating for the Ontario Horse Racing Industry

Three Breeds. One Vision.



15 Good Reasons to Experience Ontario Horse Racing This Year!

1 QUARTER HORSE TRACK
Ajax Downs, Ajax, ON

2 THOROUGHBRED TRACKS
Fort Erie Race Track, Fort Erie, ON | Woodbine Race Track, Toronto, ON

12 STANDARD BRED TRACKS
Clinton Raceway, Clinton, ON | Dresden Raceway, Dresden, ON | Flamboro Downs, Dundas, ON | Georgian Downs, Innisfil, ON | Grand River Raceway, Elora, ON | Hanover Raceway, Hanover, ON | Hiawatha Horse Park & Entertainment Center, Sarnia, ON | Kawartha Downs, Frasersville, ON | Leamington Raceway, Leamington, ON | Rideau Carleton Raceway, Ottawa, ON | The Raceway At Western Fair District, London, ON | Woodbine Mohawk Park, Campbellville, ON

For information on Race Dates, Post Times, How to Place a Bet and our Horse Racing Ownership 101 Virtual Seminars visit

ontarioracing.com

PONIES 24-7: Ok, 99 per cent, but now that you are back racing, you must have a 100 per cent positivity rate?

JOHN HAYES: Yes, racing has returned to lower on-site capacities, but wagering has started fairly robust and I believe that relatively few owners have left the business, although field size at Thoroughbred and Quarter horse venues is a concern. The risk of COVID has now transferred to the racing venues, where the racetracks, racing personnel, compliance staff and horsepeople all understand their particular role in keeping COVID at bay.

PONIES 24-7: John, was there a period in time during COVID and the lockdowns that you may have had a feeling that we may not get back to racing again?

JOHN HAYES: Not really, my biggest worry was when we did get back racing, that we would

have had a 'ton' of owners exiting the business and racehorses moving south to the U.S. and from what I can tell, fortunately that didn't happen. To use an old expression, 'Racing is the classic four-legged stool' where you have the breeders, the owners, the horsepeople (trainers/jockeys/drivers/grooms) and the racetracks, each dependant on the other and all are making a significant contribution toward the ultimate 'Product' to be offered to the wagering fan and ultimate health of the industry. If you remove one of the legs though, then the chair falls over. Since about 65 per cent of our breeding programs are funded through home market wagering, the longer we were shutdown, there was a greater chance that we would see some reductions in our breeding initiatives, which as we know, will contribute to fewer foals, reduced numbers of owners and a shortage of horses to race. So, that was what

concerned me most, wagering and the impact that it could have on the breeding industry. Our Horse Improvement Committees worked overtime on shuffling programs to get us through the last eighteen months, at the same time overhauling each particular program to position it to maintain and enhance the breeding side of the business for the future. The cooperation between horsepeople, breeders and racetracks has been phenomenal. We survived two shutdowns, but to be honest Larry, if we ever had a third one, then that would be disastrous for the breeding industry particularly and the industry ultimately as a whole.

PONIES 24-7: You alluded to the importance of wagering and the betting handles have been tremendous since the lockdown ended, correct?

JOHN HAYES: They have been very solid to say the least which has certainly aided the horse

racing industry in getting back on its feet.

PONIES 24-7: Let's talk now about the recent legalization of single game sports betting, are you worried about a potential cannibalizing of the horse racing product?

JOHN HAYES: I can honestly say that I am worried about the impact that legalized sports betting could have on horse racing wagering. One side of my brain makes me believe and trust me, I have no statistical back-up to this statement, but I think that most people that wager on horse racing, would consider sports betting. There will be an impact on wagering, depending on how successful legalized sports betting is. The other side of my brain looks at it this way, illegal sports wagering already takes a significant piece of the total wagering market in the Province and the success of new legalized platforms will depend on how 'competitive' legalized betting is cost wise versus illegal services. In the past, legalized sports betting was limited to the OLG's Proline and I'm not sure that OLG's early

single event sports wagering numbers weren't already there through the old Proline where you had to bet three events to win. Could it be, that single game sports betting is just cannibalizing OLG's current Proline customer base? I don't believe that I am speaking out of school here, but Woodbine has applied for one of the six I-Gaming licenses available, and would likely piggyback off of their successful betting platform in HPIbet. Should they be successful in obtaining a license, then horse racing would certainly benefit immensely, offsetting some of the risk that single game sports betting presents.

