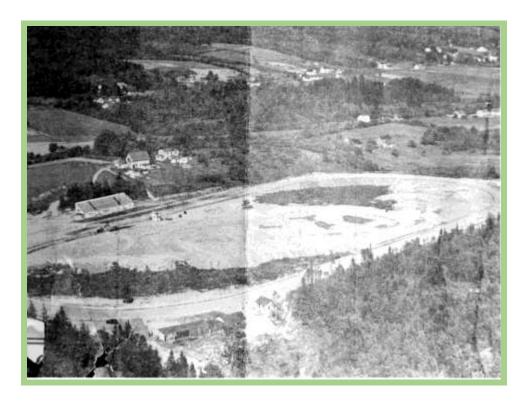# SACKVILLE'S FIRST RACETRACK:
The SACKVILLE RACEWAY

Very few Sackville residents realize that before the Sackville Downs there was another harness racetrack in Sackville. The track was situated on the Old Sackville Road and belonged to the Walker family.

Charles Walker, son of Sam Walker, bought a two-hundred-acre farm in Lower Sackville. He loved horseracing and wondered what would become of the sport with no place to race in the city, due to the fact that the Exhibition Grounds in Halifax had been taken over by the military for the Second World War effort. He thought about the seriousness of the situation and decided to turn a half-mile of his property into a training and racing track.

The Walker property became known as the Sackville Raceway (seen below). The first race was in 1946. Three to four races were scheduled every year in cooperation with the other tracks in the region. Upwards of sixty horses trained at the track each spring.

The Walker's had eight standard bred horses at one time and raced at least three or four on the weekly circuits with Bridgewater, Truro, Halifax, New Glasgow, Fredericton and Charlottetown.

Sam Walker, the son of the Charles Walker, became interested in horseracing like his father and grandfather. Horseracing was a hobby and love of the Walker's; it was for that reason that the farm was bought by Sam from his father Charles in 1968. His love of the sport did not waiver with the Downs opening in 1956.

Sam Walker in his Sulky at the Sackville Raceway, c. 1952.