

Hundreds and hundreds of tons of highly polished beautiful granite, expertly moulded grey granite in the form of curling stones have been shipped across the broad Atlantic from the quarries in Scotland to clubs spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Lindsay Curling Club, however, had an experience not equalled by any other — a shipment of white handled rocks lie somewhere on the bed of the Atlantic Ocean in the ruins of the British steamer Athenia. The curling stones were part of the cargo blasted to the bottom of the sea by a German torpedo. The second shipment arrived a few weeks later. Hallie McMullen had the honor being President of the Club at the time and also had the headaches.

Previously curlers owned their own stones and the collection included several different sizes and shapes, from the tea kettle shaped stones which Dr. Hugh Logan had brought with him from his home club at Niagara Falls, to the big set of 50 pound rocks which were deftly handled by Dick Butler when playing lead for J. D. Flavell's Tankard rink. Once these heavy stones settled on the natural ice at that time, they were hard to dislodge. Later on the big fifty pounders were disallowed and discarded.

The curling stones were a motley conglomeration and some members had their initials chisled on the granites by Billy Mills, the marble sculpturers and other curlers distinguished their rocks by tying on coloured ribbons.

What became of the old stones? They were sold to newly formed clubs in Western Canada, where the roaring game caught on like wild fire.

There appeared to be more time for curling years ago and games were frequently played in the afternoons. Friendly matches took place every winter for silver trophies between clubs at Oshawa, Peterborough, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Cannington, Beaverton and Orillia. It was the custom to haul the stones in a sleigh to the railway station and load them in the baggage car, and frequently the stones had to be placed in a snow bank outside the rink to cool off after being in the heated baggage car. At times, when the stones were set down on curling ice, they sank down a quarter of an inch behind the hacks.

In the days of the Shepard-Needler cup match the Lindsay stones were transported by C.P.R. train to Orillia and after the game at Orillia were carried back to Lindsay on the GTR and transferred at Blackwater to the Lindsay train.

The Toronto Granite match in Toronto was arranged yearly by Bob Fitzpatrick, a Lindsay boy who was a member of the Toronto Club.

The Carew - Drew curling trophy was sponsored by two

lumber dealers, Drew of Oshawa and Frank Carew of Lindsay.

The Neil trophy for competition between Peterborough and Lindsay was donated by the Neill Shoe Store.

William Needler was the donor of the Shephard-Needle Cup played for by Orillia and Lindsay.

George McFadden of Lindsay and Fred McDermid of Fenelon Falls were donors of the Fenelon Falls - Lindsay cup and Peter McMillan was the donor of the Beaverton-Lindsay cup.

Lindsay curlers who recently visited Orillia were shown the large and beautiful trophy competed for yearly by Lindsay.

Several years ago Lindsay Clubhouse housed a large number of old trophies. The case and the trophies have disappeared, unfortunately.

It is worthy of note that of all the old cup matches, only one is held today, and this is the match between Dunsford and Lindsay, which took place at the Lindsay rink a few weeks ago.