PONIES 24-7: Another initiative for horse racing is to continue to increase fan and ownership engagement, would you agree?

JOHN HAYES: I agree wholeheartedly, and we are making a conscious effort by showing potential owners the fun side of horse racing. Part of our longer range plan is to work hand in hand with the HBPA and the current Standardbred/Quarter horse fractional ownership sponsors to promote racehorse ownership.

Photo by Michael Burns



As you know, we really need the tax laws changed and Woodbine and the Jockey Club of Canada are lobbying quite effectively for the industry with the Federal Government. The Standardbred industry with their partnership programs have been evolving well when it comes to attracting new owners. The Standardbred partners, with a lower initial investment hurdle, still receive some small tax benefit. When you look at the average Thoroughbred partnership, with fewer members and a higher investment hurdle, the owners are still basically getting nothing back on income tax benefits with their investment and this to me is very concerning.

PONIES 24-7: When did you get involved in horse racing and what was it that kindled the interest?

JOHN HAYES: I grew up in Peterborough, Ontario and the little harness track (Morrow Park) that raced on Saturday nights was a block from our house. It was the thing to do on a Saturday night back then as your parents didn't have to worry about you getting into trouble as they knew where you were. (Laughs) Later on when I was in high school, I had a summer job helping to build the Kawartha Downs track that would eventually replace Morrow Park. Around 30 years ago I bought into a small Standardbred partnership with my brother and a trainer by the name of John Bax and remarkably, the group is still together and when you consider everything, that is quite amazing, so I am a huge believer in the fractional route start in horse ownership. I was fortunate to have an occupation too, that would allow me to travel and it is funny how things turn out, but many of the places I went to, just happened to have racetracks!

THE EASIEST WAY TO GET IN THE RACE



FREE \$30* **USE PROMO CODE GET30**



DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY

DarkHorseBets.com

*Visit DarkHorseBets.com for terms and conditions. Know When To Take The Reins. ResponsibleGambling.org

(Laughs) If I was in Chicago I would go to Arlington Park, or in California, I would find my way to Santa Anita. Winnipeg had Assinbioa Downs, so I have always loved horse racing and still do!

PONIES 24-7: What was it that attracted you to racing back then, was it the horses, the wagering, ownership opportunities, or the sport itself?

JOHN HAYES: Larry, I actually think that it was a combination of everything. I like to place a bet, but I refer to myself as a two dollar bettor, and over the years we were very fortunate to be associated with John Bax and had some real great moments at the races. Every once in a while though you have some luck with a little horse that you didn't really have high expectations for and I find this to be very rewarding. I have always tended to gravitate to the little guys in the sport, like the *'Somebeachsomewhere crowd'* and of course how can we forget about *Mighty Heart* and his great story last year. The public just automatically falls in love with stories about the underdog or the little guy and to be quite honest, that's what you sell people about horse racing.

PONIES 24-7: Final question John, we began this interview talking about your role as Independent Chair and we are gradually moving closer to 2022, any goals for yourself and the Board moving forward?

JOHN HAYES: I believe that we have to continue to increase wagering through exotic bets and especially the ones that tend to have rolling jackpots, as they have been a godsend to the horse racing industry. It would be a benefit to the industry if we could ever offer those larger jackpots through our partner OLG's retail network. Also, if Woodbine's new product, *'Dark Horse'* can establish a significant *'footing'*, I think you will find a younger demographic starting to follow horse racing. If they can *'sell the sizzle'* of *'Dark Horse'* and make it a success, then I think this will be a win-win. As for the breeding industry,



Ontario Racing, through their Horse Improvement Program, initiated a Mare Purchase program to help upgrade the broodmare stock in the province. Every year the average age of the stallions in Ontario gets a year older, so we need to continue reinvestment in top class stallions. However, this is not going to be a short-term process and we may be looking at as much as five years before we see any positive results from this. For racetracks and race dates, we need to concentrate on keeping both *'whole'* and when you look out onto the racetrack landscape, we just saw the Apollo group purchase Great Canadian Gaming, which included two of our tracks, Georgian Downs and Flamboro. What Apollo's approach to horse racing will be remains to be seen, as does whether it will have an effect on Georgian and Flamboro. And of course, a major problem that we continue to face is horse supply, especially on the Thoroughbred side. There are smaller fields at Woodbine and Fort Erie and with wagering becoming so crucial to the business now, it's imperative that we continue to try and replenish the racing stock and create fuller fields.



