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## **PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS**

### **First Jockey Title for Ramiro Castillo as Ajax Downs Closes 2017 with big day**

**AJAX DOWNS, MONDAY OCTOBER 30, 2017** - With three wins on the last card of racing for 2017 at Ajax Downs, **Ramiro Castillo** won his first title at the Ontario Quarter Horse track, holding off Cobourg's Cassandra Jeschke by a win total of 37 to 33. Castillo moved his tack from Alberta to Ontario early in 2016 and the personable 39-year-old quickly became a fan favourite. Jeschke, in only her fifth year riding, served notice as a star on the rise with her best season of her young career.

The 30<sup>th</sup> and final card of racing at Ajax for 2017 was held on a cool and blustery afternoon but that did not stop fans from betting over \$92,000 on the card, highlighted by the seventh win of the meeting by Ontario bred gelding **Arctic Fame**, owned by Peterborough resident George Coleman.

Arctic Fame, racing in allowance races most of the year, is now North America's winningest horse, 4-year-old and older, with his seven victories. Trained by Scott Reid and ridden all season by Jeschke. Arctic Fame won seven of nine outings this season, more wins than any older horse on the continent.

**Joe Tavares**, of Enniskillen, led all trainers by 28 wins, edging Scott Reid of Bownmanville. **Tavares' wife Christine** led all owners with 20 wins and just over \$211,000 in purses.

The leading money-winning horse of 2017 at Ajax was **Country Boy 123**, who won \$81,826 from five wins in six races. Country Boy 123 is favoured to be named the Horse of the Year by the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario Inc. at its annual awards celebration on **February 17, 2018**.

Racing will resume at Ajax Downs in May of 2018.

*(Photo of Ramiro Castillo (left) and Cory Spataro by Laurie Overton)*

