

## Recreation facilities take back seat to none

Acton Recreation Committee reports as follows:

The Acton Recreation Committee was born of necessity on January 10, 1963, after a determined group of civic-minded citizens, headed by Garnet W. McKenzie, had successfully completed a two-year sustained drive that culminated in the installation of artificial ice and the resurrection of the old natural-ice arena at Prospect Park.

Up to this point, recreation in Acton had successfully come under the jurisdiction of the Acton Board of Parks Management, but now with the installation of new facilities a greater need was recognized:

The first Recreation Committee consisted of the following members — Chairman, J. Goy; members, A. Irwin, Bert Wood, C. Cook, L. Lovell, Mrs. Keates, Dr. F. G. Oakes, J. Bullough, and Mrs. H. Otterbein. The committee in effect acts as an extension of council and has two councillors in its membership.

It is interesting to note that three members of the original committee remain on the present committee, Mrs. H. Otterbein, L. Lovell and J. Goy.

**Projects undertaken** and completed during the ensuing years have been many and varied and are too numerous to describe fully in the space allotted. Highlights, however, would have to be additions to the front and back of the arena building, housing an auditorium, dressing rooms, and storage facilities; installation of a new traprock floor and acquisition of a Schomberg ice shaver donated by the Acton Lions Club that allows Acton to boast of the best ice in Halton County.

In order to give some idea of the scope of activity undertaken and falling under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Committee an outline of the 1965 program as presented in the Chairman's annual report follows:

### CURLING

Curling continues to flourish in Acton and this year the Rec-

reation Committee secured the services of Jack Sumner of the Elmira Arena as technical consultant for Curling Ice. Letters from the Acton Curling Club testify to the improved quality of the ice.

### PUBLIC SKATING

Public skating continued to prove popular and the formation of a paid ice patrol helped to make the sport more enjoyable. Time reserved was the same as last year — Saturday morning, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, with Saturday night proving the most popular.

### HOCKEY

Hockey continued popular with the NHL Old Timers playing to a full house. The Legion Minor League expanded into a week-day as well as operating the regular Saturday afternoon schedule. The Hockey School operation was taken over by the Acton Minor Hockey Referees Association and a supper hour proved more popular than the previous after school time.

Inter-town hockey also continued to flourish with five teams competing in inter-county competition.

### CLUBS

Acton Art Club held two series of weekly lessons in the loft of Dills Printing shop. Weekly sessions of mutual criticism and instruction continued until the end of June.

The Golden Age Club met regularly one evening and one afternoon per month. Visits were exchanged with several other clubs. Shuffleboard proved popular with many members using the community centre facilities once a week during the summer months.

A Badminton Club started by the Recreation Committee was handed over to a club management committee. Weekly meetings were held throughout the winter months in the high school gymnasium.

A Square Dance group held



LEN LOVELL  
Chairman

four "exciter" dances to establish if there was enough interest to start a regular club in the fall of 1955. The auditorium of the Robert Little Public School proved to have a good floor and good acoustics which contributed much to the enjoyment of the dances.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

NHL Old Timers' visit, already mentioned, played to the biggest house of the season and now appears to be an annual event on the Acton entertainment calendar.

The second annual Acton and District Public School Carnival was another popular event. For the first time scores were adjusted in proportion to enrollment and it is hoped the win by Speyside Public School will encourage more entries from other smaller schools.

The Ice Revue '65 produced by the Acton Fancy Skating Club was in many ways possibly the outstanding event of the winter season. The enjoyment and surprise of those attending was passed on by the press and word of mouth so that next year's show should be sold right out. This all-out effort turned the arena into a winter wonderland complete with huge white rabbits and king-size snowman.

### LIONS CLUB SHOW

The annual Lions Club show this year called "Acton Round-Up" played to an audience of

1500 people, possibly the largest house in the history of Acton. A stage was constructed on the north bleachers for the first time and sound coverage obtained from the house speakers was fairly understandable. The press box which has not been used for some years was removed and the players' benches were reconstructed to facilitate future stage erection.

### SHUFFLEBOARD

Two shuffleboard courts were painted on the arena floor with the intention of moving outdoors next summer if the game proved popular enough. The Golden Age Club gradually increased their weekly attendance. During the trial evenings only a few children attended. However, the game has gained popularity with most of the children in the playground program.

### LACROSSE

A lacrosse clinic which was possibly the first sports clinic to be held in Acton got the revised Minor Lacrosse League off to a good start. It proved popular enough to extend the original Saturday morning period into a Wednesday evening.

### SOFTBALL

Since one of the two sponsors from last season dropped out some of the minor age groups did not play this season.

### PLAYGROUND

It was decided to train a large corps of leaders as a nucleus for the next few years until the children now in the program graduate into leaders. Even so it was necessary to find more leaders when the original estimated maximum of 60 children turned out to be 175. This meant very large groups of children but leaders were able to maintain the children's interest and enthusiasm better during the half day program than would have been possible with a full day program.

### SWIMMING

This year the swimming lessons were moved to the afternoon since the mornings were too cold last year. Complaints were then received from other parents who wanted their children to have free swimming in the afternoon. Some free swimming was sandwiched between

## Editor stresses progress need

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Acton, England, where the growth of the city of London has necessitated the regionalization of local government. In Acton, England, the municipal government has been eliminated and replaced by a regional government serving as well two other previously autonomous communities.

Acton, England continues to exist as a geographical location and community. It is entirely possible the same situation may develop in Canada, with the present functions of local government taken over by a regional government which could include all or a-part of Halton County.

Of great assistance in the charting and planning of Acton's predictable growth is the study made in 1963 by the graduate students attending the diploma course in town and regional planning of the School of Architecture, University of Toronto. While, for the purpose of the study, certain assumptions were required, the document prepared as a result of the study, will prove invaluable to the municipal government in Acton. The publication of the complete report is not feasible but many observations and conclu-

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lessons.

Attempts to advance children who had passed the learn-to-swim tests were only moderately successful due to the depth of the pool. One carload of children took the Junior Red Cross at Georgetown. The Georgetown Pool helped supply lifeguards for the free swimming periods.

The Recreation Committee this year succeeded in hiring Howard Pearce, a recent graduate of The University of Guelph in the capacity of full-time recreation director. It is the hope of the Committee, with the aid of Mr. Pearce to institute a variety of new programs in 1966 for young and old and to continue to serve the community of Acton.

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