

Cordova Mines Community Centre Officially Opened by Belmont-Methuen Reeve

Last Saturday afternoon saw the official opening of the new Cordova Community Park in the village of Cordova Mines. The reeve of Belmont-Methuen, Elwood Hamilton, a Cordova resident, was present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony which took place at 12 noon.

After an introduction by Cordova Community Association President Don Bowen, Mr. Hamilton gave a short congratulatory speech paying tribute to the villagers for their initiative and sense of community in going ahead with such fine recreational facilities.

The honor of cutting the ribbon and declaring the park officially open went to Pres. Don Bowen. Credit for a great deal of the physical work involved in installing the playground equipment was given to him in a speech of thanks made by Association Treasurer Bob Carrick who presented Mr. Bowen with the gift of a fishing reel as a token of the community's appreciation. Much credit was also said due Shirley Pressick, Association Secretary, to whom fell the work of organizing the fund-raising events, co-ordinating efforts and doing all the phoning and letter writing required to see the matter to a successful conclusion.

After these short opening ceremonies the crowd of close to 150 adults and children were treated to a light lunch with hot coffee and cold drinks in the adjoining

new fire hall; and the children were free to run into the playground and take advantage of the slides, swings, teeter totters and other amusement equipment

which had been set up for their pleasure.

A horse-shoe tournament was conducted for the benefit of the adults, Eddie Van Allen and Jean Matthews taking first prize and Judy Pierce and George Cation displaying a straight eye and arm throw to come in second.

A ball game was staged in the ball park next, Cordova versus Blairton, and there was no lack of cheering to egg on both teams. Fittingly, on their home field, the Cordova team licked the visitors with a win of 19 to 2. The completed recreation park with the play area and a combined hockey rink and basket ball field cost close to \$5000. It was funded partly by a Wintario grant, partly by the township, and partly by the fund raising of the community. But a very large part was donated by the hard work of the villagers themselves not just in fund-raising activities but by their own labor in working long, hard hours on the site. Their almost three years of intensive work paid off Saturday when they could relax and view the completely equipped and landscaped park in the centre of their village, an area which, only three years ago, could only be described as an eyesore.

DIGEST OF HISTORY.

The first Methodist services were held in a log school house at Prestons Corners in the 1860's and later in the Rockdale school house.

The cornerstone of the present church was laid on October 7th, 1901. The church was dedicated on February 9th, 1902. The builder was Mr. Thomas Wood of Havelock. The first trustees were Dr. W.H. Jeffs, Eleazer Youmans, Albert Wilson, J.F. Purdy, and J.W. Bunner. The latter was the first minister. He lived in Havelock.

A large horse shed was built in 1903 and an organ was purchased for \$90.00. A parsonage was bought in 1905 and for the next twenty-four years the minister resided in Cordova.

Cordova was at first one point among four on the Blairton mission, the other preaching places being Blairton, Victoria and Round Lake. In 1903 the circuit was rearranged to include Union (North Marmora) and Vansickle. A little later Zion church near Malone was added to the charge.

Rev. E.E.M. Joblin served the charge as a student during the years of 1928-1930.

