



# Office of the Mayor

DOUGLAS G. MARTIN

February 28, 2012

Sent via email: [dmcguinty@premier.gov.on.ca](mailto:dmcguinty@premier.gov.on.ca)

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty  
Legislative Building, Room 281  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable and Dear Sir:

**Re: Maintaining the Rural Economy in Ontario by Maintaining and Enhancing the Live Horse Racing Industry**

The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of February 27, 2012 passed the following resolution in response to the Drummond Report:

**WHEREAS** the Fort Erie Race Track has been in operation for over 115 years;

**WHEREAS** the Fort Erie Race Track, Fort Erie's largest tourism attraction, employs over 300 local residents directly and more than 600 horse people;

**WHEREAS** the Fort Erie Race Track contributes in excess of \$24 million in direct annual expenditures to the Fort Erie economy<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS** the Fort Erie Race Track provides \$345,000<sup>2</sup> in property taxes to the Town of Fort Erie;

**WHEREAS** the Town of Fort Erie wishes to continue its ongoing moral and financial support of the Fort Erie Race Track as a critical component of the local economy and as one of the community's largest employers;

**WHEREAS** the Fort Erie Race Track is an integral component of Ontario's horse racing industry which employs approximately 60,000<sup>1</sup> across the Province of Ontario and is a most important economic driver of jobs in rural Ontario;

**WHEREAS** all three levels of government realize substantial revenues from the horse racing and breeding industry expenditures, this revenue having increased by 27%<sup>1</sup> in the last decade, as follows:

.../2

*Our Focus: Your Future*

Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie  
Municipal Centre, 1 Municipal Centre Drive  
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Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Phone (905) 871-1600

Fax (905) 871-4022

Web-site: [www.forterie.on.ca](http://www.forterie.on.ca)

<b>Federal Revenue</b>	\$382.7 million <sup>1</sup>
<b>Provincial Revenue</b>	\$261 million (exclusive of slot machine profits) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Local government</b>	\$138 million (paid to host municipalities where slots are located) <sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS** a total of \$1.5 billion in wages and salaries in Ontario are sustained annually by the total expenditures of the Ontario horse racing and breeding industry (50% higher than the \$1 billion in 2000)<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS** the horse racing and breeding industry is the second largest sub-sector of the agricultural economy, exceeding the contributions of wheat, egg, poultry and hogs in 2010<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS** direct and indirect investment stimulates local economies with demand for products and services in rural Ontario provided by veterinarians, blacksmiths, hay and grain suppliers, transport workers and harness and saddle makers<sup>1</sup>, as well as the thousands of jobs directly in horse racing and race track operations;

**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved by the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie that it hereby petitions the Province of Ontario to maintain its support and commitment to the horse racing industry in Ontario in order preserve and enhance this historic industry, and further

**THAT** the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, notify the Town of Fort Erie and its sister communities of the Province's intentions in this regard within a reasonable period of time, and further

**THAT** this resolution be circulated to Fort Erie's "sister" communities in Ontario who are also home to horse racing facilities or are home to economic sectors related to the horse racing industry, and further

**THAT** Fort Erie's "sister" communities be encouraged to enact similar resolutions to express their support for Ontario's horse racing and breeding industries in writing to the Premier of Ontario to preserve and enhance the live racing industry in Ontario.

<sup>1</sup> The Economic Impacts of Horse Racing and Breeding in Ontario, 2012 by Econometric Research Limited, November 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium, 2011.

In 2010, as a result of the progressive and proactive efforts of the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation (EDTC) the "Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium" (FELRC) was created as a non-profit corporation to operate and manage the Fort Erie Racetrack. With critical financial partnerships, the EDTC successfully negotiated a 3-year rescue plan with the Province and Town, thereby facilitating continued live racing at the Fort Erie Racetrack and saving hundreds of jobs in the process.

In conclusion, the resolution speaks for itself, illustrating the financial dynamics of live horse racing in Ontario. The Province does not subsidize this industry, it is a key partner.

By copy of this letter to Racetrack Host Municipalities in Ontario, the Regional Municipality of Niagara and Niagara Area Municipalities, they are being requested to pass similar resolutions and to notify you and the Town of Fort Erie accordingly of the action taken.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to an early response.

Yours truly,

*"original signed"*

Douglas G. Martin

Mayor

DGM:dlk

c.c.

