



Do You Remember...Westwood Motorsport Park?

📅 December 30, 2015 👤 CQ125 💬 No comments



(Image source: Photographer Craig Hodge, Columbian Company fonds, City of Coquitlam Archives)

Are you a fan of fast cars? Do you know what a mud runner is? Have you heard of the Powder Puff Derby? Then perhaps you've made a visit to Coquitlam's famed Westwood Motorsport Park.

Westwood held its first race on July 26, 1959 and was a hotspot for motor sports enthusiasts until it closed in 1990. Westwood was Coquitlam's and Canada's first purpose-built track and hosted racing greats such as Mario Andretti, Gilles Villeneuve and Bobby Rahal. While today the area is residential and boasts beautiful homes and golf greens, the street names still carry memories of its checkered flag past.

Building the racetrack was no easy feat. Coquitlam resident Ron Curties remembers helping to blow up and burn stumps on land that had already been cleared and contained the remains of two logging roads. Often he was joined by up to 100 volunteers including locals and racers Marg and Geoff Hortin. The land was leased from the province and the track named after Earle Westwood, the Minister of Recreation and Conservation at the time.

The track was 1.8 miles long and incorporating some of Coquitlam's steep, natural geography, featured steep rises and drops. Drivers and spectators alike might remember turn one known as the "Carousel" because it banked heavily, turn three as it featured a 75-foot drop, or "The Hairpin", reputed to be one of the most difficult braking corners anywhere.

If you have a Westwood memory, please share your story, photos and artifacts with the Coquitlam 125 story gathering team at stories@coquitlam.ca, or you can [submit your stories](#) online. Help us to celebrate Coquitlam's 125th birthday in 2016!

Categories: [125 News](#), [Our Stories](#)

