

Club; Douglas Carter, Jimmie "Irish" Ranson, 3; "Bill" Rimmer, c; Bert Lesage, 3b; Kenny Atcheson, 2; "Bill" Hamilton, cf; George Brown, lf; Fredly Goyer, p; Tom O'Connell, George Schonfeldt, c; Jack Richardson, mascot; "Coney" Woods, rf; Johnny Jones, 2b; Jim O'Connor, 1b and manager; Jack Hurst, trainer.

Speed Canoe Club Existed 1895 to 1900

Was Flourishing Organization in Late '90's With About 250 Members

HELD WEEKLY TRIPS

Every Thursday Sixty Canoes Made Trip To Victoria Park

For five years—between 1895 and 1900—one of the most active and firmly implanted social and sporting organizations in Guelph was the Speed Canoe Club. Its membership consisted of about 250 boating enthusiasts of fun loving disposition, and their activities never languished. They flourished both winter and summer. In summer, concerts at the old Victoria Park awaited them at the end of the long paddle from Johnson's boathouse, and when snow covered the ground and the river was frozen solid, the club members and their lady friends were even more closely knitted together in the intimacy engendered by dances in the old City Hall.

Many a prominent business man in Guelph today can look back and thank the old canoe excursions for the helpmate who has been his life partner since those days of carefree companionship.

The club had as its meeting place one of the larger rooms in the old Victoria Inn. Among the 240 odd active and inactive members there were distributed some 60 canoes—fully sufficient to carry the club with its female additions on the weekly excursions.

Every Thursday evening the club would foregather at Johnson's boathouse and embark for the mile and a half trip up the river to the park. There they were entertained by musically talented members and others from the city chora. Among those who provided many of the most enjoyable items in those concert programs were "Eddie" Johnson, then a young choir boy of the city, Charles R. Kelly and Miss Hattie Kelly, and Arthur Wheatley. The latter an accomplished performer on that most difficult of instruments, the piccolo.

Sung Chorus On Return Trips.

Around midnight—in those days a scandalously late hour—the fleet would embark for the down-river voyage. All the way, the river alloy would echo and re-echo to the noisy choruses which were shouted lustily all the way down. Hands and arms would be made into grapping iron and the great armada of frail craft would be welded together on the return trip. Only those in rear would paddle, and that just enough energy would be expended to keep the fleet in motion.

The colors of the club were green and white, and on the only occasion in 50 years when an aquatic display was presented on the Upper River, between Allan's Dam and the Norwich Street Bridge, they were very much in evidence. This meet was held under the club auspices in the year 1899. A concert was a feature of the meet and gayly decorated canoes in competition for awards dotted the smooth stretches of the Speed all afternoon.

The club also conducted aquatic sports in the outdoor tank at the O. A. C. when it was first built.

Among those prominent in the club during the five years of its existence and seen from year to year in the lists of officers were Arthur Reynolds, R. G. Johnston, J. J. Mackey, J. S. Miller, Robert Grant, Edgerston Harris, Jack Doherty, W. Greenhalghs, Fred J. Buchanan, F. W. Farquhar, Robert Walker and Greg. Franks.

Since 1900 when this club disintegrated, there has never been any attempt made until this year to revive an interest in organized boating.

Previous to the founding of the Speed Canoe Club in 1895, there had been a similar organization many years before of which David Allen had been a prominent and active member.

Baseball In Guelph Dates Back To Year 1861 When Leafs Came Into Existence

Great Club Which Brought Much Fame to Royal City Was Formed 66 Years Ago by A. S. Feast—Won Distinction in Tournaments Throughout Canada And Later Tackled Crack United States Teams, Winning Amateur Championship of America in 1874—Interesting Comparison in Rules of Game Then And Now—Record Made By Team on Tour in 1886 Never Equalled in Annals of Baseball—George Steeman Identified With Organization For Many Years.

Having fostered baseball for 66 years, Guelph can rightfully lay claim to being one of the oldest and most famous ball towns in the Dominion—a boast that is made with a great deal of pride by those who are today followers of the popular summer pastime here. It was in the year 1861 that the first outdoor game had its beginning locally, the name of A. S. Feast being on record as the founder of the Maple Leaf Club, and since that time the wonderful achievements of teams playing under Guelph colors have won fame for the city not only throughout Canada, but from coast to coast in the United States.

