NEW RIVERSIDE SPEEDWAY OFFICIALLY OPENS SUNDAY

Described As One of the Fastest Car Racing Tracks In The Maritime Provinces

JAMES RIVER - The tranquil peace of this quiet little rural area will be shattered this Sunday afternoon when the Riverside Speedway officially opens.

Described as one of the fastest stock car racing tracks in the Maritimes, it is situated seven miles from Antigonish on the Trans-Canada Highway.

The official opening of the new track will take place this Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. when over 30 drivers and cars in two divisions will compete for \$1,500 in prize money.

Work on the track got underway last fall and was carried out through the winter months with the real drive being put on the last month or so. Most of basic construction work was completed earlier this week and on Tuesday another layer of asphalt was applied, making it easier on car slicks.

The owner of the new track, John Chisholm of Antigonish, said that his main aim was to provide a modern fast racing track for both fans, owners, and drivers alike.

The track at James River is an exact replica of the famed NASCAR Track,

Bristol International Speedway, Bristol, Tennessee, except the plans were scaled down to meet the specifications for a third rather than half-mile racing oval, he said.

Prior to the visit to Bristol, he met Bill France, owner of the Daytona Speedway, who suggested that he construct the third-mile oval after hearing the type of racing cars that were competing in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Chisholm said during the visit he saw some of the best drivers and cars in action, including Richard Petty, Cale and Leroy Yarborough and David Pearson.

After the visit to the U.S. tracks, Mr. Chisholm said he came back home and started working out plans for his own track.

EARTH MOVED

He said the first phase was the moving of thousands of yards of earth to build up the outside walls of the track to a height of 26 feet. He said that he was fortunate in being able to obtain most of the fill from the area where the track was built.

The track owner said there was an 18 degree elevation on the turns and the

super elevation will permit the drivers to maintain their speeds without being pulled into the outside walls.

Pit facilities will be in the centre of the track and will not obstruct the spectator's view of the back straight stretch in any way. He said this type of pit facilities offers drivers a chance to work on their cars close to the track.

On the outside of the track a three and one half foot guardrail has been erected. Behind the rail is four feet of earth.

In front of the 3,800 seat grandstand landscaping is taking place with the aim of shaping a grassed area.

Around the perimeter of the track a steel mesh fence has been installed. Landscaping is also planned for the outside track areas.



Grandstand Designed to Keep Chilly Wind Away From Fans

JAMES RIVER - The grandstand at the Riverside Speedway was built on a huge mound of earth that was hauled there for a purpose.

The owner, John Chisholm, said he had visited other tracks where an all steel grandstand had been built and wasn't satisfied.

He felt that the earth would act as a windbreak, and thus cut down on chilly breezes.

The grandstand at James River will seat close to 4,000 people.

LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED ON TURNS

JAMES RIVER - Lights will be installed on the turns here for the convenience of drivers.

The lights which will be red, green, and yellow, will warn drivers, who will be travelling at breath taking speeds on the one third mile oval, of possible dangers.

The red flashing light will mean stop, green means the track is clear and the flashing amber light means that positions are to be held and drivers are to proceed slowly.

The lights have been tried at other tracks and have proved successful.

Dragcity Announcer Will Be Special Guest at Riverside on Sunday

JAMES RIVER - The colorful announcer who works out of Drag City in Halifax on Tuesday and Saturday nights Jerry Lawrence will be on hand Sunday during the opening of the new Riverside Speedway here.

Mr. Lawrence is a radio announcer in the Halifax area.

The regular announcer will be Don Sheridan of CJFX in Antigonish. Mr. Sheridan is a regular announcer at the Antigonish radio station.

The flag man at Riverside Speedway will be Jack Johnson, of Sydney. Mr. Johnson has had experience in flagging in the Sydney area.

Other officials haven't been named to date.

30 Cars Expected To Take Part in Sunday Races

JAMES RIVER - It's just a matter of hours until the roar of motors, the scream of hot racing slicks, and the cheers of hundreds of fans will be heard here, the official signal for the start of a new stock car racing era in this end of the province at the new Riverside Speedway.

