

# HMCC NEWS



## A Special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Publication

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### HMCC---The First Ten Years

Fifty-one years ago a group of forward-looking citizens attended the March 28, 1947 meeting of the Hantsport Board of Trade. After completing their own business, the Board of Trade opened the meeting to be a discussion of the building of a community hall. Representatives from the Board of Trade, the Women's Institute, and other interested citizens formed a committee to start a community park and hall organization for the recreational and social benefits of citizens of Hantsport. This group became officially the Community Park and Hall Organization. Mr. John Jodrey was appointed president, Mrs. Fred Harvie vice-president, Robie Sanford secretary, and Oscar Morehouse served as treasurer. These four became the first "official" Board of Directors of HMCC when it was incorporated by an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature on April 20, 1948. From idea to incorporation in slightly over one year!

Now the real work began. In October of 1948 discussions began about the possibility of purchasing the Robie Burgess property (formerly know as "the Cedars", the property of John Wiley Churchill located on Main Street). At a public meeting on October 25/48 representatives of such groups as the Board of Trade, Women's Institute, Red Cross, Home & School, and Athletic Association passed a resolution to purchase the property for \$20,000. Nov 1/ 48 saw the election of J.

Jodrey as the first president of HMCC, Mrs. Borden vice-president, Robie Sanford secretary, and Oscar Morehouse treasurer. This first Executive was requested to send letters to the townspeople about the purchase of the property stating that it would be owned but the citizens and not the Town of Hantsport. HMCC was on its way!

Within one year of the purchase of the property discussions had been held about the possibility of building an outdoor pool and a committee under the chairmanship of B. R. Alexander had prepared a Master Plan for the property showing the proposed location of fairs (now the July 1<sup>st</sup> celebrations), tennis courts, quoit beds, pool and playground.

During 1950 and 1951 dances were a regular feature (outdoors in summer, in the bam in the winter), HMCC had agreed to officially take over sponsorship of sports in Hantsport, money was authorized for playground equipment and the wading pool, the pool was put out for tender, and the rink established.

By 1953 the directors were exploring the possibility of disposing of the Churchill House and building a new building. The estimated cost of \$30,000 seems to have halted that idea. In 1954 pool construction started. The pool was officially opened on July 2, 1955 in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Outdoor Junior Swim Meet.

The Ladies Auxiliary was in full swing by 1956 holding various fund-raising events. The Churchill House was painted (cost \$556.16)!

In 1957 Mr. R. McGrath took over from Mr. Jodrey as HMCC's second president. The Tennis Club built a court, discussions were held about setting up a regional library in the Churchill House, and it was suggested that part of the property be turned over to be the site of a new school. (This proposal was voted down in subsequent years.)

On Feb. 13, 1958 Mr. William Mulhall was elected HMCC's third president. The first ten years had been successfully accomplished with the determination and efforts of countless hours of volunteer time. Individuals and groups working together took an idea and made it into reality for the whole community to enjoy. We thank them.

FROM THE ACT TO INCORPORATE HANTSPORT MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE (Passed April 20, 1948)

.....The objects of the corporation shall be to perpetuate the memory of those citizens of Hantsport who in the two Great World Wars died in the armed forces of Canada, and to won, maintain, and make available to the community of Hantsport recreational, athletic, social and educational facilities and to won, establish, maintain and manage a community center and such other properties and equipment as may be generally desirable, without profit to the members and may make such charges as shall be determined by the by-laws of the Corporation.