

"Olympia" is one of the most popular words in the Greek Language. For centuries the Greek people in the ancient city of Athens associated the word Olympia with many aspects of sports and it was here that the Olympic games were introduced.

Greek citizens who immigrated to United States and to Canada many of whom were flawless artists in the art of cooking, introduced culinary art and many restaurant owned and operated by these Greek gentlemen became known as "The Olympia".

The Olympia in Lindsay is one, a restaurant which was established and operated by Tony Bakogorge for many years, later to be taken over by the late Chris Tozios and at present owned by Mrs. Chris. Tozios.

Tony Bakogorge was a lad of tender years when he lived in Baltimore, U.S.A. and he lived in Hamilton, Toronto and Barrie before venturing in business in Lindsay in 1906. The Bakogorge brothers operated a confectionery business at Barrie and later on went to Oshawa to launch the Bakogorge Bowling Alley and Tony moved to Lindsay. It was natural that when he had a large sign extended out from the present location on Kent Street it was electrified with the name "Olympia" — natural because he was at all times interested in sports, exemplified in the Greek word Olympia.

From the start, business was good. It was the first fine restaurant in Lindsay in the then so called modern age. It was not long until he was approached by a group of young men who had very little difficulty in persuading him to operate baseball and hockey teams., and the citizens of Lindsay and district today remember what a great contribution he made to sports. He was liberal in his financial support, he had the best equipment, he supplied the transportation, he supplied the meals and he received loyal support from many a young and enthusiastic ball tosser and puck chaser.

First transportation years ago was by means of a Russell car and later a large McLaughlin. One trip was recalled to Bowmanville when the second car broke down the team returned in the one car. These were the days when the Olympia teams cleaned up on all contenders in hockey and baseball, but the best games were in the days when Tony managed the Lindsay Greybirds and when the semi-pro baseball League included Belleville, Port Hope, Cobourg, Peterboro, Oshawa and Lindsay. The brand of ball was the best in Eastern Ontario — the Days when Goyer and Mills formed, Dainty and Tyson the Oshawa Battery and Cannon Ball Ed. Scott, Chuck Allen, Hilton Brown, George Logan and Bart Cummins were in the Lindsay batteries.

Twice Oshawa and Lindsay, playing in Lindsay had two 13 inning games. Crowds were large, Lindsay and Peterboro Merchants closed stores in order to let employees see the games. They were hectic days for Umpires and one game at Peterboro, Umpire Dick Butler of Lindsay was almost ducked in the Otonabee River by an angry mob the days of such other fine Umpires as Alex. Kay of Peterboro and Rosevear of Cobourg.

Hockey engagements were equally as hard fought when the old ice band box on Lindsay Street South was generally crowded to the rafters.

Tony Bakogorge sold the Olympia to Chris Tozios and went into the wholesale tobacco distributing business where he again met with success. He is now celebrating his 83rd birthday and is enjoying very good health. He is most happy when he entertains old friends in his office, where the big swivel chair swings behind his flat top desk and where one wall is lined with enlarged pictures of former baseball and hockey teams. Some of the names of former "greats" on the local diamond and on the ice pad included:

1911, (Hockey) — K. Sylvester, Jack Dugan, Herb Paton, Geo. Preston, C. Meehan (Mgr.)

Harold Mercer, H. Metherell, O. Newton, W. McMahon.

1914 (Baseball) — H. Nesbitt, W. Langdon, Les. Richmond, Geo. Weeks, Ira Connell. Hilton Brown, E. Moore, Fred Scott, C. Mirtagh, E. Quibell, F. Mann, Parker.

1915, (Baseball) — Geo. Weeks, McNevin, W. Langdon, Les Richmond, H. Workman, H. Nesbitt, A. Carew, C. McElroy, W. McMahon, Art Carew.

1918, (Hockey) — C. O'Loughlin, C. Griffis, J. Boe, N. Green, H. Metherell, N. Wetlaufer, Jack Haugh, Lipsett, Art Carew.

1920 (Hockey) — E. Coombs, Chas. Griffis, Abercrombie, C. O'Loughlin, C. Carew, Gord Flavelle, Lipsett, Harold Rogers, C. Stoddard, N. Gren, L. Oliver.

Members of the one time famous Lindsay Grey Birds Baseball team included: Ab. Hill, Ed. Scott, Chas. Allan, J. Ouelette, N. Star. (Catchers) — Geo. Logan, Hilton Brown, Bart Cummins. Fielders included: E. Coombs, H. Workman, W. McMahon, H. Brownscombe, Hugh Cummins, H. Williamson, A. Carew, L. Richmond, Elgin Bates, O. Ashton, J. Starr.