



# Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium

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Welcome back horse people,

We are eagerly preparing for our 120<sup>th</sup> season of live racing at Fort Erie, and are looking forward to having our horse people, horses and racing fans return to the border oval for what is sure to be another exciting season.

2016 was a successful year, seeing a 20 percent increase in overall wagering, and a 10 percent growth in attendance, food and beverage and program sales. This growth shows that Fort Erie has a successful horse racing product that is gaining popularity both with local visitors and in the simulcast market. This is a direct reflection of each and every one of our horse people who have dedicated their lives to this industry, and I thank you for your commitment to our racetrack and the horseracing industry.

We have a lot to look forward to this season, but we also have some challenges that we need to face. You may remember that the Town of Fort Erie contributed \$500,000 to the track in 2014 and 2015, and \$250,000 in 2016 to help offset our operation costs. This year, we will receive no supplementary funding from the Town of Fort Erie. This means that in order to continue to offer 40 days of live racing this year, any extra income from 2016 will be needed to offset our expenses for the upcoming season.

We understand that this is a difficult time for many people in our industry, and the FELRC is committed to helping Fort Erie horse people where we can. We are installing a new Odyssey Horse Exerciser that will be ready for use this spring. It is located between barns 5 and 5A on the west side, and will only cost \$3 per use. More information about operation times and tickets will be available in the spring.

We are also going to open our backstretch three weeks earlier than we did last year. You can begin setting up stalls on April 7, and horses can begin shipping in on April 9. Our new Exerciser will be available for use during this time, before training begins on April 29.

One of the things we're looking forward to this year is Saturday racing. In order to try and bring in more on-track patron and increase simulcast wagering, we will change from Sunday racing to Saturdays in August, September and October. Saturday racing in August will be at twilight, followed by a free Tiki Bar concert, similar to our Tuesday nights. Tuesdays and Saturdays in September and October, will move to a 1:20 pm post time for the fall.

It is extremely important that we work together to continue to grow our wagering in 2017. We have proven that there is a strong appetite for the Fort Erie product which has been noted by the government and all those in racing. We know that the provincial government understands the importance of our track to the community as well as to the overall racing industry. This strong performance proves that we are worthy of continued provincial government funding and better integration into the racing and gaming strategy of the province.

Enclosed you will find your 2017 stall application form. Please fill it out and return it to the racetrack by Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. You may mail your application to:

Fort Erie Race Track  
Attention – Harry Eder  
230 Catherine Street, P.O. Box 1130  
Fort Erie, Ontario  
L2A 5N9



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You may also fax in your application to (905) 994-3628

## Additional Information

- RACING DAYS and POST TIMES will be different this season. Please see the attached racing schedule for more information.
- Ontario Sired PURSE BONUS will stay in effect, without any changes, for ALL eligible horses
- FIRE SAFETY is always a serious concern. FELRC staff will be closely monitoring compliance with our fire safety regulations; this also includes proper hay and straw storage.
- ACCESS FORMS must be signed by everyone allowed on the backstretch. Once you have signed your form you will receive an access sticker from security which allows you on the premises.
- The practice of closing the race track for training on Wednesdays will commence in July
- Any bedding other than straw or shavings must be approved by the Race Office

## Important Dates

- April 7 – Stall set up begins
- April 9 – Stable area opens at 7am, horses can begin shipping in. Tackrooms will be issued. Security guards will be posted in the stable area.
- April 29 – training will commence with Spectrum Medic. Training hours: 6am-10:30 am.
- May 14 – Gate schooling begins, 8:30-10:30 am.
- May 30 – First day of live racing
- July 25 – Prince of Wales Stakes
- October 17 – Closing day

If you have any questions, please contact Harry Eder at [heder@forterieracetrack.ca](mailto:heder@forterieracetrack.ca) or (289) 303-7982.

All the best in racing luck for 2017.

Tom Valiquette  
Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer, Fort Erie Race Track  
(800) 295-3770 ext. 3212

# 2017 Race Schedule

~ May 2017 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

~ June 2017 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

~ July 2017 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

~ August 2017 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

~ September 2017 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

~ October 2017 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



4:20 Post Time



1:20 Post Time



Prince of Wales