

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Ontario Bred Derby Trials and Bell Two Wins Away from 800**



*Brian Bell and the imposing Peightmeadiamond are in the first of two Ontario Bred Derby Trials on June 11*

*Laurie Overton photo*

**AJAX DOWNS, JUNE 10, 2025 -** Ajax Downs kicks off an exciting week with two days of Quarter Horse racing on Wednesday, June 11 followed by a special Father's Day event on Sunday, June 15.

On Wednesday there are two Trials for the \$55,000 **ONTARIO BRED DERBY** for 3-year-olds with the ten fastest times qualifying for the final on July 2. Sunday's card includes the \$30,000 Norman Picov Maturity which will be the first start of 2025 for Canadian and AQHA champion **HAD TO BE IVORY**.

Adding to the excitement this week is jockey Brian Bell's race for 800 career victories, quite a feat for the 24-year veteran considering Picov/Ajax Downs (and a few dates at Fort Erie) have only raced 20 to 45 days each year Bell has ridden. That works out to an average of 33 wins each season. Bell is believed to be the winningest jockey in Canadian Quarter Horse Racing history.

Bell is two wins away from 800 and he rides races 3 through 7 on Wednesday including both Ontario Bred Derby Trials. Race 3 is the first 300-yard Trial and Bell will be aboard stakes placed **PEIGHTMEADIAMOND** for his longtime client, trainer Joe Tavares. A tall son of young, Ontario sire Peight Your Fate, Peightmeadiamond was a closing fifth behind the unbeatable **HAD TO BE FABULOUS** in the Open Derby last month.

**Had to Be Fabulous** drew into the second Trial, race 4, and the Carol and Jaime Robertson filly

has won seven of her eight career races including three stakes. Ismael Mosquera rides Had to Be Fabulous. Bell will try to upset the favourite aboard Rick Kennedy's MAGIC IN WONDERLAND, a filly by Maryand Magic.

Bell's other mounts on Wednesday are NADIR, a favourite in race 5, JUST A KVN in race 6, and IVY LEAGUE SUGARBABY in race 7.

First race post time Wednesday is 1:45 p.m. Sunday's Father's Day card has a first race post time of 12:55 p.m.

Admission and parking are always free at Ajax Downs. You can watch and wager on our exciting races trackside, up close to the action, at our picnic tables. To reserve tables in advance for \$25 or book the VIP room for your party or group, contact [www.ajaxdowns.com](http://www.ajaxdowns.com).

There is also an expansive simulcast wagering room with tellers or you can wager through [www.HPIBet.com](http://www.HPIBet.com).

If you want to get involved in owning a Quarter Horse, contact the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario at 905- 426-7050.

# 2025 RACE SCHEDULE

## LIVE QUARTER HORSE RACING

RACING & EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE ~FAMILY~

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

**RACE DAYS**

**WEDNESDAY**  
MAY 7, 14, 21, 28  
First Race 1:45 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**  
JUNE 4, 11, 25  
First Race 1:45 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**  
JULY 9, 16, 30  
First Race 1:45 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**  
AUGUST 6, 13, 20  
First Race 1:45 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 10, 17, 24  
First Race 12:55 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**  
OCTOBER 1, 8, 22  
First Race 12:55 P.M.

**Special Events!**

**FATHER'S DAY**  
SUNDAY JUNE 15  
First Race 12:55 P.M.

**TWILIGHT RACE NIGHT**  
WEDNESDAY JULY 2  
First Race 4:15 P.M.

**CRAFT BEER DAY**  
SUNDAY JULY 20  
First Race 12:55 P.M.

**FAMILY FUN DAY**  
SUNDAY AUGUST 24  
First Race 12:55 P.M.

**PUMPKIN DAY**  
MONDAY OCTOBER 13  
First Race 12:55 P.M.

ALL SUNDAYS & HOLIDAY MONDAYS  
FIRST RACE 12:55 P.M.

50 ALEXANDER'S CROSSING - AJAX, ONTARIO 905 686-8001  
MORE INFO VISIT [AJAXDOWNS.COM](http://AJAXDOWNS.COM)

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