

V1-7

Better Deal for Grey and Bruce, Says 'Mac' Phillips

Despite the near-freezing weather, a crowd of almost 1000 was on hand last Thursday night for the grand opening of the Ferndale Recreation Grounds. Guest speakers for the ceremonies was Dr. Mackinnon Phillips, Ontario's new Minister of Health. Other speakers were Kenzie Foster, Bruce County M.L.A., and Wilfred Adis, Warden of the County. Chairman Wilfred Everatt, Reeve of Eastnor Township, related the history of the development of the fine new park. The land was purchased, he stated, in 1949, and the project was a result of the splendid work of the Swan Lake and Ferndale Women's Institutes. When completed, the 5-acre park will contain a ball diamond, tables and chairs for picnics and children's amusements.

Warden Wilf Adis of Red Bay addressed the gathering briefly, bestowing compliments on the ladies of the Institutes for their fine work.

Kenzie Foster, M.L.A., was the next speaker. He suggested that a grant could be obtained from the government toward the cost of the project. In introducing the chief speaker, Dr. Phillips, Mr. Foster declared that the provincial government could not have made a better choice for a leader in the Department of Health. He emphasized the unity between Grey and Bruce Counties, in solving their problems.

Dr. Phillips thanked Mr. Foster for his remarks and also thanked him for bringing his name before the House at Toronto for the position of Minister of Health.

He promised that the government would pay, upon application 25% of the cost of the park and also 25% of the estimated cost of the voluntary labour supplied. He outlined the manner in which grants are made for such community projects.

The speaker then threw a bouquet to the Women's Institutes declaring that the Institutes do more for the rural people than any other organization.

In a brief review of the history of the Department of Health, he told his listeners that it had grown from a health group run by two people and spending a paltry \$4000 per year, in 1882, to one of the largest Departments in the province in 1950, with 13 divisions in the Department and an expenditure of \$35 million on the public's health. He estimated 1951's expenditure at \$40. million.

One out of every 300 persons in Ontario enter mental hospitals at some time, he stated, and observed that it was the intention of the Department of Health to set up a research bureau in Toronto to investigate this field.

Dr. Phillips also brought up the question of the great shortage of trained nurses in the province. He stated that it would be impossible to carry on the present services were it not for the many married nurses who have helped in the emergency. He appealed to young women to enter the nursing profession, promising that something would be done to create better working conditions and higher wages. "We have to have them," he said.

He told his listeners that the tuberculosis treatment system in Ontario is second only to that of New York on this continent.

And he stated very definitely that he is going after equal benefits for the counties of Grey and Bruce in future. He gave figures which show that these counties are far behind the average in Ontario for health grants.

The evening was rounded out by a concert by the Warton Citizens' Band and a ball game between Lion's Head and Harry Lumley's All-Stars of Owen Sound, in which the latter came out on the top end of an 8-7 score. The Lion's Head team was bolstered by the addition of a battery from Warton, Len Simonoski pitching to John Gilbert.

In reference to the Ferndale Community Park, I want to make it clear that though the W. I. is handling funds, etc., they want it called Ferndale Community Park and take NO credit for the work of the ball diamond; it was all done by the men of the community, also the men helped in every way in clearing the extra land.

As to a further payment, they are waiting for the grant; they intend to use the grant when their next payment is due Nov. 1st, but hope to keep the \$200 or so on hand to provide improvements such as slides, swings, etc., for children.

Ferndale is in the centre of a prosperous farming section 3 miles from

Community Effort Shows Results at Ferndale

With the opening of their new recreation park, the people of Ferndale and the surrounding district have just reason for pride. The park is a direct result of the efforts of the community as a whole and its opening last Thursday must have been a source of real pleasure to those who had worked so hard for it.

The project was begun when several men in the community decided they needed a ball park and donated some money. Then they found that they could not get land for a park. As men do, they turned the scheme over to the women.

The Ferndale-Swan Lake Women's Institute tackled the problem as only an Institute can. They found that there were 25 boys between the ages of one and fourteen on a 1¼-mile stretch of highway and decided that they must have a place to play.

They purchased 5 acres of land from Mr. Henderson Loughhead for \$800, paying \$300 down, most of which was donated. They bought a fence for \$100. Then they went to work, men, women and children, on the manual labour of building the park. As many as six tractors all volunteered, would be working at once.

One of the best ball diamonds in any small community in the county was built. The Ball Club donated \$50. The W. I. sponsored a Junior Ball Club. The Highway Department has already donated two tables to the picnic grounds and will add a fence when the four-lane highway goes through. The heavy growth of cedars at one end of the park was trimmed and paths cut.

Next year swings, slides and teeter-totters will be installed for the youngsters and flowers and shrubs planted. It will be a pleasant sport for tourists to stop. When a well has been sunk, the Dept. of Highways will donate an outdoor fireplace.

About \$250 was taken in on Thursday night and when the expenses are paid, the rest will go in the pot. It will not be too long before the park is paid for and another tribute will stand to the work of small communities in general and the Women's Institute in particular.

Lion's Head. Is situated on Centre Road, No. 6 Highway. There is a church, school, garage, two restaurants, a storage locker, and several retired farmers' homes forming the settlement on the corners of four farms.