

## **JIM WHELAN**

Troy, Ontario

**Nominated as: Active Director, Ontario Region**

Born in Alberton, Prince Edward Island, Jim Whelan has been a director for the Ontario Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA), an association of approximately 5 000 members, for 26 years and has also served as the association's president for 9 years. As a Standardbred Canada director for 9 years, circa 12 000 members, he served terms as chair of Rules Licensing and By Law Committee, as well as sitting on the executive. Jim is also a member on many committees and associations, such as the Constitution and RRSP of OHHA; on the Ontario Racing Commission's Equine Medication Control and Task Force, 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 and is the President of the Canadian Standardbred Horsemen's Association.

Jim currently resides at his farm in Troy, Ontario with his family, wife Dr. Angela Whelan, sons, Garrett, Justin, Brett and Marshall and daughter Abilene, who 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 40 years, earning his livelihood by breeding, owning, training and driving horses. As a driver Jim has had approximately 15 000 lifetime starts, claiming a lifetime mark of 2 500 wins, and earning \$10 million in purse revenue. As a trainer he has started over 5 000 horses with close to \$8 million in money earnings and a UDRS of 0.369.

Over the past 30 years Jim has had a successful distinguished career in racing 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 have recognized his contributions to the industry. Jim works tirelessly for the betterment of horse people and related issues such as: secured purse revenues, better representation and support for the 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. He also views the Ontario Government's strategic report on horse racing as a definite positive step forward to maintain racing and allow it to prosper within the province. As the government recognized that a review of the racing industry was necessary, all segments had an opportunity to present their concerns. This report is the result of many hours of hard work by its authors and Jim acknowledges and thanks them; now participants must work together to strengthen the industry.

Jim's down east roots and continued camaraderie with horse people in the Atlantic Provinces, has 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. Recently his interests and support have reached a new level with acquisition of a racetrack in St. John's Newfoundland. His respect and knowledge of his fellow horse people has proved to be a great asset in bringing live racing back to this province.

The horse racing industry employs approximately 65 000 people, in Ontario alone accounting for 60% of the industry nation wide, and makes a \$2.6 billion annual contribution to the Ontario economy. Harness racing is on the largest sector of the agriculture industry in Ontario and it is important that horse people 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, horse people rely on horse racing to care for their families.