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"Horsemen helping horsemen"



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For Immediate Release Representing the Thoroughbred Horsemen of Ontario

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Fort Erie Racetrack will open for Live Horse Racing in 2010

Dear Horsepeople,

The Board of Directors of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of Ontario is pleased to announce that a plan is in place for the not-for-profit Fort Erie Thoroughbred Racing Consortia to run live thoroughbred horse racing at Fort Erie Racetrack commencing 1January2010 for three years. The deal is based upon a lease agreement with Nordic Gaming and a guarantee of funding from the Provincial Government which will include operations for some Quarter Horse Racing.

The Fort Erie Thoroughbred Racing Consortia is comprised of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of Ontario, the Town of Fort Erie and Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation.

As the Province of Ontario has guaranteed some of the funding during the three year term, business operations will be subject to stringent budget constraints and targets as set by the terms of the agreement with all stakeholders.

We wish to thank all of you for your patience and understanding during this time as well as the Honourable Dwight Duncan's office for assisting us with the plan.

Congratulations horsepeople, we look forward to the return of Thoroughbred horseracing at Fort Erie Racetrack in 2010.

On a personal note I would like to thank the real heroes, the horsepeople of Ontario for their support and encouragement over the past two years.

Warm regards,

Sue Leslie, President

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