

Board of Trade Active Here In The 1920's

March 1947

Revival of interest in Chamber of Commerce matters in Beamsville and Grimsby brings to mind the fact that Beamsville once had an active Board of Trade and the town benefitted considerably from its enthusiasm for civic affairs.

Among the papers found in the effects of the late J. W. Kennedy was a minute book of the Beamsville Board of Trade, which flourished during the 1920's. Now in the possession of J. Robert Kennedy, the book gives an insight into many of the activities and problems faced by Beamsvillites two decades ago.

What Happened To The Rink?

For example, of interest to everyone in town today is the project of a skating rink to be located on the Fair Grounds Road. A report of the "skating rink committee," of March 8, 1921, shows the interest and serious concern for affairs which would benefit the whole village as it was in those days.

"To The Board Of Trade"

"Sirs:

The committee begs to report that event in the book. Other items in we have met the Directors of the the expense ledger include accounts Agricultural Society and presented for banquets (orchestra \$7.75, cigars our case before them, asking them to \$7.35), Christmas Tree celebrations, co-operate with us in building a rink Halloween festivities and many other somewhere on their grounds at a cost functions.

not to exceed \$6,000, and that they have the use of the same for Fair

purposes and that they appoint a committee to work with our committee.

We asked them to pay one third of the cost. We find that they have appointed a committee of five but up till the present time they have not met.

However, with two of our committee and one of theirs, we met and went over the ground and we find that there is not a suitable place on the grounds but we agreed that if it was built on the lot next the Fair grounds and facing on the Fair ground road, it would suit both parties.

Therefore it is the opinion of your committee that it is in the best interests of all that the ground be purchased by the Rink Association.

The lot is 100 feet frontage and 200 feet deep right next the Fair Grounds and we recommend that the Board of Trade do now authorize the committee to proceed to form a Joint Stock Company with capital stock of 2,500 shares at \$10 each and that the Provisional Directors be ordered to sell 1,000 shares forth-with and proceed to purchase the land and build the rink.

"We recommend that the Board of Trade appoint the following five property owners to be the Provisional Directors:

S. T. Creet

T. W. Woodland

S. J. Wilson

J. Foley

James A. Hewitt

"Signed on behalf of the committee, J. Foley, chairman

James A. Hewitt, secretary."

Well, the project didn't go through, but the Board was on the right track.

Healthy Membership

In 1921, there were 48 members of the Board of Trade. Each contributed \$2.00 as fees. In 1929, the last year the minute book records, membership was 127. Practically everybody in town belonged, and though it is apparent that by no means all were really active in the Board, the association counted among its supporters most of the influential people of Beamsville.

"Blossom Week" was one of the activities sponsored by the Board and there are many references to this event in the book. Other items in the expense ledger include accounts for banquets (orchestra \$7.75, cigars \$7.35), Christmas Tree celebrations, Halloween festivities and many other functions.

In 1921 J. A. Hewitt, John Hill and J. A. Jewell were appointed a committee to form a Boy Scout troop, W. J. Reid and H. C. Robinson were inquiring into the activities of the Band to see if that organization needed help, a committee was corresponding with the Chippawa gas company regarding a supply of gas for the village, and a further group were empowered to wait upon Council regarding town lighting, public lavatories, a market and the question of pedlars' licences. The Board was interested in a plan to have a Carnegie Library, a government housing scheme, a field day, the free delivery of express, Daylight Saving, post boxes, prizes for good show windows and many other matters of concern to all. It is interesting to note that on April 6, 1922, a motion was passed "That the Board of Trade think it is time for this town to have a new fire hall, hose tower and public convenience." All of which seems to prove that all things come to him who waits. We are at last getting the fire hall and hose drying equipment, but the present Council remains strangely silent on the third accessory to community life.

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After a great burst of activity in 1921-22, things quieted down a bit in the next few years. But on March 6, 1924, a motion by F. S. Prudhomme and J. W. Buck was carried, asking that the "account of the old Board of Trade in the Bank of Hamilton be transferred to the account of the present Board," this would seem to indicate that there was at least one other experiment along Board of Trade Lines.

In the same year, the Board went in for advertising Beamsville in a big way and printed 25,000 cards (see cut on page one) telling Canada about Beamsville.

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Peach Kings Champs Win O.H.A. Title

April 16, 1947

The fans went wild in Grimsby Monday night when Peach Kings ran wild in overtime to beat Markham Millionaires 5-3 and take the O.H.A. Intermediate "B" hockey title.

Bonfires were burning in the streets and delirious supporters took most of the night for celebration of the great victory of their team.

Peach Kings earned their right to the crown the hard way, coming from behind with a surge of power in the overtime period to score three goals in a little more than two minutes.

Clean Game

Only two penalties were handed out in the match which was cleanly fought from start to finish. Hutchison copied the first goal at the 3.24 minute mark of the first period. Lawrie tied it up for Markham before the period ended. Forty seconds after the second frame got under way Pud Reid banged home a goal from Zuke, only to have Markham collect the equalizer at the 5.10 mark.

