

BILL O'DONNELL

Acton, Ontario

Nominated as: Active Director, Ontario Region

One of the true superstars in harness racing over the past few decades, Bill O'Donnell was known as the Magic Man during his tenure as one of the sports' all time best catch drivers. O'Donnell has well over 5,700 lifetime victories as a driver with just under \$100 million earned by the horses he has guided. A native of Springhill, Nova Scotia, O'Donnell was the leading driver at the Mecca of harness racing, the Meadowlands in New Jersey, for many years and established a number of records with respect to wins and earnings.

O'Donnell's accomplishments have been recognized by his inductions into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame, the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame and the Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

In 2001 O'Donnell moved back to Canada, settling in Acton, Ontario, to focus more on training horses. Since then he has also become involved in the politics of racing, giving much of his time and considerable expertise to several horsemen's groups. He currently serves as President of the Central Ontario Standardbred Association, which has the racing contract with the largest track operator in Canada, Woodbine Entertainment Group. In addition he serves as the representative for Standardbred horse people on the board of the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association as well as Vice-President of the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society.

My goal as a Director of Standardbred Canada is to bring a more stable atmosphere for our racing industry both provincially as well as nationally.