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Release

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

CABLE CODE - RACING

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Set-up and Camera
Felix Lazarus

Prod. No. 53-302-16
325' fine grain pos.

CANADIAN HORSES CAPTURE TOP HONOURS AT THE INTERNATIONAL ICE RACES
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LAKE BANOOK SCENIC SETTING FOR "KING OF SPORTS"
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10,000 SPECTATORS BRAVE 15 BELOW ZERO WEATHER TO WATCH THE
SULKY JOCKEYS
.....

Lake Banook, N.S.

Site of this year's International Ice Races was Lake Banook, the first in a chain of lakes that stretch almost across Nova Scotia. The International Meet had its inauguration about 10 years ago when Dartmouth horsemen invited sulky jockeys from the Eastern Provinces for an inter-club meet. From there it has grown with entries from the Eastern United States, particularly Maine.

The townspeople of Dartmouth prayed for cold weather and their prayers were answered. It was 15 degrees below zero for the two-day meet, giving this town of 15,000 its coldest weather in many years. Despite the cold, 10,000 people turned up to watch. Many braved the cold from heated cars.

The history of harness racing on the Dartmouth Lakes goes back a long way with newspaper clippings showing accounts of racing as far back as 1830. In the 1800's this water route was used by the MicMac Indians to make war on "the white man" at Dartmouth, which was settled as early as 1750.

Phil Reed, a young Fort Fairfield, Maine, horseman gave the race meet an international flavour this year, bringing two entries, across the line for the race. Although he failed to win major pieces of silverware, Reed copped second place with Delaware Chief in the free for all pace.

Lusty's Queen, driven by "Bunny" Walker, representing the Halifax Harness Horse Club won the International Ice Trotting Championship. Tonymite, driven by Donnie Turner, representing the Eastern Driving Association of Dartmouth walked away with the championship pace laurels with the fastest time over the straitaway during the two day meet.