Rocket Ship

RACING

Do You Know What Lymphoma Is?

Lymphoma Is A Group of Cancers Affecting the Lymphatic System. Thousands of Canadians Are Engaged In The Fight, Yet Many Of Us Are Unfamiliar With The Disease!

We are familiar with many parts of our body and how they relate to our overall health, but when it comes to the lymphatic system and our lymph nodes, Canadians are not as informed. Many of us have heard of lymph nodes and know where they can be found in the body, but beyond that, details about the lymphatic system and lymphoma often remain a mystery.

Since the word "cancer" is not in the name, lymphoma is not commonly recognized as a type of cancer. Did you know that **lymphoma is the fifth most common cancer in Canada**, the third most common cancer in children aged 0-14, and the most common cancer diagnosis for adolescents and young adults from 15-39? There are over 80 different types of lymphoma and over 100,000 Canadians currently living with this illness.

Lymphoma Canada is the only national organization in Canada that is focused entirely on lymphoma. It is our mission to empower patients and the lymphoma community through education, support, advocacy, and research.

Lymphoma Canada provides information to patients and their caregivers through comprehensive resource manuals, educational forums, webinars, and national conferences. Lymphoma Canada advocates for equal access to lymphoma treatments and supports Canadian lymphoma researchers in Canada. With your help, we can continue to raise awareness, assist newly diagnosed patients, and seek equal access to treatments across Canada.

No one should have to face lymphoma alone. **Lymphoma Canada** provides resources and support to patients through the difficult journey of diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.

Take the 'Know Your Nodes' quiz to see how you score at
KnowYourNodes.ca

For lymphoma resources or for further information, visit our website at lymphoma.ca
or call 1-866-659-5556.



Lymphoma Canada and PONIES 24-7 recommend that you

DON'T HORSE AROUND WITH LYMPHOMA

Thousands of Canadians are engaged in the fight against lymphoma, yet a large percent of the population are unfamiliar with this type of cancer. Lymphoma affects your lymphatic system, namely the lymphocytes that together with other cells of the immune system, work to fight infection and prevent disease.

Lymphoma is also the most common cancer diagnosis for adolescents and young adults in Canada. Though common early signs and symptoms can be minimal or mimic other conditions, it is possible that the lymphoma can remain undetected for many months or possibly years.

Did you know that both humans and horses can contract lymphoma?

With your support and through our
'Don't Horse Around with Lymphoma'
campaign, we can help create awareness, promote early detection, assist newly diagnosed patients and support lymphoma research that one day may lead to a cure.

We are committed to hoofing out lymphoma!



Visit lymphoma.ca/ponies today, to learn more about lymphoma and to support the
'Don't Horse Around with Lymphoma' campaign.

JOIN THE DON'T HORSE AROUND WITH LYMPHOMA ONLINE SILENT AUCTION JANUARY 4TH TO JANUARY 28TH, 2022

Looking for rare horse racing and sports memorabilia and paraphernalia, exclusive items and fun experiences? Bid on unique and extraordinary auction items while supporting the lymphoma community.

To learn more about the auction and to view available items, visit lymphoma.ca/ponies

Note: items will be available for pre-viewing after November 15th and will be continuously updated until December 31st, 2021.

Watch for our next issue of PONIES 24-7, for updates on the auction and a list of items to date to be auctioned off.

Have Some Items You Would Like To Donate?

Contact Larry Simpson at theponies247experience@gmail.com

With your support through our 'Don't Horse Around with Lymphoma' campaign, PONIES 24-7 is partnering with Lymphoma Canada to raise awareness of lymphoma, promote early detection, assist newly diagnosed patients and fund lymphoma research that may one day lead to a cure.

This auction is being carried out by PONIES 24-7 with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Lymphoma Canada. Also, auction purchases do not qualify for charitable tax receipts. You must be 18 or older to participate.



Monday, October 18

Breeders Crown Supplemental Entries declare by 12:00 noon [EDT].

Tuesday, October 19

Breeders Crown Entries for all 12 events close at 9:00 a.m. [EDT]

Friday, October 22

Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Elims Post Time 6:20 p.m. [EDT]

Saturday, October 23

Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old & Open Elims Post Time 12:00 p.m. [EDT]

Tuesday, October 26

Breeders Crown Post-Position Draw

Thursday, October 28

47th Annual Legacy Award Celebration at The Avenue of American Dream 6 - 9 p.m.