Records show that the original President of the Maple Leaf organization was J. W. Colson, and the players who composed the first team were: William Sunley, pitcher; James T. Nichols, catcher; A. Myles, first base; V. Sweetman, second base; J. W. Colson, shortstop; George Eschler, right field; William Reilly, left field; George Walton, centre field; and A. S. Feast, third base.

In view of the fact that the game also took root in Woodstock, Ingersoll and Flamboro the same year, a series of exhibition matches provided entertainment for the first summer baseball was known locally, and the first out of town club that played on a Guelph diamond was Flamboro. According to an account of the "big event" appearing in one of the local papers, the game created a great "coil of interest, and it proved to be a most exciting contest, the score at the end of nine innings being a tie at 27 runs for each side.

Rules Were Different.

Nothing of importance seemed to have happened in 1862, but in 1863 the Maple Leafs journeyed to Hamilton where they played a team by the name of the "White City." It will be of interest to fans of today to know that the rules at that time made it necessary for the umpire to call the batter out if the fielder caught his fly on the first bounce. The same rule applied if the catcher got anything coming his way in the shape of a foul that he picked up on the first hop. Guelph won this match, 15-2. And although there were some slight changes in the personnel of the local team, the famous Sunley-Nichols battery again performed.

No further records are available until the year 1868, when a grand tournament took place at Woodstock. Teams from Guelph, London, Ingersoll and Woodstock competed. The first prize was a cash one, and for the second prize a silver tea service was given. The Guelph Maple Leafs were successful in winning second honors. Money was a scarce article at this time in the city's history, and shortly afterwards, when it was decided to erect a fence around "the home lot of the Maple Leafs, the tea service was raffled off or \$50, and the proceeds used to supplement the building fund.

In 1869 another tournament was held in London, in which the same clubs participated as in the year previous. The Maple Leafs were drawn against Ingersoll in the opening game. The correct score has not been preserved, but old-timers claim that Guelph was 44 runs ahead at the conclusion of hostilities. They made 14 homers during the match. The following day Woodstock and Guelph met in the 7th and the Maple Leafs disposed of half Ingersoll in the tune of 30-17. By winning the tournament the Guelph club treasury was enriched to the extent of \$150 in gold.

London was not quite satisfied with the outcome of the tournament, and the Leafs were induced to again re-

turn to the same city during Provincial Fair week to play the Londoners for the baseball supremacy of the Dominion. The match was played for a silver baseball and \$50 in cash, and Guelph won the game, 42 to 20. This made the Maple Leafs two-time champions, but, much to their surprise, on their arrival home they found the silver ball was bogus, inasmuch as it was only silver plated. Genuine Trophy Received Later.

The late George Steeman, who became identified with the club a few years after its organization, later secured the real silver ball, along with a beautiful bat containing a silver wor furl with the same engraving as on the one which was silver plated. The bogus sphere was retained by Mr. Steeman, and the difference between the two could easily be detected when they were placed side-by-side.

In 1870 the Leafs stayed at home to defend their honors. Six outside clubs visited the city during the season in an effort to wrest the championship away from Guelph, but each attempt proved a failure. The teams who sought the coveted honor were: the Abertops, champions of Dundas; Youngs Canadians of Woodstock; Mutuals of Hamilton; and the Maple Leafs of Hamilton, who tried twice.

During the year the first American trip of the Maple Leafs was made. Games were played in Rochester, Syracuse and Oswego, and Syracuse, which played a picked team, was the only outfit to beat Guelph.

For the next two baseball seasons the locals continued to defend the championship against all comers, including the teams from London. The silver ball then became the property of the Leafs, being one of Mr. Steeman's prized possessions up to the time of his death.

Against Professionals.

Having cleaned up everything in the amateur ranks, the team took another jaunt into the United States in 1873, having decided to tackle the professionals. They met Baltimore, Philadelphia Nationals and the New York Mutuals, and although they tasted defeat in all three encounters, the scores were close in every case.

