

Curling Club was founded in 1880

By GARY LAMB

The Bradford Curling Club joined the Ontario Curling Association in 1912, but was actually formed in 1880. Several prominent area residents, including the patron of the club, Sir William Mulock, elected James S. Boddy as the first president of the newly-formed club. There were 15 active members that first season. Prior to joining the OCA, the Bradford Club competed in Royal Caledonian Medal Playdowns.

Curling was originally played on the river, and the club shared facilities with the Bradford Skating Club. Each member had his own pair of curling stones and they went with him for any competitions. Eventually, the stones were left with the club or ended up as mantelpieces. In 1959, the club bought the matched set of 64 rocks that are still in use today.

The club has had quite a few homes during its 102-year history. For some time, the game was played in a building that stood on the parking lot, between Brewer's Retail and Compton's IGA.

Then the club curled in the old arena that stood on the IGA site. They curled under the stands with one sheet on each side of the rink, subject to the hazards of natural ice, and to debris falling between the boards of the stands.

When the old arena was demolished in the late 40's, Bradford had no ice facilities. The club curled for a couple

of years on Roy Dixon's pond at Bond Head. From 1951 to 1955 the third floor of the Bradford Cooperative Storage was the home of the Curling Club. The storage had artificial ice allowing for regularly scheduled events.

In 1956, the club shareholders raised approximately \$50,000 and built the present-day club beside the new town arena. It was the finest facility in the area and still serves the town well.

The club pays its own way, contributes to the town's tax base and brings in a substantial amount of outside currency to local merchants through its bonspiels.

Now into its second century of operation, the club intends to maintain its commitment to curling in Bradford.

Bradford Curling Club 1880-81:

Patron, Wm. Mulock MP; president, J. S. Boddy; vice president, B. Kilborn; representative members, J. M. L. Stevenson, H. S. Broughton; secretary-treasurer, H. S. Broughton.

Committee of council of management: W. S. Rogers, F. Stewart, D. Sutherland, H. S. Broughton, honorary member, Wm. Mulock.

Ordinary members: Wm. Kilkenny, H. S. Broughton, R. Stewart, Jas. S. Boddy, D. Sutherland, Ed Ferguson, W. S. Rogers, Gibson Cook, W. H. Lowery, T. Edmanson, H. C. Barry, John Rogers, Byron Kilborn, Frank Stewart, Chas Kilkenny.

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