

GREG WILLIAMS

ON THE ROAD

Everybody would like to live the dream, whatever the dream might be.

Calgary businessman and racer Ben Docktor says he lived his.

Docktor, the man behind building Race City Speedway in the early 1980s, has been recognized by his peers and will be inducted into the Canadian Motorsports Hall of Fame early this spring.

"At the speedway I was living my dream," Docktor said during a telephone interview. "And this recognition gives me good closure on that part of my life; I'm very grateful."

Docktor, 72, was born and raised in Bismarck, N.D., and said he was interested from an early age in powerful machines that went fast. He remembers seeing an organized drag racing event while visiting California as a preteen, and the sights and sounds left an indelible image. It would be years, however, before Docktor's own racing career would get underway — and at that, he was never much of a drag racer.

As a young man he worked as a roughneck in the oil and gas industry until he lost his left eye in an accident. With a few dollars from a settlement package, Docktor came to Alberta and began buying and selling used oilfield equipment.

Over time, Docktor grew several of his businesses into very well-respected enterprises.

I don't
think I
could
rewrite
my script

**BEN DOCKTOR,
RACE CITY
SPEEDWAY**

Filling his need for speed in the 1970s, Docktor decided to rent a stock car. He won the first race he entered at the old Circle 8 track in northeast Calgary, and he continued to race at other local tracks.

With business going well, he decided to sponsor Harold Browne and his stock cars.

The race vehicles were shipped aboard Docktor's truck and trailer units to tracks across the western provinces and the Pacific Northwest.

"After some time doing that," Docktor said, "I thought it would be less expensive to build a small oval (track) in Calgary and just compete locally. It would cost \$30,000 or \$40,000 a weekend to race — today that doesn't sound