

## Lochevennoch Skating Rink

The first Lochevennoch Skating rink was held on the Locha creek, where it ran behind Mc Gregor's farm. This was about 1931? and later in 1932? one was made beside the creek. There was no "shack" built yet and bonfires were held to keep warm.

In 1934-35 Archie & Cameron Mc Laren had the job of running the rink for whatever money they could make from it. They charged \$2 or \$3 for season tickets and Cameron remembers they cleared about \$18.00 each for the winter's work. They cleaned the snow off with scrapers and shovels, flooded the rink when it needed it, provided gas for the lanterns, and prepared the wood. In times of big snow storms all members helped to shovel snow. There was a heavy crust of snow that year and people tell of being able to go across fields and over fences with a sleigh and team of horses with a cord of wood on the sleigh. That had never happened before or since in living memory.

A "shack" was built in 1932 beside the rink. It had a wood stove of course. This was a very icy winter and there was great difficulty getting up and down the steep hill. Many hilarious stories have been told about their adventures.

Sleigh loads of young people came sometimes from Castleford or Glasgow to skate on Saturday nights. It was the center of the social life of the community in wintertime and not a few of the friendships made here blossomed into romance.

Hockey teams were formed in the neighbouring areas - Castleford, North Horton, Glasgow, Braeside - and they practiced by lantern light at night. Hockey games were held mostly on Saturday afternoons. Teams from the other communities were invited to a friendly game. All ages came to watch and join in cheering.