

What Is The Future of Ajax Downs?

Ajax Downs, located in Ajax, Ontario, a suburb east of Toronto, has a deep rooted history of horse racing in Canada.

For 40 years, it has been exclusively devoted to the sport of Quarter Horse racing. Many of Canada's top jockeys have started their careers on the old "J-track". Formerly called "Picov Downs" the name was changed in 2006 with the establishment of a new Slots facility and construction of a full 6 furlong oval racetrack which was completed in 2009.

Mayor Steve Parish is calling a decision to close the slots operation in Ajax as "devious, backhanded and deceitful." On Wednesday, a Peterborough newspaper reported provincial Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Jeff Leal as saying three gaming sites, including Ajax, would have the slots removed.

A Town spokeswoman said officials have reached out to the Ontario Lottery Gaming (OLG) Corporation, but by late Wednesday had not heard back.

Parish said the Town was especially upset it found out about the developments through the media and not being told beforehand by the provincial government or Great Canadian Gaming, the B.C.-based company selected to operate gaming sites in the GTA.

On Monday, Ajax council passed a motion calling for a third-party review of plans for

the slots.

"Hiding the truth is the same thing as lying. I expected more from the government and more from our MPP (Joe Dickson)," Parish said.

"I've been in politics a long time and I've never seen anything so devious, backhanded and deceitful. It's unbelievable," he added. "In politics, I've seen devious, but this takes the cake."

The Town plans to fight to keep the casino, he said, adding it will be a major issue locally during the upcoming provincial election.

"It may be better to have an alternative government. This government is devious. We'll fight this all the way," Parish said.

"I have sat by for the past few days listening to the misinformation that the Town of Ajax has been dispelling to the people of Ajax, and the smear campaign that they have launched against me. Mayor Steve Parish and members of Council are more than aware of my support to keep the Ajax casino in Ajax with the race track. I have been a champion of the Slots at Ajax Downs and Quarter Horse Racing in Ajax for many years.

The Mayor and council are also fully aware that I have publicly supported the casino and the racetrack. In fact I do it almost everyday. As far back as 2015, I provided a letter of support to the Mayor of Ajax and members of council, for a letter they were sending to OLG in support of the slots

and track in Ajax. To reiterate what Mayor Parish and council already know, the procurement process to modernize gaming in Ontario is overseen by a Fairness Monitor to maintain the integrity of the process. It has been confirmed, that the Fairness Monitor abided by "the principles of openness, fairness and transparency" during this process. I am aware that my opponent Rod Phillips is coming out in favour of the casino. How easy it is for Rod Phillips to parachute in to the riding of Ajax and support a casino staying here, when he is the author of the OLG Modernization that could very well dictate the fate of the Ajax casino. However, I will repeat, I would like both the casino and the race track to remain in Ajax. Furthermore, I am committed to the sustainability of Ajax Downs and Quarter Horse Racing in Ontario." Joe Dickson, MPP Joe Dickson.

Ajax, ON - MP Mark Holland Stated, "I have been closely following recent developments with respect to the casino in Ajax. While this is not a decision of the Government of Canada, it greatly effects our community and, as such, I think it imperative that I comment publicly. Let me state unequivocally my belief that the casino and racetrack should remain in Ajax and not be moved. The casino remains an important resource for the Town of Ajax, both in terms of employment and in terms of the revenue it provides for our citizens. Moving it would be a bad decision and is something I

strongly oppose. I know that MPP Joe Dickson shares my opposition.

There was a lengthy process to establish the casino in Ajax, that included a local plebiscite, and its removal would cause significant adverse impact to our community. This is unacceptable and I have and will oppose it in any way I can."

Ajax Council is deeply disappointed that the Town would learn of such a major decision regarding the fate of the Ajax Casino via the media.

As a partner with OLG for more than a decade, it's unacceptable that we have not been consulted by the Wynne government on this closure. The Ajax facility is one of the most successful gaming sites in North America. We made repeated attempts to meet with both OLG and Great Canadian Gaming since the operator was selected. Now we know why we were ignored.

Ajax residents and the horse racing industry deserve more than a back room deal. The Town is now calling for an independent, fair, public review of the decision."

Patrons of Ajax down were left speechless as they could not believe that the casion is in jeaporady of closing.

One patron said, "That would be awful. I travel from Oshawa by bus here. It is easy access. Now I wil lbe forced to go to Casino Rama. It is a bit out of the way and transportation is a huge factor."