In their game with New York, they battled against Cummings, who was recognized as the first pitcher who ever used a curvy ball. On their way home they stopped off and played a game at Ilion, N.Y., in which they were victorious, 20 to 19. Mr. Thomas-Goldie, who was later Mayor of Guelph, and Mr. Boucklers, a prominent resident, accompanied the players on the trip.

It was in 1874 that Mr. George Steeman became President of the Maple Leafs. Previous to this Mr. Steeman had owned a team of his own, named the Silver Crooks, and they had been very successful in playing amateur ball. George Chamberlain is the only ex-member of this combination now living in Guelph.

"Bill" Sunley, one of the original members of the Leafs' hustling corps, was still going strong in this year; in fact he was going so strong that he twice a game on May 24 in which Guelph handed Seaforth a 20 to 0 drubbing. His former battery mate, and the other members of the original Leafs had all disappeared by this time, and the team was lined up as follows: William Sunley, pitcher; Charles Mack, catcher; H. Myers, first base; George H. Keel, second base; William Jones, shortstop; H. Spence, third base; Thomas Smith, left field; W. Smith, centre field; and John Colson, right field.

On June 30 of this year the Leafs made a trip to Brantford, where they met the famous Boston Red Stockings and were defeated. They suc-

ceeded in bringing the Boston players back to Guelph for a return game the following day, and in many respects this was the most remarkable baseball match ever played in Canada, the crowd in attendance being estimated at 10,000, including the 30th Battalion of Wellington Rifles, which were in camp here at the time. It was a big disappointment to the huge gathering when the home team tasted defeat.

The night of July 1 the Leafs, accompanied by a few loyal supporters, left for Watertown, N.Y., where they were entered in a tournament. The event was advertised as an amateur one, but was really semi-professional. There were fourteen teams entered from Canada and the United States, but Guelph proved to be the only Canadian club to put in an appearance.

The Leafs were called on to win three games in the tourney before they were crowned with the title of amateur champions of the United States and Canada, and incidentally pulled down a money prize of \$500. The three teams defeated were the Ku Klux Klan, 13-4; Nassaus, of New York, 21-8, and Easton, Pa., 12-10. The Easton players were all professionals, and made a desperate effort to win in the last inning, when they piled up six runs, but they could not overcome the lead of the Guelphians.

It will be noticed that in each game played Guelph made 13 runs, and it was an unlucky number for them.

The line-up in the Watertown games was switched around some. W. Smith was brought in from centre field to do the pitching, the old reliable, Wm. Sunley, going to right field, and Robert Emery taking up the duties in the centre garden. The team didn't lose a game during the balance of the year.

Champion Thrower.

It was also at Watertown, on the fourth day of July, that year, that W. Smith, the star pitcher of the Maple Leafs, won first prize and the championship for the longest throw. The exact distance that Smith heaved the sphere is not shown on local records, but according to old-timers it was a remarkably long one.

On the return journey from the tournament the Leafs stopped off at Cobourg for a game, the result of the match being 40 to 8 for Guelph. The Cobourg Tour of July 10, 1874, devoted a large amount of space to its report of the game, and spoke of the gentlemanly playing and bearing of the Guelph team, both on and off the field.

In 1875 they again visited Watertown to compete in a tournament, but lost the final game to the Live Oaks, of Lynn, Mass., by the close count of 8 to 3. They, however, took second money, which amounted to \$350 in cash.

The year 1876 was not a very successful one for the local club. That season they played three games

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Golf Is Very Popular Game In Royal City

Has Been Played By Local Devotees For Over 25 Years

CLUB FLOURISHING

Construction of 18-Hole Course May Be Necessity Before Long

People began to play golf in Guelph spasmodically about the beginning of the century. An apology for a course was made on the hill near the rifle ranges. Later a better course was established at the Junction, where the McArthur Construction Co. is now located. This latter course was very sporting, though too small, and there were not enough players to keep it properly. The "club house" was a large elm tree, upon which the players hung coats and hats while playing. Such a club house, while very graceful and beautiful to look at, lacked accommodation, not even being equipped with a "nineteenth hole." In spite of many drawbacks the members had a lot of fun on the little links.

Country Club Incorporated in 1912. Nothing much was done, however, towards getting a better course till 1912, when some eight or ten enthusiasts met one evening at "Sunny Creek" and decided to appoint provisional officers and committees to see if a proper golf club could be formed.

