

# SPORTS



AT THE TURN of the century lacrosse was played in the park. The grandstand (right) was on a lot now owned by Mrs. Lois Mackenzie; other buildings in the background are a barn and the homes at that time of George Dills Sr. and John Chisholm which adjoined the park before Knox Ave. was opened. Front row Billy Gurney, W. Swackhamer, Frank McIntosh, Bud Williams, Darby Statham; back row Bob Scott, Anson Smith, Carl Williams, Eddie Ryder, Bill Statham, Jim Barry, Unknown and Murphy and Fred Ryder.



BASEBALL TEAM of 1912: front row, Ernie Brown, Max Smith, Boyd Clark, Ross Swackhamer, Jack Smith, back row Sammy Edmonds, Vic Coleman, Art Anderson, Ernie Barr, Cam Leishman, Bert Mowat and Joe Kennedy.

## Baseball is the latest sport

In 1874 baseball was fast becoming a popular sport which merited lots of space in the Free Press alongside world and dominion news. Many ball games were played on the lots behind St. Joseph's church.

The Nil Desperandum ball club played towns as far away as Fergus, Harriston and Listowel.

"There were ten of them, exactly ten. They marched along Mill St. to the station last Monday morning, and firm resolution was in every step. They had high foreheads and intelligent faces, and there was a stern, determined look on each face, a look which said they would die at their country's call. "Nil Desperandum" beamed from each stern countenance, and even echoed in the tread of their footsteps." Yes, it was our team off to play Fergus, a game the dauntless ten won 11-14.

### Cricket

Cricket had been played for years, on vacant land over the GTR tracks. For years it was the only organized sport, but baseball was catching up and taking over.

Fishing in the district was very good. There was also pigeon shooting in the dense woods around the Big Pond.

Lads found work at the shingle mills and, barefoot, brought home the family cow and helped with the more burdensome aspects of living.

Bikes weren't around yet.

Bathing suits were unheard of and boys in "Nature's free garb" went swimming in the tannery creek at Speight's blacksmith shop or in Speight's sawmill flume, or in the creek where it crossed Main St.

The bigger boys swam at the mill dam at the Big Pond (Fairy Lake).

### Night school

Working lads could also improve themselves.

"Mr. J. H. Lloyd proposes opening a night school in Matthews Hall, two evenings each week, for instruction in writing, arithmetic, bookkeeping, orthography and elocution. He will also give lessons in Latin and French."

There was also a French and music teacher available.



FRANK McINTOSH visited the photographer's studio to have this portrait taken. He was active in many sports.



ACTON'S FIRST O.H.A. hockey team won group honors in the Intermediate B group during the 1929-30 series, the year the new arena was finished. Seated, front row Russ Salmon, Joe Kentner, Frank Gibbons, Bill Holloway, G. Huffman, Bobby Anderson, Neil Gibbons; standing second row, Dr. A. J. Buchanan, trainer W. Eccleshall, Jack Greer, Joe Woods, Harry Chew, back row John Mellon, club president, Gordon Beardmore, manager H. H. Garden, J. M. McDonald and L. B. Shorey, members of the executive.



ACTON LADIES' BASEBALL CLUB, winners of the Old Home Week tournament at Brampton July 5, 1923. In the back row left: M. Kennedy, manager, Hazel Mason, Mrs. D.H. Lindsay sec. treas., Viola Rumley, Olla Armstrong, McLaughlin, Lottie Mason, captain, Marguerite Ryder.

Jessie Morton, E. Ryder - umpire. In the front row left: Madeline Masales, Eva Johnson, Thos. Thauburn - chair man sports committee at Brampton, Jean Kennedy, Jessic Anderson.