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**PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS**

**Cobourg's Gary McNichol has 1-2 finish in \$62,950 Derby**

**AJAX DOWNS, JULY 16, 2017** – Owner and breeder Gary McNichol had a dream finish in the **\$62,950 Ontario Sire Stakes Derby** at Ajax Downs on Sunday when his pair of grey homebreds Ghost Pines and Later Tater finished first and second in one of two big stakes on the day.

McNichol, who is from Cobourg, ON, and the horses' trainer Michelle Woodley, were quietly confident about the pair despite tackling last year's Champion Two-Year-Old Colt Home to Vegas, who was the heavy favourite in the 250-yard race.

"I was hopeful but I did like them both," said McNichol.

Brian Bell rode Ghost Pines, a small grey filly by McNichol's own stallion Fire Finder. It was the 3-year-old's second win in four career races.

The afternoon's second featured race, the **\$59,750 Ontario Sire Maturity** was won by feisty gelding Alakazaam, owned by Full Circle Racing and Cummings Cattle Co. Trained by Greg Watson, Alakazaam was ridden by Julian Serrano.

Wagering on the afternoon was up 17% over the same racing day one year ago. Ajax also presented a commemorative magazine "The History of Quarter Horse Racing in Canada" which is on sale at the track.

Ajax Downs will host its first **twilight card of racing this Thursday, July 20**, with a post time of 3:45 p.m. And on Sunday, July 23, Ajax will present the popular **Craft Beer Day at the Races** with a post time of 12:55 p.m.

For more information, please visit [www.ajaxdowns.com](http://www.ajaxdowns.com)