

It was many long years ago that Mrs. Murphy's cow kicked over the lantern and was the cause of the great Chicago fire and it is many decades ago since a man named Murphy conveyed a large cow pasture to the Town of Lindsay and that same cow pasture now houses the Victoria County High School, the school campus, the Rotary swimming pool and the Community Lawn Bowling Club greens and a new Club house now in the course of construction.

In recalling pioneer lawn bowling days in Lindsay, few bowlers realize that the game dates away back in England when Sir Francis Drake is reported as having said that he would finish the bowling game before answering the call to man the British Armada before it sailed into battle.

Original bowling in England was known as crown green bowling and the entire green was built much like an inverted saucer, something similar to the baseball pitcher's mound today. The greens were not straight as in the "alleys" and "lanes" of today and consequently the utmost skill was required to be a master bowler.

Lawn bowling in Lindsay dates back to the time when there were two or three greens on the present Public Library grounds immediately adjacent to the west end of the Town Hall and at the same time there was a baseball diamond in the area north-west of the present Library building. The

late W. J. Ferguson was a member of the Club at the time.

The second Bowling Club was launched by a group of men belonging to St. Mary's R.C. Church and the two alleys were under cover and ran north and south, extending from the Convent building. A building expansion program terminated the Club, which, by this time, boasted of excellent greens.

Members of the Club retained their enthusiasm by playing on the greens operated by St. Paul's Anglican Church and later on it was decided by Church authorities to close the lawn for lawn bowling and as the greens were shorter than regulation length, avid members decided on seeking new greens.

In the meantime an enthusiastic group of public spirited citizens including W. J. Carlisle, a boot and shoe merchant, Alf. Johnston of the Collegiate teaching staff and Mrs W. G. Dunoon, approached Mayor Richard Kylie and Town Councillors and persuaded the Council to buy the Murphy hay field and as time went on Murphy sold the field to the Town in lieu of \$3,000 taxes he was owing the Town. In conjunction with the Board of Education the property deal was consummated and beautiful Kawartha Park was born.

Lawn bowling enthusiasts came to the fore in 1922 and they were spear-headed by the first four Presidents of the Club, Messrs. Jas. B. B.

D. J. McLean, A. J. Brennan and Jas. Mackey and it is worthy of honourable mention that Aubrey Brennan, always a good bowler and enthusiastic supporter and builder of Club principles, is still active and still a key figure in the organization.

When officers of the Club decided to approach the Town Council they were successful in securing 150 square feet and immediately fenced in the property and as a result the greens have been in excellent shape for many years.

Names of popular people at one time closely associated with the game in Lindsay pop up as follows: John Rogers, Principal of the Separate School and his two sons Leo and Harold. The former was at one time operator of a men's store which bore his name and Harold ran a drug store in the present Pullver premises; John Burns, who ran the Hotel

Benson; D. J. McLean of the Dominion Wheel Works located at the rear of the McCombe Billiard Parlor and in a large building to the east which was consumed by fire; A. J. Brennan, Insurance Agent; W. J. Ferguson, Drygoods Clerk with Sutcliffe's store and Insurance Agent; W. E. Kelche, Haberdasher; Tony Bakogeorge; founder of the Olympia restaurant; Harry Norton, in the chick hatchery business; James S. Mackey, of the Mackey Funeral Home; John Turner, retired farmer; Geo. Bell, Bank Messenger; Bert Everson Barber; Arch. Glenn, retired farmer; L. V. O'Connor, Lawyer; Les Richmand, leather goods salesman; Dr. Herb Irvine, Dentist; Bruce McCarty, Jeweller; Ford Moynes, Journalist; Percy Skitch, retired; W. J. Darlisle, boot and shoe merchant; Harry J. Reid, Druggist; J. Gilloghy, Insurance; Orville Culbert, Insur-

ance; Chas. Moase, retired Bank Messenger; George J. practically all banquets. Too ladies. The local ladies are a farmer; Chas. Bell, furniture Baldwin, Coal Dealer, Harold bad, men have slipped back a distinct asset to the club. salesman; Wm. Langdon, but- Dickey, Freight Clerk; G. C. cog in recent years by failing In connection with the new cher; Redge Bacon, Jeweler; Telford, Express Agent T. R. to recognize the so called Club house and it's erection, Sid Elsdon; Marshal Stephens. Price Railway Agent, and weaker sex on festive occa- much credit is given to the Barber; Russell Lamb, Barber; many others. sions. Lindsay lawn bowlers at High School students who Chas. Lamb, Auctioneer; Lloyd times doubt if the Club could worked in the new building as Davis, Merchant; Ed. Nesbitt, was at one time popular at survive without the help of the part of a School project.

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The Toast to "The Ladies"
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