

Saratoga Race Course Hosts Stewart's Shops Day Featuring Annual Ice Cream Eating Contest



Officials from Stewart's Shops, including President Gary Dake (second from right) are joined by New York Lottery Spokeswoman Yolanda Vega (far left) to present the trophy for the day's second race named in honor of Stewart's Shops Day at Saratoga Race Course on Wednesday, August 26.



Ana Salum of Pawtucket, CT holds up her empty pint in victory after winning the adult category in the annual Stewart's Ice Cream Eating Contest at Saratoga Race Course on Wednesday, August 26. Salum finished her pint of Stewart's Philly Vanilla ice cream in 56 seconds.



Jared Caruso, 14, of Latham, NY holds up his empty pint in victory after winning the teen division in the annual Stewart's Ice Cream Eating Contest at Saratoga Race Course on Wednesday, August 26. Caruso finished his pint of Stewart's Philly Vanilla ice cream in 1 minute and 34 seconds.



Charlie Watts, 11, of Ithaca NY smiles after winning the kids division in the annual Stewart's Ice Cream Eating Contest at Saratoga Race Course on Wednesday, August 26. Watts finished his pint of Stewart's Philly Vanilla ice cream in 1 minute and 57 seconds.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. ó The New York Racing Association, Inc. today celebrated a longtime community partner during Stewart's Shops Day at Saratoga Race Course.

Stewart's Shops Day paid tribute to the agriculture heritage and traditions of the locally-owned and operated convenience store chain, whose roots are in the dairy business since beginning as an ice cream shop in 1945.

“Stewart's Shops is an outstanding locally-owned business and has been an integral partner in our successful season pass program at Saratoga,” said The New York Racing Association CEO and President Christopher Kay. “We were excited to celebrate their company's history with a day at Saratoga Race Course in honor of Stewart's Shops.”

The highlight of the day was the annual Stewart's Ice Cream Eating Contest, during which three age groups of kids (ages 6 to 12), teens (ages 13 to 17) and adults (ages 18 and up) competed to finish a pint of ice cream the fastest. The contest was emceed by Yolanda Vega of the New York Lottery and Chad O'Hara of B95.5 FM.

Charlie Watts, 11, of Ithaca, NY won the kid division by finishing a pint of Stewart's Philly Vanilla ice cream in 1 minute and 57 seconds. Jared Caruso, 14, of Latham, NY won the teen division by finishing the pint in 1 minute and 34 seconds and Ana Salum of Pawtucket, CT won the adult division by finishing the pint in 56 seconds. Each received gift certificates for free Stewart's Shops ice cream.

Vega also hosted a meet and greet at the Saratoga Pavilion following the Ice Cream Eating Contest, during which fans had the opportunity to get autographs from and photos with the well-known television personality, who has served as spokeswoman with the New York Lottery for over 25 years.

Officials from Stewart's Shops joined Vega to present the trophy for the day's second race, which was named in honor of Stewart's Shops. Vega lent her trademark voice to the presentation.

In addition to the Ice Cream Eating Contest, the day featured a number of family-friendly activities at the Saratoga Pavilion, including a farm-themed bounce inflatable, photo opportunities with a milk truck, music, face painting and free Stewart's Shops ice cream samples.

Guests also had the opportunity to speak with a local farmer and learn about the history of Stewart's Shops throughout the afternoon. Former products from Stewart's Shops 70-year history were on display.

The NYRA Community Outreach Booth featured the well-known Saratoga Springs-based men's a cappella group Racing City Chorus. Members of the chorus raised funds for the organization by performing at the booth throughout the afternoon as it celebrates its own milestone 60-year

anniversary. The Racing City Chorus also greeted guests at the Clubhouse and Union Avenue entrances as they arrived at Saratoga Race Course.

Stewart's Shops is an employee and family-owned convenience store chain known for offering milk, ice cream, coffee, Easy Food, gasoline, and other convenience items. Today there are 331 Stewart's Shops located in 31 counties across upstate New York and southern Vermont.

The 2015 summer meet at Saratoga Race Course continues through Labor Day, Monday, September 7. For more information about Saratoga Race Course, visit www.nyra.com or call 518-584-6200.