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## PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS

# **Racing Returns to Ajax Downs! Quarter Horses are Back June 10**

**AJAX DOWNS, FRIDAY JUNE 5, 2020** - The Quarter Horses return to Ajax Downs for live racing Wednesday, June 10 with a six-race card that will get underway at 12:55 p.m.

Horse racing was included in the Ontario government's Stage 1 of re-opening the economy almost three months after the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered most businesses and sports. In following the public health guidelines for easing COVID-19 restriction, Ajax will have racing without spectators for the time being.

A switch to Wednesday racing from the traditional summer Sundays was made to take advantage of on-line wagering.

Fans can watch all the action on <http://www.ajaxdowns.com> and wager through the easy-to-use Horseplayer Interactive platform at <http://www.hpibet.com>.

"I'm just so happy to be back racing," said **Carol McIntyre**, who was the track's High Point Owner/Trainer (meaning she trains she own horses) in 2019. McIntyre races under the Big Dog Stable with husband Dave.

McIntyre sent out 15 winners for a lofty 25% win average, putting her fifth on the trainer's list at year's end.

"Last year exceeded our expectations," said McIntyre who is starting just her fourth year of training. "Then we went to a sale and bought four more horses and one for a friend, who is my first client."



The Big Dog horses began training her horses in February at the farm and kept her horses fit for when Ajax Downs opened its track for training two weeks ago.

"I was optimistic about the season starting and everyone at Ajax has worked hard to get it going again."

New to the jockeys colony this year, rather, returning to Ajax, is **'Hurricane' Helen Vanek**, one of Ontario Quarter Horseracing's leading jockeys. Vanek, also an award winning Thoroughbred rider, has been competing at Fort Erie for a few years but will ride both tracks in 2020.

Champions and archrivals **Had to be Ivory and Country Boy 123** have been gearing up for their first stakes test; the trials for the Picov Maturity are June 17 with the final on July 1, Canada Day. A new stakes event this year is the \$50,000 Princess Derby for 3-year-old fillies.

Keep updated on news and handicapping at the Ajax Downs website plus **follow us on Instagram and Twitter** (@AjaxDowns) and on Facebook. To find out more about the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario's First Line Racing Syndicate and **how to buy your own** share in a Quarter Horse, visit [www/qrooi.com](http://www/qrooi.com).

[Ajax Downs Live Quarter Horse Racing - Ajax Ontario](#)