

**James A Whelan**  
Troy, ON



**Nominated at ONTARIO ACTIVE DIRECTOR**

Born in Alberton, Prince Edward Island, Jim Whelan has been a director for the Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA), an association of approximately 3,500 members for 26 years and has also served as the association's president for 9 years. As a Standardbred Canada director for nine years, he served terms as chair of Rules Licensing and by Law committee, as well as sitting on the executive. Jim has also served as a member on many committees and associations, such as the Constitution and RRSP committees 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 the Harness Horsemen International and is 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, with close to 2,500 wins and earnings of approximately 10 million in purse earnings. As a trainer he has started over 5,000 horses with over 8 million in money earnings and a UDRS of .0.367.

Over the past 30 years Jim has had a successful and distinguished career 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 the horse people and related issues such as; secured purse revenues, better representation and support for 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. In fact in 2013 Jim

was awarded a Queens Diamond Jubilee award by then Minister of Labor Lisa Raitt for his advocacy on behalf of the horsepeople of Canada.

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 one of the largest sectors of the agriculture industry in Ontario and it is important that horsepeople 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.