

Napanee & District Curling Club

~ Established 1957 ~



**ARCHIVE STUDY -
THE FIRST
NAPANEE
CURLING CLUB**



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The First, Napanee Curling Club

The first, Napanee Curling Club, was formed in 1896¹. It was a strictly male society. During the season of 1897-1898, we know that the curlers rented the covered rink owned by Mr. Pollard and Mr. Wilson. It stood at the corner of Adelphi and Dundas Streets. Dues for the season were \$5.00 per person. There were 40 members².

As the new century opened, the Curling Club prospered. Competition focused on the "Chinneck Medal", based on accumulated winning scores over the season. All games consisted of fourteen ends and were played using Ontario Curling Association Rules. Also offered was the "Smith Bonspiel" played over three days in February at the end of the curling season. In the 1910-11 season, the Chinneck Medal was won by the rink skipped by J.S. Ham. The Smith Bonspiel was won by the rink skipped by J.L. Boyes. Regular "matches were held with Belleville and Kingston, hi 1911, Napanee was the Eastern Ontario League Champion.

During the winter of 1911-12, there were fourteen rinks in the Napanee Curling Club. One of the younger members, Clayton Maybee, dominated the 1912 season. His rink consisted of J.H.S. Deny as vice skip, C.D. Eyvel as second stone and Kenneth Cambridge as lead. In the inter-rink competition for the Chinneck medal, Maybee's rink defeated all others. The Maybee rink also won the Smith Bonspiel. Clayton Maybee finished the season with top score in the points competition. The prize was a tobacco jar made and patterned after a curling stone, donated to the club by Dr. Cartwright.

The advent of the First World War (August, 1914) put a damper on local sports. Although curling for the Chinneck Medal continued in Napanee, and the Smith Bonspiel was held as usual, there were less men to participate as many had volunteered for active duty. In 1914, the number of rinks dropped to eight³. In 1915, the Executive extended an invitation to the ladies of Napanee to form their own curling club, and offered to let them use the ice in the afternoon. So far we have found no record that this invitation was accepted.

By the end of the War (1918), attitudes to the Club had changed and it was re-constituted into Napanee Curling-Bowling Limited. It was anticipated that it would be a profitable enterprise as well as a pleasurable one, and shares were sold to members. The Lennox and Addington Historical Society owns two share certificates, one originally bought by W.A. Ashley in January, 1918, and one bought by F. Cameron Wilson in May of 1920. At this point, we do not know why the noble endeavour died, and the old Napanee Curling Club passed away, but we believe that the advanced age of the founding fathers, plus the stock market crash of 1929 must have been part of the reason.

¹ Museum has a cheque payable by A.E. Lang to W.A. Bellhouse dated Dec. 17, 1896 and clearly marked, "Given for dues in Napanee Curling Club when it was first formed." in the hand of Clarence Warner. The amount is \$7.50. The cancelled cheque was donated to the Society in 1912.

² Copy of an agreement between Messrs. Pollard and Wilson and the Napanee Curling club in the collections of the Lennox and Addington Historical Society.

³ Card, schedule of games, 1914-15, Lennox and Addington Historical Society

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