

In the realm of sports, Lindsay had a great number of leaders and many teams of championship calibre dating back and beyond the limits of a century.

Canada's one time national game of lacrosse was played on the fair grounds and boys who were handed down lacrosse sticks from their fathers played this game which was once rough and tough. A player had to be fast on his feet, take and give punishment. Many times players had their heads cracked open and arms and legs were at times covered with welts.

One of the trickiest players was "Shorty" Elliott, a one-arm player who in his spare time clerked in Phil Morgan's drug store. Other players were Jim Davis, "Slats" Riley and Walter Reesor. The game was given an extra impulse by the McMillan brothers who lived in Beaverton, and incidentally Peter McMillan introduced the game of curling to Lindsay. McMillan belonged to the team known as the "Checkers", an Ontario championship team.

Curling has always been a great game in Lindsay, first played with wooden blocks on the Scugog River, next in a rink on Victoria Park, thence to a rink at the corner of William and Russell Streets,

thence to the rink on Peel Street. When the first curling rink was built on Peel Street the large wooden trusses were moved from the rink on Russell Street.

The most acclaimed exponent of the game was J. D. Flavelle who took teams to bonspiels in Quebec City, Montreal, Winnipeg and the U.S. He was recognized as the Dean of Curling. The Lindsay club won many trophies and these were for years on display in the Peel Street rink. A number of Ontario Tankard banners are encased in the local rink. Today the Lindsay club house and rink is one of the best in the province.

Baseball in Lindsay dates back to the time when only the catcher used a glove which was called a mitt or decker. Lindsay teams won the Midland league championship and later the championship of the Eastern Central League.

Cricket was played in the high school grounds and tennis on a lot at the corner of Russell and Mill Streets.

Lawn bowling was first played on a green immediately west of the Town Hall.

Cricket was championed by J. C. Grace and Alex Paton. One of the best tennis players was Arthur Hooper who became a teacher in Jarvis Street Collegiate in Toronto.

Lindsay Midgets won the Intermediate Ontario Hockey Association n 1909 and a Rugby league championship in Ontario, the COSSA was won by a Lindsay collegiate team.

Horse racing was at one time a major event in Lindsay with Wm. Simpson of the Simpson hotel, Geo. Curtis, Wes Fanning and J. A. Issac as prominent horsemen.

Canoeing was a popular sport and the best canoes in Ontario were built at the Jesse Perrin boat works. Before the advent of the automobile, hundreds of boats of all makes "had their day" on the Scugog River and adjacent lakes and passenger steamers like the Esturion and Crandella plied the waters of the Scugog River and Sturgeon Lake. The Esturion and Crandella were built in Lindsay.

If checkers and whist can be called sports, Lindsay's checker club held tournaments in the Legion hall and in a club room in the Academy Theatre building.

Alley bowling was at one time participated in on a ten pin alley in the basement of the then YMCA at the corner of Kent and Lindsay Streets. In the same building was a large swimming pool and a recreation room.

Long before the days of the automobile, bicycles were popular and a local club bicycled all the way to Montreal and Quebec City on dirt roads. One member of the club was J. D. Flavelle. When motorcycles first became prominent in Lindsay the original enthusiasts headed by Bill Moody included Cliff Bellamy, Derry Fulton, Clayton Grills and others.

Probably the first man to drive a motor car in Lindsay was a man named Webster

who had a bicycle shop on William Street north. The Sadler brothers on Logie Street followed. These cars were driven by means of a chain. There were no doors on the car and the horn was a large rubber bulb which had to be pressed hard before it sounded. The Sadler contraption had a hard time ascending the Lindsay Street hill, then a rough dirt road.

Dr. Rice and Dr. Lawrence were veterinarians and were pioneers with the snowmobile. Car wheels were replaced by long flat wooden sleigh runners.

A young man, Albert Pilkey of Lindsay, became champion speed skater of Canada and won matches in New York city. The Pilkeys ran a bakery in Lindsay.

When canoeing was in its prime Harold Wallace, now in Vancouver, was tops along with Dr. John Ross and Reg. Bloomfield.

Returning to hockey, members of Lindsay's championship team included: Basil Newton, Cliff Sullivan, Leon Koyle, Bill Stoddart, Frank Cote, Ken Randell and Russell McDougal.

Lindsay players on the champion Red Birds team in baseball included: Dick Grey, Jack Oulette, "Curly" McLaughlin, Teddy Miller, Bill Cinnamon, Geo. Little, Bert Menzies, Bill Stalker, Joe Mark, and later: Howard Williamson, Orville Ashton, Bill McMahon, Vic Suggit, Frank, Charlie and Art Carew, Ford Moynes and Harry Soanes.

The Grey Birds team included Hilton Brown, Les Richmond and Bill McMahon.