

**Ontario  
Racing  
Commission**

Suite 400  
10 Carlson Court  
Toronto, Ontario  
M9W 6L2  
Tel 416 213-0520  
Fax 416 213-7827

**Commission  
des courses  
de l'Ontario**

Bureau 400  
10 Carlson Court  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M9W 6L2  
Tél 416 213-0520  
Télééc 416 213-7827



September 25, 2012

## Notice to the Industry

### Application for variance to approved 2012 Race Date Schedule Fort Erie Race Track

---

The Ontario Racing Commission is circulating this application for a variance to the 2012 approved race date schedule for Fort Erie Racetrack and will receive comments on the application from interested industry participants before making its decision on the application.

*Race Dates are approved by the Director of the Ontario Racing Commission in the fall preceding each year for live and simulcast dates and form a term and condition of each racetrack's licence to operate. Applications to vary race are made by application to the Director. Additionally, as required under the Rules, a post time change of more than 30 minutes must be approved by the Director.*

#### **An application to change their approved schedule has been received as follows:**

Fort Erie	Delete
	Saturday, October 27

Copy of the application is attached.

Input, comments or concerns **must be received by October 4, 2012** to be considered and can be forwarded to the Ontario Racing Commission as follows:

Facsimile: (416) 213-7827  
E-Mail: [orcinqury@ontarioracingcommission.ca](mailto:orcinqury@ontarioracingcommission.ca)



# Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium

---

Mr. Steven Lehman

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Chief Operating Officer

Ontario Racing Commission

Sent by Fax

Dear Steven,

Over the past three weeks our horse population at Fort Erie has declined from over 600 horses to a total of 541 as of yesterday and there is no reason to believe this trend will not continue. At this time last year, we had 745 horses on the grounds. Filling races is becoming much more challenging and in looking ahead to our closing weekend, which schedules four consecutive days of racing (October 27-October 30), it is becoming increasingly evident that filling four consecutive days will be next to impossible. In light of this trend and in the interests in writing our last condition book for the 2012 meeting the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium is asking Ontario Racing Commission for approval to drop Saturday, October 28 from its 2012 racing date schedule. Listed below are other factors which support our recommendation to drop this date:

- Our average field size has dropped from 8.22 horses in 2011 to 7.55 in 2012.
- We are losing, on average, 15 horses per week who are either being sold as show horses or just do not qualify as competitive race horses.
- A number of horses are being treated by veterinarians for various ailments and are not ready to resume racing.
- HBPA has approved our recommendation thereby acknowledging our concerns.
- Horsemen are frustrated in not knowing what the future holds for Fort Erie and are reluctant to commit themselves to stay for the duration of the meeting.

I hope this information is adequate to address our recommendation. October is going to be a daily challenge to our race office.

Yours truly,

Rick Cowan

Chief Operating Officer