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ON THE ROAD WITH GREG WILLIAMS

Docktor to join motoring Hall of Fame



GREG WILLIAMS
ON THE ROAD

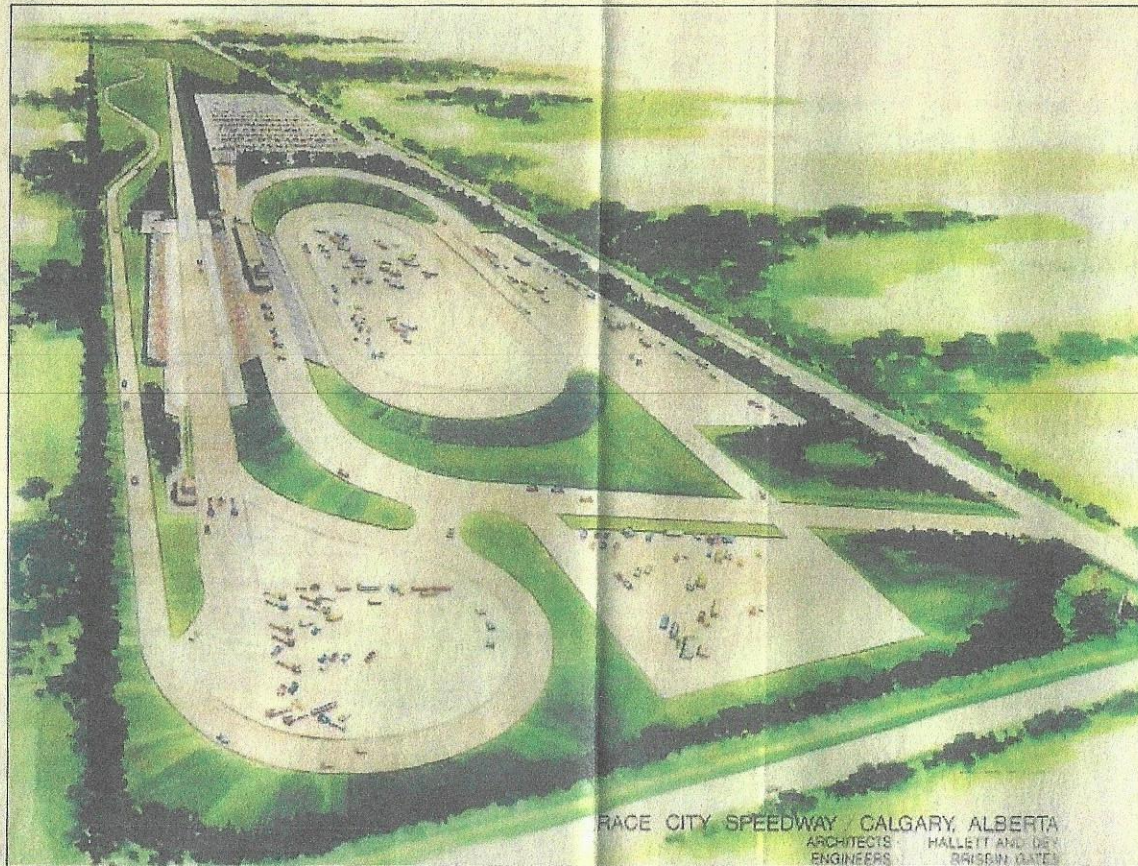
Everybody would like to live the dream, whatever the dream might be.

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



RACE CITY SPEEDWAY / CALGARY, ALBERTA
ARCHITECTS: HALLETT AND DEY
ENGINEERS: BRISBEN GATES

Photo and drawing courtesy Ben Docktor

This artist's drawing shows what Race City was originally envisioned to be. "It was only going to be a little oval track, but then we started looking at a drag strip, and once you put the drag strip in it was easy to incorporate a road course," said track founder Ben Docktor.

certs and cultural festivals.

All aspects of the track were a success, Docktor said, thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who helped organize and execute events.

"Motorsports would not exist if not for the volunteers who help it run," Docktor said.

Docktor enjoyed competing in hobby stock races, and in the

Player's/GM Challenge series.

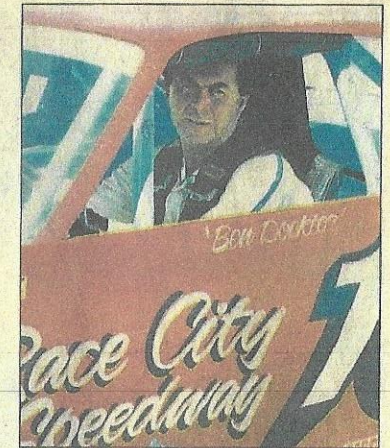
Of his need for speed, he said: "The best seat at a race track is behind the steering wheel. I had a lot of fun, and did win a few races."

For 10 years Docktor spent every weekend at the track, and then every weekday running his oil and gas businesses. In 1995 he sold the track to motorsports en-

thusiast Art MacKenzie, who kept the track functioning as long as possible before the city pulled the lease, effectively shutting down the storied facility at the end of 2011.

When asked about the future of motorsports in Calgary, Docktor was upbeat.

"Canada is a great country, and Alberta is No. 1 in prosperity," he



The best seat at a race track is behind the steering wheel, says Ben Docktor, who competed in hobby stock races.

said. "Calgary is much bigger, and I think there's more reason now to have a facility than when I built mine.

"I think some young entrepreneur is going to get a group together and build a facility, probably nicer than Race City."

In the meantime, Docktor is humbled by his 2012 induction into the Canadian Motorsports Hall of Fame.

He will officially be inducted, together with six other recipients, at the 18th annual Hall of Fame Gala on April 21 at On the Park in Toronto.

"I don't think I could rewrite my script," Docktor concluded. "I got to live my dream through motorsports and the speedway."

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