Greatest racing season ever on tap

Harness racing on Prince Edward Island should have its best season in history if present talk is any indication.

Horses are training hard for the opening night which is scheduled for Charlottetown Driving Park on Saturday June 1.

The railbirds are already on the job and they are picking their winners before they even reach the classifier.

Both Charlottetown and Summerside tracks are getting loads of attention from their operators. Each track has received most liberal quantities of rock dust which seems to insure racing being held in almost any kind of weather. Each track, with an eye to the comfort of its patrons, will be properly equipped to handle the folks in disagreeable weather. Covered stands will rule out the chance of anybody taking a wetting while the races are on.

Horsemen and race track officials in both centres are most enthusiastic about the 1963 campaign. They believe they have an excellent product to sell the sports fans on Prince Edward Island and they are convinced those same sports fans will buy this same product.

It's a rough financial business trying to make ends meet in Prince Edward Island racing but those running the game are agreed the customer must get the biggest consideration. That's the reason for all the work being done on both raceways.

At Charlottetown Driving Park, the big work being done is the covering for the nearly-new grandstand. This is something that will put the finishing touch to a great plant. The directors, realizing the need of the roof, decided earlier this season that it was a must for the success of harness racing at the popular Charlottetown oval.

In Summerside, the Prince County Horsemen's Club has leased the raceway from the town and they are already at work doing a complete facelifting. When the first race goes at the western capital, patrons are being told they'll hardly recognize the place.

As far as horses are concerned, there'll be loads of them for both centres. The stalls are full at both raceways and there are many others just itching to find stable space.

Last week, race secretary and classifier at the CDP, Frank "Duck" Acorn released the entries of "early closers" to be raced in June and early July. "Duck" was thrilled with the great response and predicted that all of these events would provide the keenest of competition. There'll be more "early closers" announced for later dates and it's a safe guess that they'll be packed as well.

Summerside will begin its race season June 26 and conclude it on Sept. 25. Charlottetown swings into action June 1 and runs through until Oct. 12.

At Charlottetown three legs of the Maritime circuit will be raced. The first, The Evening Patriot Inaugural, is slated for July 6. The second, The Evening Patriot Invitational is set for Monday night of Old Home Week August 12, and the final of the Island's triple crown of racing, The Evening Patriot Gold Cup and Saucer, Friday night, August 16. In all 11 race programs are slated for the big week of the provincial exhibition.

At Summerside, Lobster Carnival Week will be the greatest racing feast for patrons of this track. Five cards will be run off during this annual celebration, with a leg of the Maritime circuit free-for-all as the top attraction. All other races, not including Lobster Carnival Week, at Summerside will be raced on Wednesday nights.

The capital city oval starts action on a Saturday night, June 1. Races will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays until Summerside gets into the picture on June 26. After that the CDP program will go on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays with a few exceptions. Monday, July 1, will be a Summerside day, with cards going both afternoon and evening. Charlottetown will have Wednesday July 3 but Summerside gets back into the Wednesday shift on July 10. There'll be no racing at Charloatetown during Lobster Carnival Week and Summerside Raceway will be without action while the Old Home Week celebration is being carried on.

STANDARD BREDS POUNDING DOWN THE STRETCH AT CH'TOWN

Everything points to a great season and horsemen and those promoting the great sport are hoping for a break from the weatherman during the summer months ahead.

LITTLE SCHOOLHOUSES DISAPPEARING

The little red school house has all but disappeared from the scene in Prince Edward Island. Modernistic, Regional High Schools, composite and improved graded schools have taken its place.

Matching the advanced designs of school buildings, the concept in church building has also undergone a revolutionary change. Striking new architectural designs have been used to build new churches in the province, but many of the old wooden churches, with their high steeples, are still to be found in the smaller towns and villages.

Prince of Wales College and Saint Dunstan's University both in Charlottetown, are the two institutions of higher learning. The former is a junior college established in 1835. Saint Dunstan's, founded in 1855, includes two years of high school and four university years.

Other local and regional High Schools include: Summerside Academy, Queen Charlotte and Birchwood in Charlottetown, Montague, Tignish, Alberton, O'Leary, Evangeline, Stella Maris, and Central Queens.

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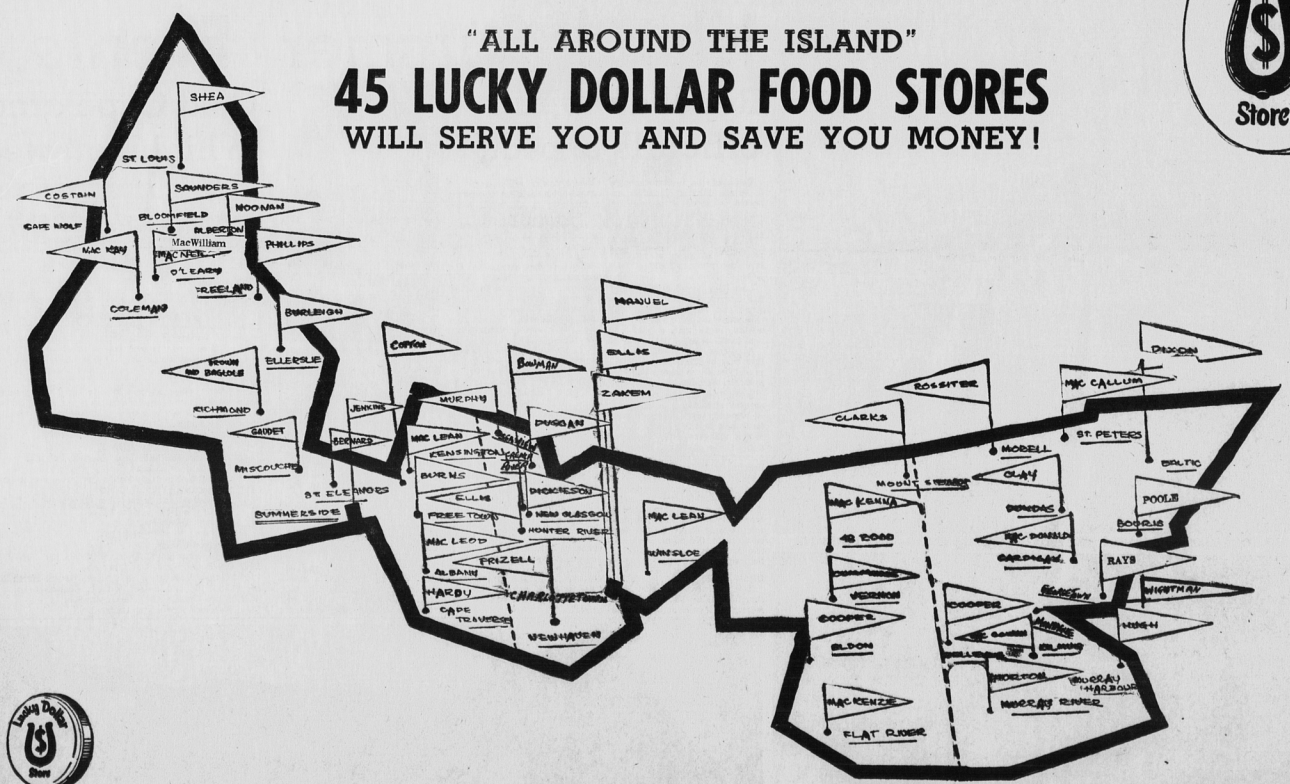

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