



## On The Main Street

Curling is one of the oldest games in the annals of sport, and like the game of lawn bowling, originated in Scotland. One of the oldest printed stories concerning the game describes the enthusiasm of men in days of yore playing the game on outdoor rinks.

The word "rink" appears in quotation marks because pictures appearing in old curling books show men clearing snow off the ice on the river. Some curlers wore bulky jackets, a tam on the head, and long scarfs adorning the waist and carried brooms which looked like whisks. In fact many housewives were disturbed when they went to sweep the floor only to find the closet was bare of brooms.

Toasts to Royalty and to the game were drank by the banqueters standing up with tinkling glasses. The second beverage was good old green tea. Aqua pura, plain pump water, was not very popular

yet the curlers remained comparatively sober. The toast to Royalty was followed by a toast to the grand old game.

The annual dinner for curlers was held in the Big 20 restaurant on Kent Street and years later was held in St. Andrew's and St. Paul's Church. Curlers always paid for the dinner until some affluent skips spoiled the custom by presenting members of their rinks with dinner tickets. This custom "killed" the original idea and it was not long afterwards that the annual curling banquet disappeared entirely.

As a matter of history the game of curling in the Lindsay area was born in Beaverton by Peter McMillan, who in turn invited a group of Lindsay "sports" to the Lake Simcoe village to take part in a game.