

For the benefit and enlightenment of the younger generation of local sportsmen, athletic records disclose that this town on the Scugog has in the past heralded and acclaimed many champions. History records that lacrosse, once recognized as Canada's National game, was a stiff, rugged and tough game when local teams competed with the best in Eastern Ontario. Games were played outdoors with plenty of running room. Rough because it was not unusual to see players lying on the field with doctors administering first aid and trainers wrapping bandages and covering bloody cuts. Indoor lacrosse lacks the stamina of the past.

Lacrosse was introduced in Lindsay by the McMillan Brothers of the then famous Beaverton Checkers team. Lindsay players included Walter Reesor, Curley Elliot, a one armed player, "Slats" Riley, a printer, George Carruthers, a tailor and a man called McManus.

Cricket was a fast game and many fine matches were played on the Collegiate campus in the days when the players wore long white flannels, white shorts and blue caps. The three players who boosted the game included J. C. Harstone, headmaster at the Collegiate, Alex. Paton a telegrapher and an Englishman, named Sheldon, who clerked in the Edwards Hardware store.

Bicycling was popular with an active organized club, and it is recorded that J. D. Flavelle and other riders undertook jaunts to Toronto and Montreal and that one of the best was J. D. Flavelle.

Tennis was first played by members of a club on a vacant lot at the corner of Mill and Russell Streets and at the Collegiate campus. Art. Hooper, who became a Toronto teacher, was one of the best players. The game has always had a number of enthusiasts and in recent years the club has been quite successful and opened a very fine club house and courts on Elgin Street near Angeline, with much of the hard work being in the hands of Rhys Williams, Cy. Ainsworth and Ches. Richmond.

Lindsay's participation in hockey dates back many years to championships won and lost in the old Lindsay Street rink. Notable was the winning of the intermediate championship of the Ontario Ice Hockey Association when the Lindsay Midgets defeated Stratford Midgets, with Stratford winning the Junior championship from Lindsay in the previous year.

Lindsay's record in football includes the year the Collegiate team coached by W. Breese won the Ontario High School championship.

A number of large banners hanging on the walls of the Curling Club on Peel Street testify to the ability of local curlers. The game is one of the oldest in Lindsay and is still a major sport.

Speed skating was at one time highly competitive and in this category Lindsay produced a world champion. His name was Charles Pilkey and his search and climb to the championship took him to Toronto and New York.

In baseball the Lindsay Red Birds won the championship of the Midland baseball league by defeating Belleville, Peterborough, Port Hope, Cobourg and Oshawa.

Tony Bakogearge with the Olympias won the Tri County league honors and did well in the Central Ontario League.

Lindsay badminton players were quite formidable when the game was played in the armoury.

Golfing in Lindsay dates a long way back to the days of George Little and Larry O'Connor and when Charlie Williams was quite active as well as Flavelle, O'Connor, Perkins and others.

Lawn bowling in Lindsay "saw the light of day" when Bill Ferguson, John Turner, George Bell started the game on two greens on the present public library grounds, thence to St. Mary's greens on Glenelg street, to the Club at St. Paul's Church and then to the very fine greens and Club house on Kawartha Park.

It is understood that baseball was played years ago on a diamond on Victoria Ave., north of the public library and also on a diamond in a field bounded by Victoria Ave., Melbourne, Cambridge and Glenelg streets. At one time there was a busy baseball diamond in a vacant lot north of the Peel Street curling rink and another at the corner of Wellington and Albert streets. Baseball in the east ward was played in the school grounds.

Skating, which at one time was a major pastime in Lindsay, was enjoyed by young people and their elders in a rink on Victoria park, operated by a Mr. Thos. Fee. Skating was a great pastime in the old frame rink on Lindsay Street South. The ice covered a wooden floor. Later on roller skating opened in this rink but was never very successful.

Boating, especially canoeing, was very popular before the advent of the motor boat and a Canoe Club on Kent Street East, was a busy place. Canoeists thought nothing of paddling to Sturgeon Lake, a distance of seven miles. Regattas were popular and hundreds of citizens made the trip to Sturgeon Point by passenger steamers which included the Crandella and Esturion and the smaller Cayuga, Omegah and Maple Lake and Stoney Lake.

The annual excursion sponsored by the Flavelle-Needier grist mill attracted hundreds of people and basket picnics at the Point were quite popular.

Many readers will remember the day-long boat trips which carried hundreds of people to the Peterborough Lift Locks, then by Grand Trunk railway back to Lindsay.

Moonlight excursions were also popular with the steamer plying the Scugog River and Sturgeon Lake to Pleasant and Sturgeon Points and many times the band was along to enliven the trip. The sound of

the boat whistle was just as popular and as regular as the steam whistle on the railway engine.

“Them were the days” when the family picnic basket was very popular, when the fresh air seemed to whet the appetite and work and manual la-

bor seldom came to mind. Those were the days when the band always closed the excursion party by playing “Good Night Ladies”, and many a person strolled home by the light of the silvery moon and “Good Night Ladies” was timely and welcome.