

HMCC NEWS

A Special 50th Anniversary Publication

Volume 1 Issue 2

June 1998

HMCC — The Second Decade

In Issue #1 we traced the first ten years of HMCC and the many hours of volunteer effort that went into making it a reality. These volunteers — and many that joined them — did not slow down in the next ten years! Bill Mulhall served as president from 1958 until 1960. Like all property owners, HMCC now had to get on with the nitty-gritty of maintenance and improvement.

In 1959, by secret ballot at a special meeting, the townspeople voted 50 to 23 against a proposal to sell part of HMCC land to the Town for a school. Later in 1959 the Executive decided that perhaps a resident caretaker would be a good thing, so the Building and Grounds Committee was charged to look into the cost of adapting some upstairs rooms to accommodate a resident caretaker.

By 1960 these renovations were complete and a couple were hired to live at HMCC and act as caretakers. They weren't lonely, as HMCC was used extensively by many groups such as Girl Guides, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Wolf Cubs, Sea Cadets, Red Cross, Canadian Legion, Cancer Society, etc. The regional library was also located in the Churchill House and remained there until it was moved to the new school in 1961.

Curt MacKinnon became president in 1961-1962. He was followed by Dave Parsons in 1963-1964.

During this time arrangements were made to hire a Director of Recreation for the summer months. Bob Burchell took the job for \$55 per week and kept the children hopping with baseball, volleyball, and tennis. To keep people busy and happy during the winter months an outdoor rink was built — complete with heated dressing rooms, lights, music and paid rink attendants. (It only takes one sentence to say that, but it certainly took hundreds of hours to make it a reality! The Rink Committee was an incredibly active group of volunteers.)

In 1964 the Executive had to make a decision about taking part in the 1967 Centennial Project. They decided to accept the proposal of the Centennial Committee and agreed to the restoration of part of the Churchill House as well as the establishment of a Marine Memorial Room.

By mid-1964 the volunteers were getting tired! Serious consideration was given to abandoning the July 1st Fair "because of the excessive work entailed for many citizens prior to and after July 1st". (From the Minutes of April 23, 1964). But they carried on and even got toilets built near the

playground in time for the big day. The Churchill House was painted (cost \$555.73) and the playground fenced in. A horseshoe pitch was built and Hantsport had its' first Ladies Softball team.

Al Clark was elected president in 1965 and served for two years. The Ladies Auxiliary was very busy with constant fundraising activities. The pool, ball fields and playground were humming with activity under the direction of capable and dedicated summer staff. The Ice Carnival was becoming an annual winter event.

Site improvements included fencing around much of the property to protect the privacy of the neighbors. The tennis courts had their ups and downs with maintenance of them a constant concern. Notices were included in several Newsletters asking people to keep their horses and motor bikes off the running track. All the usual joys of being property owners!

The second decade of HMCC ended with the election of Len McCully as president (from 1967 through 1968). On July 3rd, 1967 the Hantsport Centennial Project was officially opened with the dignitaries and the public touring the restored section of the Churchill House and the new Marine Memorial Room.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Twilight Cemetery Tour June 24th

Join Eric Smith for an enlightening tour of Riverbank Cemetery. Tour begins at 6:45 at the Cemetery gates. Rain date is June 25th (see article on page 4).

July 1st Celebrations

The usual fun, food, parades, games of chance, fireworks AND the Gun Run! Hope to see you at the Fair! See pages two and three for particulars.

50th Anniversary Celebrations July 31st & Aug 1st

The special events for this weekend include a wine and cheese party, BF and fun and games to honor all the past and present volunteers, staff and "customers" of HMCC.