Several local cars are ready for the first race in this section of the province on Sunday at 2:30 p.m., along with cars expected from New Glasgow, Halifax, and New Brunswick.

All indications point to a highly successful stock car racing season at James River under the capable guidance of the owner, John Chisholm, of Antigonish.

Drivers and mechanics have been putting forth last ditch efforts this week to prepare their machines for the big day at the Speedway when a purse of \$1500 will be up for grabs.

Approximately 30 to 35 cars in two divisions will be competing at the track this season.

All cars are expected to be in much improved form this season, expensively geared for more speed to offer the crowd more thrills and spills, of which there should be plenty.

Some of the cars have run into several thousand dollars cost wise. Motors have been taking the biggest slice out of owners pocket books with most drivers adopting the 327 cubic inch GM powerhouse.

Rear ends are reported to be running some car owners around \$500 to \$700, for the quick change.

Newer model cars are now hitting the tracks and the results of many hours of la-

bor, that could be wiped out in a few minutes, will be witnessed this Sunday at Riverside.

The popular chargers will be on hand Sunday and many of these machines are really turning on this year. This writer has seen some of the boys in action earlier this year in Halifax.

"They looked good."

REPORTED ONE OF SAFEST RACING TRACKS

Riverside Speedway is one of the largest and most modern racing complexes in Eastern Canada.

Some of the features of the Speedway include a one third mile paved oval track 50 feet wide, a partially paved pit area, a grandstand which will seat close to 4,000 spectators comfortably, and a canteen and washroom facilities.

A huge parking area will accommodate hundreds of cars. There will be two exits from the parking area.

John Chisholm, owner of the Speedway said more improvements such as grass on the infield and in front of the grandstand and other landscaping is planned.

Riverside Speedway is also one of the safest tracks in Canada.

In both the modified and charger class, each car must complete and satisfactorily pass the inspection of the track technical committee, before being allowed to take part in trial runs of racing events.

Drivers in both divisions of racing are required to wear an approved safety helmet while competing.

HEAD PROTECTOR

As an added safety factor, drivers in both divisions must have a head protector installed behind the driver's head in the car.

In the track rule book, officials have explained the rules of safety to be followed at the raceway. In most cases the rules comply with the national stock car safety rules and those of the National Hot Rod Association.

RULES

Only one person is permitted in any car during its participation in any trial run or racing event.

Strict supervision in the pit area allows only a certain number entrance for each car.

Smoking while driving is prohibited.

All cars must be securely piped and have a fire wall installed as well as having a fire extinguisher inside the vehicle close to the driver.

Seat belts and shoulder straps are mandatory.

The gas tank must be securely fastened.

All doors must be securely fastened. Rear seats, floor mats, and headliners must be removed. Side windows and vents must be removed.

Cars must have brakes with adequate stopping power on four wheels.

All cars must have a clearly visible number.

No outside piping is allowed. Full body cars only allowed.

\$1,500 Purse Up For Grabs On Sunday, May 18

JAMES RIVER - A purse totalling \$1500 will be up for grabs when the first race of the season gets underway at the new Riverside Speedway here.

Approximately 30 cars in two classes are expected to be competing for the big prize money.

A total of \$1160 will be going to the modified division with a \$500 purse in one race, a 35-lap feature.

Approximately 20 cars are expected to take part in the modified feature race. There will be four modified races on Sunday afternoon: 15, 20, 30, and 35 lap events. For the charger there will be 10, 15, and 20 lap events.

Cars are expected from all over the province and from New Brunswick on Sunday.

The owner of the track John Chisholm, said that the aim of the track officials will be to get all events underway fast and prevent any unnecessary delays.

There will be towing services available in the pit to haul away any vehicles that may have been damaged during an event. Welding and burning services will also be on hand.

There will be a security officer on duty in the large parking area for the convenience of spectators. They will also be on duty during the racing events to make sure no vehicles are tampered with.

A completely new sound system will be installed, much along the same lines as the system used at the St. Francis Xavier University football field.

A large crowd is expected on Sunday.