Friday, October 29

Four 2-Year-Old Breeders Crown Finals Post Time 6:20 p.m. [EDT]

Saturday, October 30

Eight Breeders Crown Finals Post Time 12:00 p.m. [EDT]

hambletonian.com

PLAY IT AGAIN...

Originally Heard On 'Ponies 24-7', THE RADIO MAGAZINE

In Conversation with Larry Simpson

BRIDGETTE JABLONSKY, V.M.D.

Hanover Shoe Farms Executive Vice President Has Always Had A Passion For Horses

Photos By Gunjan Patel

Note: Ponies 24-7, THE RADIO MAGAZINE, currently is the only terrestrial radio show about horse racing in Canada and one of only a handful of shows in the U.S. It airs Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. Eastern on 105.9 FM, The Region, and live streamed at 1059theregion.com.

Missed a show, past shows are available as a podcast on 1059theregion.com. As a new magazine feature, we are offering edited transcripts of pertinent guest interviews, previously heard on 'Ponies 24-7. First up is Bridgette Jablonsky, where much of the interview spoke about the great Somebeachsomewhere, including his battle with lymphoma that eventually he would succumb to.



PONIES 24-7: Bridgette, welcome to PONIES 24-7 and thanks for doing this interview on 'Ponies 24-7, THE RADIO MAGAZINE. First off, perhaps you could talk some about your background and your current role at Hanover Shoe Farms.

BRIDGETTE JABLONSKY: I'm a Veterinarian and started at Hanover Shoe Farms straight out of school in 1996. Originally, I was a Resident Veterinarian and basically one of the Vets responsible for the care and the well being of the horses. In 1999, I was promoted to Farm Manager and was in that role for the entire time that 'Beach' was residing at Hanover Shoe Farms. Two years ago, I was promoted to Executive Vice President, which continues to be my current position.

PONIES 24-7: Obviously, your reference to 'Beach', shows your affection towards 'SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE', how great of an impact did he have on the harness racing industry?

BRIDGETTE JABLONSKY: To me, we continue to refer to the words 'Game Changer' and 'Beach' actually changed the breed, the sport and the business. His genetics I believe, at the end of the day, will have the most profound influence on the Standardbred breed, more so than any other horse that has ever lived. 'Beach' took things to another level and even though his sons are young, they too are starting to take over the sport. We have three sons of 'Beach' currently standing at Hanover Shoe Farms and only one, Captain Treacherous is old enough to have foals racing and presently, he is the best stallion in North America. Also, daughters of 'Beach', are proving to be good, producing broodmares. He was what we would call an outcross



stallion and brought different genetics to the Standardbred 'game' and we are continuing to look for different genetics and bloodlines to breed to his progeny. 'Beach' went from being an outcross sire, to the most dominant sire line and probably the most influential broodmare sire ever and he did all this from the time that he was four, until his death at the age of 13. You know, most stallions breed until their early twenties and I am sure that if 'Beach' had that opportunity, he would have just totally dominated the Standardbred breeding industry. In my opinion, hands down, 'SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE', is the greatest stallion of all-time!

PONIES 24-7: Bridgette, you refer to an outcross sire, exactly what does this term mean?

BRIDGETTE JABLONSKY: An outcross sire is a horse whose genetics on both side (mother and father) are not what is considered popular or pervasive of what is currently being bred. There are actually only three or four sire lines where most of our popular sires trace back to and 'Beach' actually came from a totally different line. As an example, if Hanover Shoe Farms owns 300 mares and 180 of these mares were pacing bred (as there are both pacing and trotting bred mares), I think that we would have been able to breed 170 of the 180 mares to him. That means that the mare's genetics did not overlap his, but you could take another stallion, whose genetics are more popular and you would be limited to the amount of mares that you could breed to this sire. There used to be stallions like Bettors Delight, Cam Fella, Artsplace and Western Hanover and these were the Standardbred lines where the stallions were

coming from and so were the mares. This limited what you could breed to, as you don't want to breed closely related horses to each other. 'Beach' though, opened up the genetic world as you could breed mares to him and in many cases, you would have to go back maybe seven generations before you would find a common ancestor. That's an outcross!

PONIES 24-7: Obviously part of the story with 'Beach' is that he died quite young from a form of lymphoma, correct?

