



PRESS RELEASE

Families Cram Ajax Downs on Family Fun Day



A huge crowd enjoyed racing and fun events on Family Fun Day at Ajax Downs on Sunday, August 25.

AJAX DOWNS, AUGUST 25, 2024 - It was a spectacular summer afternoon at Ajax Downs for the annual **FAMILY FUN DAY for the Ajax Pickering Hospital** on Sunday as a huge crowd enjoyed exciting Quarter Horse racing and many special fun events for the family from face painting, running races on the track, prize giveaways, a petting zoo and more. Proceeds from raffle draws and the trackside barbecue went to the Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation.

On track, there were plenty of exciting races and some surprise winners including the Ontario-bred filly **CARAWAYS ANGEL AIR** who remained undefeated with her victory in race 3 as one of the longest shots on the board. Owned and bred by Carol and Wayne Proctor of Gilford, ON, Caraways Angel Air, by Dashair - Freds Angel by Fredricksburg, ran the fastest time of the day when she won the 250-yard sprint in 13.353 for a big 92 speed index. It was the second win in as many starts for the 3-year-old filly who was ridden by Diego Benitez.

"She's a homebred and she comes from a family that really knows how to run," said Wayne Proctor. "You never know, but it looks like she's got it all together."

The Proctors, who have been racing and breeding Quarter Horses in Ontario since the days of the former Picov Downs, celebrated their victory with one of Ontario Quarter Horse Racing's founders, **Ralph Pearson**, on his 91st birthday. Caraways Angels Air paid \$17.80 to win for a \$2 win bet.



Carol Proctor and husband Wayne (far right) celebrated a big win with their filly

Caraways Angel Air with one of Ontario Quarter Horse racing's founders,

Ralph Pearson (second from right) and longtime owner and breeder Gary McNichol. Laurie Overton Photo

Another popular winner on the afternoon was **PHIL JEFFERSON**, a 10-year-old gelding owned by Earl Foster who was the first winner this season for trainer Paul Garrison and jockey Max Badal. Phil Jefferson, in his fourth race of this year, sped to the lead early in the 220 yard dash, race 2, and won by a neck for his first win since June of 2020.

The afternoon's races ended with more excitement when stakes winner **HAWKIN THE STRAW** and **STORMINN NORMAN** dead heated to win in the 400-yard, final race of the day but Storminn Norman was disqualified for interference, costing popular jockey Rachael Isaacs her third victory of the day. Hawkin the Straw, owned by Erik and Joyce Lehtinen, was ridden by Brian Bell, who also won two races on the card.

Racing resumes at Ajax Downs next **Sunday, September 1**, the final 'special' Sunday card of racing for 2024, with a first race post time of 12:55 p.m. Racing at Ajax Downs will be held on Wednesdays through October 30 for the remainder of the year except for Thanksgiving Monday, October 14.

To reserve the VIP room for your next event, party, or meeting, contact Ajax Downs at 905-686-8001 For information on how you can become a Quarter Horse owner, call the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario at 905-426-7050. The First Line Racing Syndicate welcomes all new owners!

(Photo below - kids race away from the gate on the Ajax Downs main track)

