



PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS



**HORSE OF THE YEAR #3 FOR 1-2-3 - HUGE 50TH YEAR
COMING UP AT AJAX DOWNS**

AJAX DOWNS, FEBRUARY 18, 2019 - The class of 2018 in Quarter Horse racing in Ontario was honored Feb. 16 at Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario Awards Banquet at Ajax Convention Centre.

Rod Phillips, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and MPP for Ajax spoke to a packed house about a bright future for Quarter Horse racing and was joined by Councilors **Marilyn Crawford, Sterling Lee and Rob Tyler Morin**.

For the third consecutive year, COUNTRY BOY 123 was named Ajax Downs' Horse of the Year as the now 6-year-old powerhouse went 7 for 7 in Ontario, winning three stakes races including the Alex Picov Memorial Championship. Owned and trained by Ruth Barbour of Hillsburgh, ON, Country Boy 123 set two track records during the season and was also named High Point Aged Male horse and Distance series Champion.

"It was such an exciting season, he really gave us his all," said Barbour, who bought Country Boy 123 for \$7,200 (US) from an Oklahoma yearling sale five years ago. Barbour reported that Country Boy 123 is getting ready to gear up for another season.

Jockey **Chelsey Willick** won her first ever High Point Jockey title collecting 330 QROOI points from 26 wins in 176 mounts.

Perennial leading trainer **Joe Tavares** was once again High Point Trainer with 380 points and 31 wins while his wife Christine picked up another High Point Owner title with 282 points.

Ajax Downs will celebrate its 50th year of Quarter Horse racing in 2019 with plenty of special events. The season begins on Sunday, May 5, 2019.

Please visit **www.ajaxdowns.com** for more news.

Award Winners - 2018 Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario, Inc.

HIGH POINT JOCKEY – CHELSEY WILLICK – 330 Points

26 wins \$342,733

RUNNER-UP: CORY SPATARO – 325 points

41 wins \$446,026

HIGH POINT TRAINER - JOE TAVARES - 380 POINTS

31 wins, \$396,032

RUNNER-UP JASON PASCOE – 321 POINTS

37 wins, \$423,000

HIGH POINT OWNER/TRAINER – CAROL MCINTYRE – 91 points

47 – 7 -10 – 7 \$86,000

RUNNER-UP

Darlene Ballis-Hunderup – 76 points

96 2-8-14

HIGH POINT OWNER – CHRISTINE TAVARES - 282 POINTS

157 STARTS 23-25-29 \$288,000

RUNNER-UP

MILENA KWIECIEN – 254 POINTS

100 starts 22 wins, \$306,000

HIGH POINT ONTARIO BREEDER – CHRISTINE TAVARES – 196 pointS

18 wins, \$220,000

Runner-up

Heste Sport Inc. - 133 points 10 wins

HIGH POINT 2-YEAR-OLDS MALE

SPY FOR THE SENATE (Louisiana Senator) – 28 points - won the Alex Picov Futurity, 3 wins in 5 Ajax starts, \$54,000;

Owner: Milena Kwicien/Trainer Jason Pascoe

Runner-up Carlos the Second, owned and bred in Ontario by Heste Sport, 15 points; 2nd in the Ontario Sires Futurity; trained by Jason Pascoe

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY

STRIPPER DUST – (Louisiana Senator) 24 points; won Ajax Bonus Futurity, 2nd Alex Picov Futurity to Spy; Owner: Milena Kwiecien. Trainer: Jason Pascoe

Runner-up – Shake It Twice (Look at Magics Form); homebred for Chantelle Bourgeois; 14 points, 3rd OS Futurity

3-YEAR-OLD MALE

CARNEROS – (Prospect to the The Top) 33 points 4 wins at Ajax, 2nd in the Picov derby to Had to be Ivory; 33 points. Owner: Milena Kwiecien. Trainer Jason Pascoe

Runners-up– Had to Be Ivory - 25 points won 2 stakes in 4 strats including the Picov Derby. Owned and bred by Carol and Jaime Robertson, trained by Bryn Roberston; and Bending Over (Ontario bred and sired) Junos Back; 25 points; winner and 8 placings in 12 starts for Christine Tavares and Joe Tavares; and SW Hail tot he King – 2 wins at Ajax: owned by Brayne Sheppard and Amelie Aubut; trained by Jason Pascoe

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY

AJ CHICK IN 15 – (Apollitical Jess) – 28 points; 3rd Picov Derby 2 wins; Owned Milena Kwiecien. Trainer Jason Pascoe (team includes Bryanne and Mario)

Runner-up – Wont Bac Down 24 points – Ontario homebred for Marko Naterer. Trained by Angelle Carter. 2 wins in 9 starts (First Down Straw)

AGED MALE

COUNTRY BOY 123 (Country Chicks Man) - 47 points - 7 for 7 at home; Alex Picov Memorial, All Canadian and Picov Maturity; Owner/trainer Ruth Barbour – Cory Spataro
Runner- **COUNTRYS COMIN BAC** – Ralph Pearson owner/trainer; 2 wins and 2nd in the All Canadian and 3rd in the Alex Picov Mmeorial; bred by Marko Naterer – 30 points

AGED MARE

FISHIN FOR A CORONA – 29 points, from 2 wins for Picov Cattle Co. And trainer Joe Tavares; wonderfully consistent

Runner-up – Night Fishn, homebred for Mary Schrama by Sugarman Perry; 23 points; 3 wins; won Ontario Sires Stakes Maturity; trained by Greg Watson

JAYSON SLOANE – **GEORGE EGERTON MEMORIAL AWARD-**
CAROL AND WAYNE PROCTOR - **KEN MUCKLESTONE AWARD**

PHOTO - RUTH BARBOUR (blue) and partner DOUG JACKSON(second from left) and jockey CORY SPATARO accept the Horse of the Year Trophy for COUNTRY BOY 123 from QROOI president Bob Broadstock (far left) and the QROOI's Monique McNamara

