



# My top 10 to watch

## The Ontario stock car scene will be busy again in 2008

SCOTT@GIBSONMOTORSPORTS.CA



### May 31: The Margarita Ice Strawberry 150 at Sauble Speedway (Sauble Beach, ON)

A favourite of many fans and competitors, no season would be complete without a trip to 'The Beach.' Although under new ownership, the track is building on the success of 2007 with two late model specials on the 2008 calendar.

The Margarita Ice Strawberry 150 is the longest race ever held at the speedway and will feature the top Late Model competitors from across Ontario.

### June 22: The First American's IGA Triple Crown of Racing at Cornwall Motor Speedway (Cornwall, ON)

Modifieds, dirt Late Models and Sprint Cars provide some of the most exciting racing action and devoted fans travel great distances to watch their favourite teams.

On June 22, Cornwall Speedway will host all three divisions, making the First American's IGA Triple Crown of racing one of the premier events of 2008.

As part of their 'Great Northern Tour,' the World of Outlaws Late Models will make their first appearance at the speedway. The race will feature many of the stars of the traveling series, and may be joined by several 358 Modified drivers, who will also be racing at the speedway.

### June 27-29: The ARCA Lincoln Welders Trucks / ARCA RE/MAX Series at Cayuga Speedway (Hagersville, ON)

Known as the 'Crown Jewel' of Ontario's speedways, Cayuga has hosted many of the premier touring series and biggest drivers in the sport.

It should come as no surprise that Cayuga headlines the entire 'must see' calendar, with the ARCA RE/MAX series and Lincoln Welders Trucks double header celebrating Canada Day weekend on June 27-29. As the premier development series for NASCAR's top 3 division, ARCA provides the opportunity to watch tomorrow's NASCAR stars in our own backyard.

### July 13: The ACT Summer Sizzler 200 at Kawartha Speedway (Peterborough, ON)

Kawartha hosted its first American-Canadian-Tour (ACT) race in '07 and received praise from competitors and fans for the close racing and for being one of the best facilities on the entire tour.

After the success of its inaugural event, expect an even better race in 2008. The Summer Sizzler will feature the top Late Model competitors from the American North-East and Quebec's Serie ACT Castrol Series battling against regulars from Kawartha's top division.

### July 22-23: The World of Outlaws Sprint Cars at Ohsweken Speedway (Brantford, ON)

The World of Outlaws visited Ohsweken Speedway for the first time last year. They were so impressed with the facility that they named Glenn Styres their 'promoter of the year.' The tour will be returning for two mid-week shows in 2008. If you're not able to book July 22 and/or July 23 off work, you'd better start planning your excuse to play hooky.

For those who can't get enough of the winged warriors, the speedway will also host the 4th Annual Canadian Sprint Car Nationals on Sept. 13.

## Scott Gibson offers - in order - his 'don't miss' Ontario short track races for '08

### August 2-4: Trevor Wilkens Memorial Weekend at Merrittville Speedway (Thorold, ON)

There is no better place to spend the August long weekend than touring the Niagara region's local attractions during the day and watching car races at night. Saturday night should be reserved for the Ontario Dirt Late Models, who replace the 358 Modifieds as the headline division at Merrittville Speedway.

The main event is the Trevor Wilkens Memorial, featuring the Super DIRTCar Series big block Modifieds.

### August 29-31: The APC 300 Weekend at Delaware Speedway (London, ON)

Three days of racing during the Labour Day long weekend will mark the end of the championship chase for Delaware's regular divisions.

Now in its third year, the APC 300 will headline the entire weekend and is one of

the richest and most prestigious events for Late Model competitors in the region.

### September 20-21: The Ontario Sportsman Series Championship / \$10,000 Thunder Car Fall Invitational at Barrie Speedway (Barrie, ON)

After a successful inaugural season in 2007, the Ontario Sportsman Series (OSS) is expected to enjoy considerable growth during its sophomore season. Barrie Speedway will crown the 2008 champion, and will feature Triple 50-lap features for the first time in the series' history. Sharing the spotlight will be an invitational event for Thunder Cars, a class that often provides the closest and most exciting racing of any division in Ontario.

### September 26-27: The Applefest Shootout Weekend at Brighton Speedway (Brighton, ON)

For fans of dirt racing, the Applefest Shootout at Brighton Speedway is their last chance to see 'their sport' before winter sets in. The speedway will conclude the 2008 Lucas Oil Shootout for Sportsman drivers and feature winners from this five-race series will be guaranteed starting spots for Saturday's Sportsman race.

The weekend will host final points races for the track's regular divisions, as well as a challenge between the IMCA Modifieds and the speedway's own Canadian Modifieds. The 2008 dirt racing season will come to and end with the 358 Modified shootout on Sept. 27.

### October 4-5: Oktoberfest at Flamboro Speedway (Hamilton, ON) AND October 10-12: Autumn Colours Classic at Peterborough Speedway (Peterborough, ON)

Just as the race season starts with tradition, the season-ending special events always mark the end of the racing calendar. Local speedways offer exciting racing throughout the year and there is no better way to conclude the season than by attending Flamboro Speedway's Oktoberfest and/or the Autumn Colours Classic at Peterborough Speedway. Every racing division that competes weekly at Ontario's paved speedways will be represented at these special events, which showcase the best that local, grassroots racing has to offer. ♦