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A Short Glance Backward and A Long Look Forward

By An Old Curler

The rink was actually built in 1906 and operated as a private club by the Timmins brothers. That is why there has been some confusion regarding the age of the present club. And if old timers insist as many have, that they curled in Haileybury in 1906 there is no reason to doubt the story.

The first regular draw got under way on January 13th. Some of the well known names noted on the eight rinks included Mr. L. H. Timmins, A. J. Murphy, Mr. Bagshaw, Mr. Hennessy, Dr. Haentschel, N. A. Timmins, G. T. Smith, Mr. McAulay, Mr. Ferguson and J. I. Rankin. In the same year the Club joined the Northern International Curling Association.

Curling continued in 1909 but in 1910 the rink was unavailable and arrangements were made to curl at New Liskeard. Discussions were also carried on that year on a proposal to build a union rink at North Cobalt to serve Cobalt, North Cobalt, and Haileybury. The proposal was not acted upon however and on April 13th, 1911 a committee was authorized "to make all necessary arrangements and agreements with regard to the proposed rink to be located in the market building". Curling was resumed at the end of the year.

On January 19th, that year the ice committee resigned en masse after what they considered unwarranted criticism of their work. A meeting was also held to hear complaints from an irate skip who threatened to resign if a rule regarding use of substitutes were not introduced. At still another meeting toward the end of the year the President was authorized "to uraw at sight" on any member who were delinquent in the matter of fees. Having settled these problems for all time curling proceeded on an even keel until 1922.

The Curling Rink was destroyed in the great fire of 1922 but curlers are a determined group and started rebuilding in 1923 on the same water front site. In spite of the fact that aviolent wind blew down the partially completed structure the rink was ready for curling in the 1923-24 season.

This rink was used for almost 30 years but in the late 40's a small but vociferous group kept interrupting all Annual and General meetings to say that a new rink must be built as a first step toward obtaining artificial ice. It was perhaps to silence these dreamers that the matter was placed on the agenda at the Annual Meeting in the spring of 1951. To the surprise of the Chairman a largely attended meeting voted unanimously to proceed with the construction of a new rink and the present modern structure was ready for curling in December of the same year. It took just five more years to obtain the original objective and in November of last year the official opening of the artificial ice installation took place.

It was in 1951 that a concerted effort was made to bring Cobalt residents into the Club on a partnership basis. The response was excellent in both membership and finances. The joint understanding meant that curlers from both towns could enjoy modern comfortable facilities. The name of the Club was changed the same year to the Cobalt-Haileybury Curling Club in recognition of the partnership arrangement.

The Ladies Club was formed during World War II. and has grown each year since. It is generally agreed that the ladies kept curling going in the community. Their entry provided new interest and enthusiasm and made possible the very popular mixed curling and the Annual Mixed Bonspiel. Their financial contributions to the new rink and ice plant were "in the thousands."

The Club has a fine competitive record. Every major trophy offered in open competition in Northern Ontario has found a resting place on the shelves of the club room. The MacDonald Brier Tankard has so far eluded

Haileybury although the Club has made several notable efforts to win the big one. The Club has represented Northern Ontario on several occasions in the Dominion classic and twice brought home 7-2 records and twice have beaten the ultimate winner in Brier play.

There is still hope. High School curling is flourishing with boys and girls from Cobalt and Haileybury participating. Who knows, there may be some Emmett Smith's or Dan Millar's among them. We would even settle for a Ken Watson. Now, Welcome Scotsmen.

Haileybury Pioneered Curling Movement In Tri-Town Area

The town of Haileybury is given credit for the introduction of curling to Northern Ontario, and in 1907, New Liskeard curlers were guests of the Haileyburians.

Shortly afterwards New Liskeard secured curling accommodation of their own and since that time a friendly rivalry has existed between the curlers of the two towns.

They participated in the bonspiel of the Northern Ontario Curling association, which included territory from Mattawa to Sault Ste. Marie and inter-town bonspiels were held at Haileybury, where a four-sheet rink had been erected.

In 1931, New Liskeard, through the generosity of Edward Horne discoverer of Noranda, secured a very fine steel-frame six-sheet sheet rink. Thirty-four rinks attended the first New Liskeard bonspiel and so successful was the event that steps were taken to organize

the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Curling association. This is a very active association with a yearly membership, for bonspiel purposes, averaging over 1800; approximately sixty rinks attend the bonspiel.

Curling has come a long way in Ontario during the past seventy-five years. The old time games on out-door ice have long

since given way to the modern game played within the weather-proof walls of brilliantly light-ed curling clubs all over the province.

In curling, as in everything else, the old order change the yielding place to the new.

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