BRIDGETTE JABLONSKY: It is a very rare cancer in a horse called lymphosarcoma (and in a lot of cases it goes undiagnosed many times) but in 'Beach's' case, it was detected because of his value and stardom. He was the picture of health with a voracious appetite and you could always count on him to eat all of his breakfast and dinner. One morning though, he didn't finish everything, which we thought was very odd for him, so we decided to do some bloodwork, just to make sure that he was OK. The protein in his blood came back very low and when this happens, it means either the horse is not making the protein, or they are losing it. We kind of determined that 'Beach' was losing it in his gut and with a horse, it can only be two things, a traumatic bowel disease or cancer, which I might add is very rare in a horse and much more rarer than in humans. It's also very difficult to diagnose and to do a biopsy on a horse without putting them under and doing surgery, so we treated him like it was an inflammatory bowel disease and did some more blood tests which came back showing that it wasn't cancer and 'Beach' did very well on the steroids that we were giving him. He was diagnosed



in 2017 and bred mares that entire breeding season and actually kept his weight, but in the Fall he started to go downhill. The steroids act like more of a band-aid and are not going to cure the cancer and he eventually colicked. We took him to surgery and it was then that a mass was discovered which was biopsied and it was determined to be lymphosarcoma, so we had our diagnosis. We tried chemotherapy on him which is very experimental on horses and at the same time I was talking to experts in the field. One of the members of the Board for the Mayo Clinic owns Standardbreds and he had two of their top Oncologists call just to talk about 'Beach'. Chemo is also very expensive and I don't know if it is hugely successful, rather it buys them more time and really only a very few horses would warrant the expense. We tried the chemo and it just didn't help him and 'Beach' died in January of 2018. From February, 2017 to the Fall of that year though, I would say that he was happy and felt good and we kept him comfortable as best that we could.

PONIES 24-7: Do you think we will ever see another 'SOME BEACH SOMEWHERE'?

BRIDGETTE JABLONSKY: I don't know, for me though, I think that he was the greatest horse that I ever saw race and was one of those horses that could

take his ability and pass it on as a stallion. There's certainly other horses that are better bred that have entered stud, but he was such a physical specimen and his 'babies' were always ahead of the others. If you looked at a field of yearlings and you compared his yearlings to the others, it was like comparing men against boys. They were just so precocious and they matured very, very early. With 'Beach' though, what you saw is what you got, he wasn't manufactured and as a race horse, he was trained by someone with a one horse stable, not a big racing outfit. So, his talent was pure and I believe that he passed this on to his 'babies'. Will we see another one like 'Beach'? Well I'm never going to say never, but I have been in this industry for about 40 years and the only other horse that I ever saw on the racetrack that maybe I could compare to 'Beach' was Niatross, who when he retired was not a great stallion. Will we ever see another complete package? Except for 'Beach', again I haven't seen another one in 40 years and I honestly don't know whether it will happen again, but you never say never!






LIVE A LITTLE WIN A LOT

Come on down 'cause the good times are calling your name. Get more luck for your buck with hundreds of big- hitting slots, delicious home cookin' and so much more!


VERNON DOWNS
— CASINO · HOTEL —
www.vernondowns.com

SIMULCASTING:
Monday - Saturday: 11:30am to 11pm
Sunday: 11:30am to 7pm



Gaming Pavilion? Call 877-8-HOPENY or text HOPENY (467266) *You must be 18 years or older to play video gaming machines, wager on horses or purchase a lottery ticket. Please play responsibly. NYL/ResponsiblePlay.com. *Standard rates may apply.

Management reserves the right to modify or cancel promotions at any time.



The Racer's Edge

A Handicapping Primer

Improving The Search For That Elusive Winner
For The Casual And Recreational Bettor!

By Larry Simpson



PART TWO

Successful Thoroughbred Handicapping Is More Than Just Speed Figures

In our first installment of *'Improving The Search For That Elusive Winner For The Casual And Recreational Bettor!'*, we looked at some horse racing facts and angles that may help to stretch your betting bankroll further. These angles included the value of trainer and racing stats, the condition of the horse and money management. In this issue, we take a look at the importance of Speed Ratings in handicapping and the role that they play.