Riverside INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

1969 Opening Day

Dream Becomes Reality

The story of Riverside International Speedway started in 1967 with a dream by 21-year-old John Chisholm, an entrepreneur from Antigonish. A avid racer and race fan, Chisholm lamented the lack of a first-class racing facility in this area. So he decided to build a track, but not just any track, the best track. He traveled to Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee where he met with NASCAR founder Bill France Sr. Bill liked John's gumption and gave him permission to survey Bristol and copy its design. Two years later, on May 18, 1969, Riverside opened.



Spring 1969 - Testing the new track

Believed To Be Largest Crowd To Ever Attend Sports Event In Area





1969 Neil Armstrong, first man on the moon















1970 Ready to race

1970 John Chisholm

1970 Transporting car in a dump truck





1970 Anne Murray's Snowbird' was the #1 selling single in Canada, #8 in U.S.



969 Adelard Cormier

69 Terry Clattenbu

1972 Paul Henderson scored defeating the Soviet Union in the **Summit Series**



1973 Elvis Presley Aloha from Hawaii live via Satellite



CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS 1969-2019





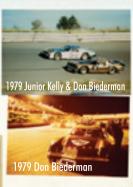
977 Jr. Hanley hauler



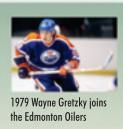


Ontario's Bill Watson

wins the inaugural



1977 Pits



1977 Bill Watson



1979 Sony Walkman





1979 Daytona 500 makes history as the first live national TV broadcast. That along with the famous fight at the Daytona 500, putting NASCAR on the map

Riverside INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY



1981 NASCAR North







1983 First MASCAR Race

Late in 1982 a group of racers formed MASCAR, the regions first touring series. The inaugural MASCAR event was held at Riverside Speedway May 22, 1983, won by Bob Yuille.

MASCAR's last year was 2000.







1983 First commercial mobile handheld phone available



1983 National Lampoons Vacation



1983 Stroker Ace



1984 Richard Petty's 200th race win



1984 Final episode of Happy Days after a 10-year run on TV

Sewart, Northrup share Riverside spotlight



1984 The Sports Network launched



1985 Bill Elliott wins million dollar bonus at Darlington (Southern 500)



1984 Debbie Hallahan First female driver in MASCAR



1985 NASCAR North



1985 NASCAR North starting lineup



MASCAR



1986 Greg Sewart wins first of two 250s at Riverside















90

Riverside INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY



1990 Days of Thunder



1990 World Wide Web created by British physicist Tim Berners-Lee



1991 Richard Petty's last race (1184 Cup races over 34 years, 200 wins)



1991 ACT 50K Triple Crown

Jr. Hanley wins \$50,000 Bud Triple Crown (driving a Molson sponsored car) - total winnings for the ACT event \$57,160













Scott Fraser's helmet









Greg Sewart finishes 2nd in the Oxford 250



Dale Earnhardt wins his seventh NASCAR Cup Series Championship, matching Richard Petty



Jeff Gordon's first NASCAR Cup Series win, Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte

Riverside 250 Trophies

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS 1969-2019



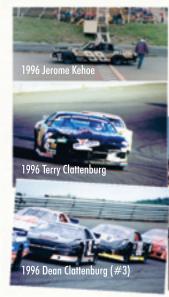




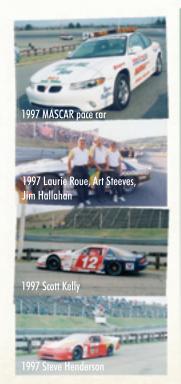
1996 '250' Fraser Vs. Fraser



In a year that Scott Fraser dominated MASCAR winning 12 of 15 races en route to the championship, in the annual 250 at Riverside, Scott's father Frank Fraser thought he had a car to beat his son... until his car engine dropped a cylinder in the closing laps... while he was attempting to pass Scott for the win. They finished first and second.









