



News Release

For Immediate Release
Monday, October 3, 2005

Marijuana Seized in Backstretch

On Friday September 30, 2005 members of the Ontario Racing Commission Investigative Unit seized 5.6 ounces of Cannabis Marijuana, worth an estimated value of \$1,000.00, while conducting a search for prohibited items under the Rules of Racing at Quinte Exhibition and Raceway in Belleville, Ontario.

Ryan Reynolds, age 29, was arrested and turned over to Belleville Police Service. Reynolds who is a Driver/Trainer from Orillia was subsequently charged with Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking and released from custody to appear at Belleville Provincial Court on October 29, 2005.

Ontario Racing Commission Executive Director John Blakney stated that illegal drugs in the backstretch of racetracks are of concern to the Commission.

The Investigative Unit is comprised of civilian members from the Ontario Racing Commission and police officers seconded from the Illegal Gambling Unit of the Organized Crime Section, Ontario Provincial Police. The Investigative Unit's mandate is to combat illegal drugs within our industry, in their continuance of protecting the Horse Racing Community and the public at large. The ORC Investigative Unit is comprised of civilian investigators and police officers seconded from the Ontario Provincial Police Illegal Gambling Unit of the Organized Crime Section.

Any person wishing to report illegal activity or circumstances of abuse in the horse racing industry is asked to contact the Illegal Gambling Unit at (705) 734-1166, or Rob McKinney, Director of Investigations at 416-327-0520, or the ORC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-668-RACE (7223).

Contact: John L. Blakney, Executive Director
(416) 327-0520