In the third period there was no score, leaving the game all tied up.

Overtime

For the second game of the series overtime was necessary to break the deadlock. Markham scored first at 4.47. Three minutes later Warner tied it up on a pass from Craig. Then a Hutchison-Hale-Craig combination collected the winning tally at 9.21, and with 28 seconds to go, Craig made it curtains for Markham with a solo goal.

Deserved To Win

Peach Kings played heads-up hockey all the way and deserved their win. The two teams were more evenly matched than in most of the gruelling play-off series and it was anybody's hockey game most of the time. The fans have seen the best season of hockey here for a long time and the great victory of this year's team will ensure enthusiastic following for the team for many seasons ahead.

Peach Kings — Goal, MacMillan; defence Reid, Miller; centre, Zuke; wings, Hill, Warner; alternates, Craig, Hutchison, Hale, Kemp, Blanchard, Tallman, Hann.

Markham — Goal, J. Harper; defence, F. Scott, B. Harper; centre, B. Bangay; wings, Nesbitt, N. Bangay; alternates, Milroy, Lawrie, J. Watson, A. Baker, G. Scott, H. Forgie.

Referees — Red Dunn and Les Kirkpatrick, Hamilton.

Beam Opened To Enthusiastic Audience

Rushed to completion during the last hour before seven o'clock Monday night, the Beam Theatre was officially declared open to the public and played its first show to a full house.

Serenaded by the Beamsville Band, the theatre's life got off to a good start and the large crowd which waited patiently from before six o'clock felt well rewarded for their wait.

Rush Job

As Peter Barnes, operator of the movie for the Beam Theatre Company, told his audience following the first show, the reason the opening was held up for an extra hour was that he and his workers inside the theatre were hanging the scarlet back and side drops around the screen. He said he promised to have it that far completed by opening time and he didn't want his customers to see anything else.

Locally Built

Following the run of the first program, featuring Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman in "The Bells of St. Mary's," Roy A. Saunders spoke to the audience from the stage and described the steps taken to have the Beam built, financed and brought to completion by a group of local businessmen. He paid tribute to the energy and "know how" of Peter Barnes.

Mr. Barnes described the fixtures in the building and called them the most modern of their kind in the country. The sound equipment, projectors, seats, heating and cooling plants and wiring were praised as being the best available. He mentioned the local contractors and suppliers who built the Beam and urged his audience to patronize them if they wanted good work done.

Explaining the policy of the Beam, Mr. Barnes said he wanted the people of Beamsville to regard the theatre as their own. "At any time the building is not being used for shows, ladies' organizations, church groups and any other interested have only to ask and it will be thrown open to them," he said. He explained that during the daytime when shows were not being run the theatre would be available to the public. This also applied to Sundays.

Matinees

Saturday children's matinees would be a regular feature, Mr. Barnes said, at which kiddies would be admitted for five cents. He promised parents that too many westerns would not be shown, and said it was his policy to provide clean, wholesome entertainment suitable for the children. Even if gangster pictures were occasionally presented, Mr. Barnes told his audience he never would present a picture in which the crooks got away. "They are always caught," he said, "and there is a moral in every story."

Paying tribute to the local men who conceived and provided the theatre building, Mr. Barnes said that a town which did not support a theatre wasn't much of a town. He predicted a bright future for Beamsville and felt establishment of the Beam would help make the town grow.

Introduced Manager

The manager of the Beam, Ralph Humphreys, was introduced from the stage by Mr. Barnes. Mr. Humphreys asked his patrons to express personally their likes and dislikes with regard to programs and promised to provide, insofar as it was possible, the pictures they wanted to see. He wanted complaints to reach him personally and promised reasonable adjustment of all differences.

Chlorine Plant Being Installed

Oct 1947

Omar Cosby, superintendent of works, with the village workmen, is doing preliminary work on installation of the water chlorinator at the south end of Hixon Street. The plant is complete, ready for assembly and village authorities hope the installation may be completed soon. In his remarks to the Lions Club Monday night, Dr. D. V. Currey, M.O.H., said addition of the chlorine will make no difference in the taste of the water, if the correct amounts are used, and there will then be no danger from water contamination.

BEAMSVILLE, ONT.

In the Niagara Peninsula
"The Garden of Canada"

Offers—

CLIMATE UNEXCELLED

SPLENDID EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

(Junior University, Technical and Business Courses)

IDEAL SITUATION—ON HAMILTON-NIAGARA FALLS HIGHWAY

Bus Service to St. Catharines. Radial to Hamilton. C. N. Railways

ELECTRIC POWER—Hamilton "Cataract" and "Hydro"

"A REAL GOOD PLACE TO LIVE"

DISTRIBUTED BY BEAMSVILLE BOARD OF TRADE

The above cut was used to print cards for advertising purposes, by the former Beamsville Board of Trade. 25,000 of these cards were ordered printed and they were distributed to fruit shippers and others sending produce out of the district. Slipped under the lino of peach baskets, the local Board thus received considerable publicity at small cost. It was a co-operative effort.