There has always been a common notion that betting

Speed Figures is all one needs to cash a few nice tickets. Sounds easy doesn't it, that the horse with the top *'figure'* in their last start, should be faster than all of the other horses in the race today, because the Speed Rating said so and therefore they should be today's winner, right? Well not necessarily, as simply put, there is an old adage in horse racing that horses are not machines, but if they were, maybe these Speed Figures could be accepted at face value. Instead, a Thoroughbred racehorse is an athlete, like their Standardbred counterparts and their performances

on the racetrack can be dictated by many reasons or circumstances, to complicate the *'fastest number, best horse angle'*. These include a possible dislike of the track surface, or maybe the horse does not fit the class of today's race. Perhaps too, there is an inconsistent training pattern showing and of course how could we forget about good old fashioned racing luck. And there are a plethora of others.

A smart bettor though, is very astute before automatically awarding first place to the high Speed Rating horse. He or she, is well aware of the role that fitness plays in horse racing and we are not talking about the health of the horseplayer, rather the horse itself. A horse can have the top Speed Figure of all its competitors today based on their last start, but honestly, we don't know whether that last race will either help further its conditioning, or dull it, the latter is commonly referred to as a *'bounce' race*. In many cases though, each time a Thoroughbred races, their fitness will improve, but unfortunately, we really never know when the final plateau will be reached and a regression in Speed Ratings will start. Again, there's that horse not being a machine statement! In addition, a good handicapper is well aware that no matter what the horse's Speed Figure indicates on paper, they may not win today unless they have been entered in the proper race condition and at the same time, have a significant work pattern showing. Our handicapper friend will also look at the Past Performance line of our top Speed Figure horse last race and decide whether it could be considered an overtaxing effort, for if it was, this *'figure'* could lose most of its value. Also, when you take a closer look at the PP raceline, this should help shed some light on how demanding the effort was. A cursory view of the Comments portion of the racelines can be used as a good indicator as race comments like *'Handily'*, *'Well In Hand'* or *'Driving'* are positive and may indicate that there is *'something left in the tank'* for today's race. On the other hand, Comments including *'All Out'* or *'Ridden Out'* could be cause for concern today, as a major regression in form could take place. One should also look at the prior race (if there is one) and how taxing it was. Does the horse with the *'big figure'* today, have another large Speed Rating two starts back?

Workouts or lack thereof can also be major tip offs on how your horse may or may not perform or underperform today. A couple of what we refer to as *'back-to-back'* works (within a 1/5th of a second to each other) since its last start, is usually a good sign that today's top Speed Figure horse is holding his or her form very well and although there is no sure things in horse racing,

there is a good chance that a positive effort could be in the cards today. On the other hand, if the *'back-to-backs'* have been replaced by one leisurely 3-furlong breeze since that last taxing effort, well that could be an instance of a red flag going up.

Another major handicapping factor worth considering is Class. Earlier, we alluded to the fact that the horse with the large Speed Figure last race, may not win today, especially if they have not been entered into the proper condition. Likewise, the horse may still *'run its race'*, however there could be another horse in today's race that may have had a similar Speed Figure last time, but is dropping down today from a Stakes or other higher class event. For this *'drop down'* candidate, not only is there class relief to align with a good Speed *'Fig'*, but there is also a subtle form of Trainer Intent present, where we see a case of a Stakes payment being made in the past by its owners, which is a strong indication that this horse may be better than the other horses, he or she is facing today. And if this horse has a couple of good *'works'* since that last start, well you have a very powerful handicapping angle that couldn't be uncovered by just looking at Speed Figures alone. One can select a large amount of winners and often at a good price, on a horse that has one of the top Speed Figures and is dropping down in class, especially going from a Stakes event to an Allowance and has a couple of decent workouts in tow.

Finally, and still on the subject of Speed Figures, don't waste your time, applying handicapping angles to those horses in the field with *'figures'* that do not support the idea that they will be able to race today competitively. As an example, if a horse has not shown any signs of good form in any of its most recent races, then don't bother applying any further handicapping techniques to this entry. Of course, at times these types of horses do jump up with an upset effort and win, but the percentages are still in your favour when you do dismiss them from your pre-handicapping. Remember, upsets do happen as they are part of horse racing, but the time and effort that you put into handicapping is better spent on those horses in the field that have shown some ability and condition to run a good and, we hope, winning race today.



***You'll be
amazed
at what they
can do!***

**We expect great things
from our horses.
Let's make sure that they
can expect a happy and
dignified retirement when
their racing days are over.**

LONGRUN
THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT SOCIETY

416-675-3993 ext. 3440
www.longrunretirement.com
info@longrunretirement.com

 LongRunTB

