

**James A. Whelan**  
Troy, ON



### **Nominated as ONTARIO ACTIVE DIRECTOR**

Born in Alberton, Prince Edward Island, Jim Whelan has been a director for the Ontario Harness Horse Association for over 30 years and he served as the association's president for over ten years. As a past Standardbred Canada director for 9 years, he served terms as the Chair of Rules, Licensing and By-Law Committee, as well as sitting on the Executive Committee. Jim has also served as a member on many committees and associations, such as: the Constitution and RRSP Committees of OHHA, the Ontario Racing Commission's Equine Medication Control and Task Force, the Canadian Tax Alliance, Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, the Executive Committee of the Equine Guelph Advisory Council, the Advisory Board of the Ontario Equine Center and the Executive Committee of Harness Horsemen International. He is president of the Canadian Standardbred Horsemen's Association.

Jim currently resides at his farm in Troy, Ontario, with his wife Dr. Angela Whelan, and his sons Garrett, Justin, Brett and Marshall, and daughter Abilene, are all involved with the horses and horse racing. Growing up in a horse racing family himself, he has been involved in the industry in various capacities his entire life. Racing has been Jim's full-time occupation for approximately 50 years, earning his livelihood by breeding, owning, training and driving horses. As a driver, Jim has had approximately 15,000 lifetime starts, with close to 2,500 wins and earnings of approximately 10 million in purses. As a trainer, he has started over 5,000 horses with over 8 million in money earnings and a UDRS of 0.367.

Over the past 30 years Jim has had a successful and distinguished career, both as a participant and in leadership roles, within the organizations previously mentioned. Over the years Jim has won a number of awards for breeding, training and driving and others which recognized his contributions to the industry including the Harness Horse International Man of the year award. Jim works tirelessly for the betterment of the horsepeople and related issues such as: secure purse revenues, better representation and support for membership, fair contracts and income taxation, better working conditions and increasing the number of live race dates.

Jim has laid the groundwork to create greater governmental awareness of a number of industry-related concerns at both the federal and provincial level. In fact, in 2013 Jim was awarded a

Queens Diamond Jubilee award by then Minister of Labour, Lisa Raitt, for his advocacy on behalf of the horsepeople of Canada.

Jim's "down east" roots and continued camaraderie with horsepeople in the Atlantic Provinces, have been influential in the progression of the harness racing industry and the development of the Racinos at Charlottetown Driving Park and Summerside Raceway in PEI. He continues to work to make horse breeding and racing a viable industry in Newfoundland where he and his partners own St. John's Racing and Entertainment Center.

The horse racing industry used to employ approximately 65,000 people in Ontario alone which accounted for 60% of the industry nationwide and contributed \$2.6 billion annually to the Ontario economy. Harness racing is one of the largest sectors of the agricultural industry in Ontario and it is important that horsepeople have the ability to race their horses on a regular schedule, on properly maintained surfaces with adequate facilities. Just as horses rely on the people who care for them, horsepeople rely on horse racing to care for their families.

The standardbred breeding and racing industries need a strong voice and passionate representative and Jim is prepared to fill that role.