



New addition to the old arena also new entrance 1948--1975.



Which One Didn't Bring His Skates?

As Wayne Hill, 5, and Bruce Bishop, 6, start home from fun at community-owned arena, Kent Hill, 5, looks woefully on, for he came out without his skates, although he's generally a regular skater.



Community Swimming Pool



1995

SPORTS IN NOBLETON

The people in Nobleton and vicinity were always known to be sportsminded, both in winter sports such as hockey, broomball, skating parties and carnivals, while in summer it was soccer, baseball, tennis and field days.

An annual field day was held each fall and soccer and baseball teams competed in the tournaments for prizes. Other events such as pony racing around an obstacle course and other sport events, tossing the caber, foot races, pitching horseshoes always brought plenty of competition and made for an enjoyable afternoon.

In the evening the crowds moved into the arena where they were entertained by some well known entertainers such as Jimmie Fax and Joe Williams who were here on several occasions.

In order to record a History of Sports in Nobleton it is deemed advisable to divide it into winter and summer sports.

First, Winter Sports

The first covered arena in York County was built in Nobleton on the property now owned by Howard Wellar. This arena was built by Joseph Pringle during the summer of 1906. The timbers used in the construction of the roof were cut in Pringle's bush one mile north of Nobleton.

The lighting system was by gasoline lamps using mantles similar to Coleman type lamps used today. Ice making was a real problem, because due to the shortage of water it had to be hauled a considerable distance in barrels by horses and sleigh in order to get the initial ice covering.

This arena collapsed during the winter of 1912-1913 as a result of an extra heavy snowfall.

This would have discouraged many people but not the sportsminded people in Nobleton because early in the spring of 1913 "Lonnie Wellar" who now owned the property assisted by a number of these people once again went to the bush in search of suitable timbers to support the roof.

This time the timbers were found in Cairn's Swamp on Concession XI and the new building was opened in December for the 1913-1914 season.

The lighting system in the new arena was a much improved system. At the start power was obtained from the Delco System at the feed mill, however, later on a Delco System was installed at the arena.

This arena, referred to as the second arena, was operated by several local people on a rental basis from Mr. Wellar until the winter of 1943-1944 when it was sold and moved away in 1944.

Nobleton was without an arena until the fall of 1948 when the present arena opened.

Hockey

According to information on the back of photo which reads "First Nobleton Hockey Team 1907" the following names are recorded: Harold Pringle, Joseph Boak, Milt Breedon, Walter Sloan, William Breedon, John Boak, George Fry and Robert Boak (Coach).

The hockey teams of this era played seven man hockey and were not permitted to carry any substitutes. The extra man was called the "rover" and it was his duty to be in the thick of the action at all times.

Between the years 1913 and 1920 many local boys wore the Nobleton sweaters. The following are a few of the boys on the team during this period - Albert Hill, Stan Ezard, Roderick McCutcheon, Walter McCutcheon, Jess Humphrey, Sherman Duggan, Harold Pringle, Lyn Gould, Bert McCaffrey and many others. Many people will remember the games played during the winter of 1915-1916.

First the series with the 127th Battalion, which was stationed at Aurora, Nobleton winning the first game played at home by a single goal. An exceptionally heavy snow storm took place that night and the Aurora players were forced to remain in Nobleton for two days. The return game in Aurora, on the larger ice surface, was to be a great advantage to the Aurora team, however it

did not prove to be that way as Nobleton won by a large score.

The second series was with the 220th Battalion from Thistleton and Nobleton won both of these games.

Transportation was always a major problem in arranging these games. The roads were generally filled with snow and the only means of transportation was by horse and sleigh. Imagine players coming off the ice after a game and travelling ten or fifteen miles by sleigh.

Between the years of 1912-1920 arenas were built in Bolton, Schomberg and Alliston and as a result hockey teams were organized in these communities. This resulted in much friendly rivalry between the teams and fans who were treated to real good hockey games.

Minor hockey was organized during this period and generally the boy's games were played just prior to the men's games.

During the 1920's a girls team was organized and a league schedule, drawn up with the teams from Bolton, Schomberg, Kleinburg and Nobleton.

In addition to hockey many broomball tournaments were held and teams organized locally competed.