The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance [dduncan.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:dduncan.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

The Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs [tcmeekin.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:tcmeekin.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

John Blakney, Exec. Director/CEO Ontario Racing Commission [john.blakney@ontarioracingcommission.ca](mailto:john.blakney@ontarioracingcommission.ca)

Gordon McDonald, Chairman, National Capital Region Harness Horse Association [ncrha@rcr.net](mailto:ncrha@rcr.net)

John Gallinger, President/CEO, Standardbred Canada [jgallinger@standardbredcanada.ca](mailto:jgallinger@standardbredcanada.ca).

Mark Wales, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture [mark.wales@ofa.on.ca](mailto:mark.wales@ofa.on.ca)

Kim Craiton, M.P.P. via email: [kcraiton.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:kcraiton.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org),

Tim Hudak, M.P.P. Niagara West Glenbrook and Leader of the Opposition via email: [tim.hudakco@pc.ola.org](mailto:tim.hudakco@pc.ola.org)

J. Pilon, Regional Deputy Clerk, Regional Municipality of Niagara [janet.pilon@niagararegion.ca](mailto:janet.pilon@niagararegion.ca)

Clerks of Niagara Area Municipalities: [ashleygrigg@portcolborne.ca](mailto:ashleygrigg@portcolborne.ca), [bdunk@stcatharines.ca](mailto:bdunk@stcatharines.ca), [carolynlangley@westlincoln.com](mailto:carolynlangley@westlincoln.com), [christine.mintoff@welland.ca](mailto:christine.mintoff@welland.ca), [ckett@forterie.on.ca](mailto:ckett@forterie.on.ca), [clerk@thorold.com](mailto:clerk@thorold.com), [diorfida@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:diorfida@niagarafalls.ca), [hdowd@notl.org](mailto:hdowd@notl.org), [hsoady-easton@town.grimsby.on.ca](mailto:hsoady-easton@town.grimsby.on.ca), [kevin.bain@niagararegion.ca](mailto:kevin.bain@niagararegion.ca), [njbozzato@pelham.ca](mailto:njbozzato@pelham.ca), [tlamb@township.wainfleet.on.ca](mailto:tlamb@township.wainfleet.on.ca), [wkolasa@lincoln.ca](mailto:wkolasa@lincoln.ca),

J. Teal, Regional Councillor [johntteal@bellnet.ca](mailto:johntteal@bellnet.ca)

R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer [rtripp@forterie.on.ca](mailto:rtripp@forterie.on.ca)

J. Thibert, General Manager, EDTC & CEO, Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium [jthibert@forteriecanada.com](mailto:jthibert@forteriecanada.com)

Racetrack Host Municipalities via email to Mayor and EDO's

Town of Ajax [steve.parish@ajax.ca](mailto:steve.parish@ajax.ca)

[lisa.hausz@townofajax.com](mailto:lisa.hausz@townofajax.com)

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

[CKmayor@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:CKmayor@chatham-kent.ca)

[michael.burton@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:michael.burton@chatham-kent.ca)

Town of Innisfil [bbaguley@innisfil.ca](mailto:bbaguley@innisfil.ca)

[deastwood@innisfil.ca](mailto:deastwood@innisfil.ca)

City of Sarnia [mayor@sarnia.ca](mailto:mayor@sarnia.ca)

[pbh.edcp@sarnia.ca](mailto:pbh.edcp@sarnia.ca), [economic@sarnia.ca](mailto:economic@sarnia.ca)

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[Andrew.siltala@milton.ca](mailto:Andrew.siltala@milton.ca)

Township of Centre Wellington

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[drushon@centrewellington.ca](mailto:drushon@centrewellington.ca)

City of Windsor [mayoro@city.windsor.on.ca](mailto:mayoro@city.windsor.on.ca)

[wstark@choosewindsorsex.com](mailto:wstark@choosewindsorsex.com)

City of Woodstock [mayor@city.woodstock.on.ca](mailto:mayor@city.woodstock.on.ca)

[lmagyar@city.woodstock.on.ca](mailto:lmagyar@city.woodstock.on.ca)

[cbingham@county.oxford.on.ca](mailto:cbingham@county.oxford.on.ca)

Municipality of Central Huron [jginn@centralhuron.com](mailto:jginn@centralhuron.com)

City of Hamilton [mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)

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