

Brooklin Heritage Society
Brooklin's world class go-kart track
By Jennifer Hudgins

The world's largest go-kart track was once in Brooklin.

Family Kartways, a rental go-kart track and popular tourist attraction on Highway 12, south of Brooklin, was owned and operated by Richard (Pop) Clark, an avid stock car racer. He bought the 35-acre property in 1963 and, with his family, operated the track for 27 years. During that time, it underwent nine expansions. A popular weekend hangout for families, he hired students to work during the summer.

Family Kartways hosted many group races and one popular event was held in August of 1980. The Goodyear Media Challenge Cup, a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada, saw many T.V. and newspaper employees participate. Dan Proudfoot of the Sunday Sun won first prize when he raced against Peter Gross of CITY-TV and Jeff Labow of the Globe and Mail, leaving them both in his dust!

For six years, Mike Sorichetti worked with the Clarks so that when Richard retired in 1990, Mike took over ownership. Within four months, he expanded Kiddie Land, which offered a program of six professional shows over the summer. He also added new rides, including a 60-foot ferris wheel. During Mike's seven years of ownership, Family Kartways included major attractions like a 150-game indoor arcade, mini golf course, and batting cages.

During its existence, over seven million people entered its gates. Unfortunately, this wasn't enough to keep the business going and, in 1997, the property went into receivership. It sat vacant for three years with most of its assets sold. On Labour Day weekend in 1999, arsonists torched the main building.

Liza Homes purchased the property in 2000 and by the summer of 2001, development of the area had begun. Two hundred houses were eventually constructed where the racetrack had once been, leaving the fun times at Family Kartways just a memory.



**Family Kartway Ltd.
Whitby Ontario
Canada**

**World's Largest
Go Kart Track**