It has been told that one of these teams, after winning several tournaments, were disqualified when it was discovered that the players had not only dipped their brooms and froze them but they also had tacked sandpaper to their boots.

The annual Sunday School Skating Party was always one of the big events, the other was the carnival held near the end of the season. Many persons, both young and old, competed for prizes for the best costume, speed skating and other events. The new arena meant a new era for hockey in Nobleton.

After operating the arena the first winter with natural ice it was decided that in order to operate it successfully artificial ice equipment must be installed. This was done the next summer and teams were organized for boys of all ages from Intermediates to Tykes.

As a result of excellent coaching the players received it was only a short time before the name Nobleton was known in a great many towns and villages in Ontario.

Teams from Nobleton have won many championships both in the Ontario Hockey Association (O.H.A.) and in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (O.M.H.A.)

The new arena also meant a new era for the skaters. A Figure Skating Club was organized, professional teachers were engaged and the young people in the community were given the opportunity to become skilled figure skaters. During the last week in March each year the Skating Club entertained the public by holding a two night carnival.

In addition, to the above, the Ladies and Men's Curling Clubs use the arena every Thursday afternoon and evening.

Second, Summer Sports

One would be remiss if soccer was not mentioned as being the first summer sport. During the period between the years 1905 and 1915 Nobleton had one of the better soccer teams in the country and competed not only against local teams but also against a number of well known Toronto Clubs. In fact, some of our local players were invited to accompany one of the Toronto Clubs on a soccer tour in England.

A photo of the Nobleton Club taken in 1907 at Schomberg shows the following players: Stan Wellar, William Rose, Joseph Boak, Charles Fry, George Gould, Robert Norman, Arthur Egan, John Boak, William Phillips, Norman Hill and Walter Sloan.

Soccer continued to be the major sport in summer until the war years in 1914 to 1918 and Nobleton teams were able to hold their own with any of the teams.

Baseball

During the early 1920's hardball was organized by Russell Kelly and the

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games were played in Ellis' field, just south of the Village on the west side of Highway #27.

The following are the names of some of the players on the first team: Wells McDonald, Russell Kelley, Reuben Dobson, Herman Kelley, Norm Clarke, Del Robertson, Harold Taylor, Harold Cain, Roderick McCutcheon, Frank Clark, Garnet Hoover and Verne Robertson.

A league was set up which comprised teams from Bolton, Palgrave, Beeton, Schomberg and New Scotland and each team had a big following of local supporters with the result each game carried a good deal of friendly rivalry.

Early in the 1930's softball replaced hardball as the major summer sport. The York-Peel softball league was started and teams from Woodbridge, Coleraine, Bolton, King City, Schomberg and Nobleton joined the league. The following are the names of some of the players on the first team: Forest Mactaggart, Jay McGuire, Walter Thompson, Robert Kennedy, Art Hill, Harold Rose, Percy Hill, Howard Dobson, Gordon Broad, Stan Wilkie, Ken Mactaggart.

A girls softball league was organized in the 1930's and teams from King City, Bolton, Schomberg and Nobleton joined. The following are the names of some of the players: Helen McCutcheon, Lottie Hambly, Hazel Hoover, Vera Hoover, Muriel Irwin, Gladys Jewitt, Laura Boak, Jean Boak, Merle Hawman, Pearl Hawman and Bernice Hoover.

The foregoing gives some idea of the sports in the Nobleton area and also the names of some of the people who took part in these sports.

The fact that three covered arenas were built in Nobleton is in itself a feat that we must admire.



FIRST NOBLETON HOCKEY TEAM, 1907

Top Row - Harold Pringle, Joe Boak, Milt Breedon, Walter Sloan, Billy Breedon.
 Front Row - John Boak, Bob Boak, George Fry.



Nobleton 12th July Gathering--Schomberg 1907

(Rugby)

Norm Wellar, Cecil Snider, Max Ballard, N. Pringle, Mrs. A Wellar, Joe Ballard, Billy Phillips, Mrs. Ballard, Norm Hill, Alonzo Wellar, Walt Sloan, Altie Jeffrie, Mrs. Gould, Bob Norman, Art Egan, John Boak, Stanley Wellar, Will Rose, Joe Boak.