The canvassers met with great encouragement and had no difficulty in securing subscriptions. So much so that "later on" that same year the "Guelph Country Club, Limited" was incorporated. The provisional officers were: President, C. E. Freer; treasurer, A. M. Brown; secretary, Frederic Watt. After inspecting many different sites the present one was chosen and work commenced on the grounds under the supervision of Mr. G. Powell Hamilton and the club house began. The late Dr. Reed was the chairman of the building committee. Speaking of that when the Doctor was asked to take the chairmanship, he said, "I'll do it, not because I want to play golf, or ever expect to play it, but I think the club will be an asset to the city, and I'll do what I can to help." The following year, smiling with age, he told the writer: "I was the first man on the links this spring, and I'll be the last one to play this fall. It's a great game." This is related not only to show Dr. Reed's willingness to help, but to show the tremendous fascination of golf.

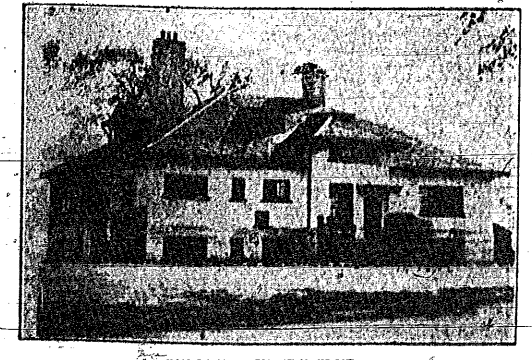
During 1913 the club was formally opened, six holes being in use, and later the whole 9 holes were in play.

Prospered After War.

The club started 1914 very auspiciously, but the war came that year and during the war had pretty hard sledding, and instead of being kept open as a rendezvous for winter sports, had to be closed during the winters. The writer thinks that much may be done for winter sports at the club—hobnobbing, skiing and even trap shooting could be carried on with very little trouble.

After the war the club prospered, and continues to do so. It has now some 400 members, and though the course has been changed several times, the directors and players all agree that they now have the best layout possible on the land. Owing to the members' interest it will soon be contemplated establishing a 18-hole course.

It must be remembered that the course is not an ideal golf is of gravel and clay, and a glorious one, giving a view of the surrounding country in all directions. The club being so close to the city, and a use, the site selected had as possible to the city as possible, by street car. The present is the only piece of land that conditions, and the terrain improved from year to year. There have been planted both lawns and trees, and short time Guelph will be a course that will compare with any other of its size.



GUELPH COUNTRY CLUB
Sited in an ideal location on a hill near Wellington Place, on the north-west borders of the city. The club house, pictured above, is built in a cosy bungalow style of architecture. From the building a commanding view of the surrounding country can be obtained.

Presented Ranked

Club Organized at Most Creditable League Campaigns and Title-Players' Game on Home

To have been top-notch senior Inter-Country since the inception of the 1919, in the splendid record presented by Maple Leafs' amateurs who rightfully carry that famous old name since the game was first known years ago. From the day following the Great War, were trying to forget the of the "high," a contest, had been doing their bit in the winter entertainments for the public, and it can be that they have certainly not only to themselves, old id under whose col been playing.

While the team has honor of winning the they have always been had to be reckless in the compact Maple Leafs' wheels, but in many of the off, and their record of seasons compared favorably of the classic senior combinations in Ontario, showing from year to year them a province-wide they stand out today as known clubs performance company.

Always in the Some idea of the group, is gleaned when a consider that the Guelph never finished a season loop place in the last eight seven of those eight they the league final of advance O. B. A. A. play-downs, year they did remarkably well up in the Ontario. In 1921 it was thought revive the name of the Leafs, and from then on emblem has been a fixture.

It was on March 6 of the number of local enthusiasts and formed an organization known as the Guelph Maple Leaf Club, Bert Hewer, one most faithful supporters, with the presidency. The officers were Harry West, president; Harry Lansing, president; R. Stewart, president; Mort Johnson, treasurer; J. T. Hamlin, George B. Sloan, P. J. Milton and J. members of the executive.

Reached Ontario Club was practically uninter management took over the control of the club and centive for the boys to fame than ever before, the land. Owing to the members' interest it will soon be contemplated establishing a 18-hole course.

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