Another patron said, "It is all politics. First Brown and now

the casino. Everyone knows that the casino is a major revenue cash cow for the region. Everyone eats off it. From jobs to charities. The mere threat of closure becomes a political issue in an area that is political turmoil. It seems everyone now has a care for the casino. Yet no one cared when it was rummored that the casino may have been under investigation for possibly mob money laundering."

Joe Dickson, MPP Ajax - Pickering in a desperate attempt to lash out at the Town of Ajax. Put out this statement.

"I have sat by for the past few days listening to the misinformation that the Town of Ajax has been dispelling to the people of Ajax, and the smear campaign that they have launched against me. Mayor Steve Parish and members of Council are more than aware of my support to keep the Ajax casino in Ajax with the race track. I have been a champion of the Slots at Ajax Downs and Quarter Horse Racing in Ajax for many years. The Mayor and council are also fully aware that I have publicly supported the casino and the

racetrack. In fact I do it almost everyday. As far back as 2015, I provided a letter of support to the Mayor of Ajax and members of council, for a letter they were sending to OLG in support of the slots and track in Ajax. To reiterate what Mayor Parish and council already know, the procurement process to modernize gaming in Ontario is overseen by a Fairness Monitor to maintain the integrity of the process. It has been confirmed, that the Fairness Monitor abided by "the principles of openness, fairness and transparency" during this process. I am aware that my opponent Rod Phillips is coming out in favour of the casino. How easy it is for Rod Phillips to parachute in to the riding of Ajax and support a casino staying here, when he is the author of the OLG Modernization that could very well dictate the fate of the Ajax casino. However, I will repeat, I would like both the casino and the race track to remain in Ajax. Furthermore, I am committed to the sustainability of Ajax Downs and Quarter Horse Racing in Ontario."



Here is how to reach us

By mail: 136 Simcoe St North, Unit 4
Oshawa, Ontario. L1G 4S7
Tel: (905) 432-2657

Administration (General Inquiries)
Tel: (905) 432-2605 Circulation
Tel: (905) 432-9987

Classified/Display Advertising
Tel: (905) 432-9989

News Tips And Information
or Fax: (905) 404-0887
Our Email Address is:
newspaper@ocentral.com
Our On line address is:
URL <http://www.ocentral.com>
We publish every Monday.

At The Oshawa Central Newspaper we understand the growing public concern for the environment. We do our part by forecasting the demand of the papers published, based on our sales performance records. By forecasting the quantities we are able to determine the amount required to publish. This way we eliminate recycling and assure that everyone that receives a copy will want one to read. Any Newspapers that are not sold are delivered throughout the City on a promotional basis. In most cases the free papers will be a day or two old. If you want Oshawa's Number One Newspaper delivered to your door on time every Monday do your part and subscribe today, like the many of your neighbors. If you like to pick up a copy. They are available in most local stores.

Oshawa's first On Line (Internet) Newspaper

WE DO 1st, 2nd & 3rd MORTGAGES

\$50,000 FOR ONLY \$500 monthly

CUT MONTHLY PAYMENTS BY UP TO 75%

APPROVALS WITHIN 2 DAYS

2nd Mortgages up to 90%				
You Can Borrow	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$50,000
Monthly Payment	ONLY \$200*	ONLY \$300*	ONLY \$400*	ONLY \$500*

*Terms and Conditions Apply. Payments are principal & interest, FULLY OPEN.

lendmorefinancial.com

LOANS & MORTGAGES SUITABLE FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS
Call or Text: 647-867-7809 for All Your Lending Needs
Call Lendmore Financial first when refinancing, we can provide you with the best rates available.



This is an example of what we can do for you. Payments are principal & interest, or interest only. Terms and conditions apply. Subject to the verification of the information on the credit application and review of the credit worthiness of the borrower.



Lendmore Financial
Powered by Dominion Lending Centres Bedrock Financial Group Lic: 12275
1935 Leslie St. Toronto, ON M3B2M3
Call or Text: 416-837-5460
Email : info@lendmorefinancial.ca • Website: www.lendmorefinancial.com



PHARMACY

1345 KING ST. (E) OSHAWA (South West Corner)
905-434-5005

ALL DRUG PLANS ACCEPTED - EASY PRESCRIPTION TRANSFER
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm Sat 10am - 4pm Sunday Closed