

A look at Halton's rural ballparks



WORN WOODEN BLEACHERS on the first base side contrast with the sturdy block third base bleachers at the Campbellville ballpark, where village faithfuls watched sluggers like Earl Cairns, Ken Moore, Stan Henderson and Elmer Dredge tear the

cover off a lot of horsehide during the 50's and 60's. The baseball capital of Halton now has younger blood on its diamond aiming at the Ontario championships Len Andrews' famous teams won during those two decades.



FRAMED BY a left field light standard, the brand new ball diamond at Brookville has the most modern equipment of any in North Halton. The Brookville Selects junior girls' team and minor clubs have been using it to put Brookville on the Ontario softball map.

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LOWVILLE BALLPARK is set in a vale, which allows spectators an excellent view of games from the side of the hill in the foreground. The

park is used every night during the summer for minor softball and men's and ladies' fastball games.

Photos by Denis Gibbons

They've been the subject of city jokes, dreamed up by envious visitors and sometimes cursed by losers, who missed their championship because of ball bad-hopping off a stone or an out-field rut, which wasn't supposed to be there, but the rural ballparks of Halton are dear to the baseball and softball fans, who fill them every summer.

Drop into Campbellville on a Sunday afternoon and someone will show you exactly where Earl Cairns cleared the trees with a blast beyond the right field fence or tell you how many times Stan Henderson rapped drives off the side of his own house beyond the left field fence.

In the Glen you can wonder at the topnotch condition of a park, which the pride of residents there has rescued many times from Credit River spring floods. Second base at the Glen was once the middle of a swamp.

Some of the province's best fastball pitchers have blazed 'em by batters in Hornby at the annual Hornby fastball tournament in August.

The parks are more than just places to play ball. They're a social gathering place for rural residents to gain a respite from the day's chores and chat about days goneby.



VOICE OF the Glen ballpark is Earl "Red" Outhbert, who works the P.A. for all Halton, Halton minor and tournament games there. "Red" keeps fans in the game with inning by inning line scores.



CONSTRUCTED ON land leased from Cliff Davidson, the Glen Williams ballpark has survived spring floods and winter ice jams on the Credit River to maintain its reputation as one of

the best in the Halton Region. Glen ball teams maintain the park, independent of the town of Halton Hills.

ive of sports activity during the summer