Dale Earnhardt wins the Daytona 500



NASCAR's 50th Anniversary



Google founded



1998 Scott Kelly finishes 3rd in the Oxford 250





Emotional win for Scott Kelly while undergoing chemotherapy



1998 Scott Fraser wins fifth consecutive Riverside 250









Riverside INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY



2000 Scott Fraser, aka Shubie Shuttle, becomes nationally known as he moves into ASA



2000 Gone in 60 Seconds







2001 The Fast and the Furious













2005 You Tube launched



2006 Twitter launched

2006 The Rebuild

On January 6, 2006, John Chisholm started a major rebuild of Riverside Speedway. On August 19, 2006, the facility reopened as a rebranded Riverside International Speedway. The rebuild was done with the same extraordinary vision and passion exhibited by Mr. Chisholm as when he built the facility in 1969. The oval was repayed but the notorious shape and banking was retained. Mr. Chisholm added concrete retaining walls, new and bigger grandstands, a modern tower with VIP seating, race control, and announcer's booth on the top level and a canteen, snack bar, souvenir shop, and large modern washrooms on the bottom level. The infrastructure included new sound and lighting systems, a state-of-the-art electronic scoreboard, utilities, and the parking and campground areas were improved and enlarged. Everything except the starters stand was either replaced or rebuilt.





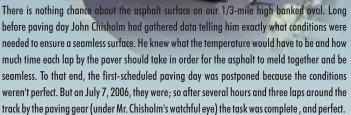






Flag stand John Chisholm

2006 Paving Day







2006 Grand Reopening



2006 Fall Foliage 250



2007 NASCAR Returns



2007 Rebranded the'IWK250"

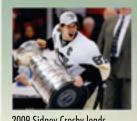
Long before the inception of the IWK 250 at Riverside International Speedway, Nova Scotia businessmen Steve Lewis and the late John Chisholm were established philanthropists, each privately assisting their charities of choice and generously giving back to the communities that have supported them.

In 2007, as co-founders of the IWK 250, Chisholm and Lewis joined forces to provide support to something near the hearts of most Maritimers — the IWK Health Centre — our region's specialized health centre for women, children, youth, and families. Since then the IWK 250 presented by Steve Lewis has raised awareness about the world-class care provided at the IWK Health Centre and, through 2018, donated more than \$480,000 to the IWK Foundation.









2009 Sidney Crosby leads Pittsburgh Penguins to his first Stanley Cup

2008 Regan Smith IWK Champion

2009 Steve Lewis pace car

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Riverside INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY



2010 Instagram launched



2010 iPad launched

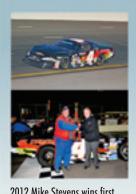


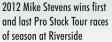
2011 Snapchat launched













2013 Million Dollar Donation



A very generous, surprise donation helped kick-off the 2013 edition of the IWK 250. John 'Nova' Chisholm, a well-known philanthropist, owner of the speedway and co-founder of the IWK 250, announced his family would contribute \$1 million to support the development of a new state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the IWK Health Centre.

Thousands of spectators looked on in astonishment as the historical announcement was made during opening ceremonies for the IWK 250 Presented by Steve Lewis and, for a brief moment while they were processing what they had just witnessed, you could have heard a pin drop, and then there was a roar of applause as they rose to their feet simultaneously to offer a standing ovation for the big-hearted gift from the Chisholm family.



2013 Danica Parick makes history becomting the first female pole winner in NASCAR (Daytona 500)



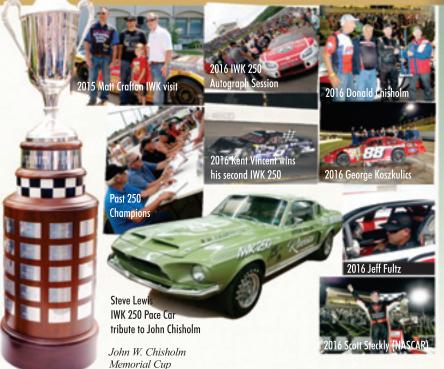
2014 Chisholm Wins NASCAR Race



2014 Donald Chisholm, first Nova Scotian to win a NASCAR race



2014 Nova Racing crew celebrates in Victory Lane





2015 Jeff Gordon's Last NASCAR Cup Series win (Martinsville)



2016 Jimmie Johnson ties Richard Petty with 7th NASCAR title



2016 The Tragically Hip's final concert

2016 First IWK 250 Tailgate Party



Featuring Signal Hill