Community Sports

(1996)

NOBLETON BASEBALL ASSOCIATION • Arlene Nicholas, President • 859-0076

The Nobleton Baseball Association is in its 28th year. The Association operates House League for children from 6 to 18 including T-Ball, softball and hardball. We also have Rep Teams entered in the Ontario Baseball Association leagues. A large, enthusiastic group of volunteer executive members and coaches organize the leagues, run clinics for players and coaches and train umpires. We strongly endorse the fair play approach to sport and try to develop our players while preserving the sporting environment. We encourage you to get involved with this great summer pastime.



NOBLETON CURLING CLUB • Lorie Fenton • 859-5205

Hit the ice for a sport that nice! Every October, the Nobleton Curling Clubs welcome back a cool sport with hot action. With 4 clubs, there's something for every age and gender. We are always looking for new members, so come out & exercise some muscles you never knew you had, meet new friends and sweep to your heart's content.



Nobleton Arena:
 Thursday Afternoon 1:00pm - 3:00pm
 Thursday Afternoon 4:00pm - 6:00pm
 Thursday Evening 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Ladies:
Little Rocks (juniors):
Men:

NOBLEKING MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION • Martin Holden, President • 893-2547

Nobleton and King City recently joined forces to form the new NOBLEKING Minor Hockey Association. The joint executive will be meeting all spring and summer to write a new constitution, choose team colors and a decide on a logo. Watch the King/Vaughan Weekly for registration dates. For information regarding summer hockey leagues for children, please call Wayne or Mary Baker at (905) 859-5288.



Our All-Ontario BB Champion NOBLEKING Bantams will be participating in the Victoria Day Parade. Give them a big cheer as they pass, they've had a great season and made us all proud.

NOBLETON SKATING CLUB • Audrey D'souza-Moraes • 859-0909



The Nobleton Skating Club has served the community for over 25 years. Based at the Nobleton Arena and operating from Oct. to March, the club's goal is to offer lessons to residents that promote fitness, fun and the love of skating. Our Programs range from beginner skating for preschoolers to sessions for adults already proficient in the sport. We offer power skating to enhance the hockey player's skills, the C.F.S.A sanctioned CANSKATE program to learn the basics and a more in depth "figure" skating program. There's something for everyone

KLEINBURG-NOBLETON SOCCER CLUB • Answering Service • (905) 893-3388

The Kleinburg-Nobleton Soccer Club is committed to the promotion and development of community youth soccer. In addition to the existing Rep teams, the league now has over 200 participants registered for House league play. Club members and coaches are dedicated to the promotion of true sportsmanship. They strive to be a club where players, parents and coaches work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect.



NOBLETON TENNIS CLUB • Chris Andrews, Tournament Chair • 859-1448



The 1996 tennis season is almost here and we would like you to join us at the Nobleton Tennis Club. We are excited about the two new tennis courts that were built beside the existing courts in Nobleton Park. The Nobleton Tennis Club offers its members: exclusive use of the new courts, lessons, club tournaments, ladies night, men's night, family night, junior proram, Sunday round robin, mixed doubles night, opening and closing BBQ's, and the club newsletter



Nobleton Community Centre and Arena. The ice arena (photos on Page 69) was completed in 1949 and was debt-free in 1954. This arena was torn town in 1977 and replaced the same year by the Community Centre and Arena seen today. Funds for this construction came from a variety of sources, including the Lions Club. The ice surface is used for hockey, figure skating, public skating and curling. The Nobleton Seniors Drop-in Centre, auditorium and banquet facilities for 250 are well-used by everyone. In 1995, the second floor becme more accesible with the addition of an elevator. Ron Wilson Construction did the work and the Lions raised the \$45 000 through donations and a low-interest loan from the township.

Tennis Courts and Swimming Pool. In 1971, the Lions Club took on the project of the swimming pool and spent nearly \$95 000 by the time the pool was paid off and in operation. By the end of 1974, it was debt-free and was turned over to the township to operate. In addition to this outdoor swimming pool, Nobleton Community Park has two baseball diamonds (one with lights), T-ball, tennis courts, soccer pitch, playground and washrooms. Every Victoria Day Monday evening, people gather to watch the amazing fireworks display put on by the Nobleton Fire Department supported by donations frm people in town.

