

NOBLETON COMMUNITY HALL

The information that we can gather at this time, 1962, from our oldest residents, some over 80 years, is to the fact that the former building on the present hall site, was known as the music hall, because it was taken care of and mostly used by the Nobleton Band, but it is an established fact that it was not built by them. Some have suggested there was a group called The Sons of Temperance and it is possible they built it, as they were a fairly strong organization. We do know that a lease was given by Martin Snider for 99 years (this was originally Mr. Snider's property).

The old building was of frame construction and to our knowledge never painted, much smaller than the present building. While the band was in charge, and this was over quite a period of years, George Holden, affectionally known as Daddy Holden, took care of it. It was used for band practice and concerts. The small boys of the village took a delight in coming to the hall during practice to hear the music. Some we have in mind were Howard and M. Wellar, Harold Pringle. There were not so many organized clubs and activities for boys at that time.

The band had about 22 members led by Johnnie Pringle and later Mr. McDonald. Some of the places they regaled with their music were Dr. Carmichael's Strawberry Festivals held at the Manse near the 6th Concession, Mulock's farm on Yonge St., Lennox picnic at Jackson's Point. For some of these gatherings they received \$40.00 and at garden parties and smaller affairs they were given their supper or a hat would be passed around. No one was paid but the money was used to defray expenses. Two band wagons were used for transportation. Appropriate music was played at funerals and several families requested this service. To the different young people connected with this band much interest and pleasure was derived. However the pendulum swings and like most activities, come to an end.

Other groups became interested in using this building... S.S. parties were held there and at one a lamp was knocked over starting a fire. No tragedy resulted as Hec. White took off his coat and threw it over the small blaze. The S.S. responded by buying him a new coat.

Space was needed as time went by and three trustees were appointed to begin some repairs...the gallery that was over the front entrance was removed. There was no basement under the old building and one large stove was used for heat. When a dance was in progress the stag line was several layers deep just inside the entrance. The ladies sat around the sides on display hoping not to be wallflowers. Concerts and box socials became popular. Medicine troops came also council meetings, nominations and political meetings. One social event of the year was the dance held by invitation only. This was quite an elaborate affair in those days. The ladies spent a great deal of money and time to be the bell of the ball.

As time went by the old building was becoming inadequate to meet the demands of all the activities. A community meeting was called under pressure from the W.I. on March 25th 1935. Three new trustees were nominated as there hadn't been a change for some year. The three were N. Robb, R. Snider and L. Goodfellow. So with the Community and the W.I. behind them, they planned a new building and 1936 saw the completion of our present community hall. When they started, the W.I. had \$300. on hand. A committee was added to the trustees.

namely, Harold Pringle, E.J. Kaake, Llyle Stewart, Delbert Arlow, Harold Taylor Lyman Davies and Thomas McMurchy. The names of Mrs. D. Arlow and Mrs. A. Gillham were added to represent the W.I. Clarence Trainor and Harold Segar to represent the Junior Farmers.

The new hall cost approximately \$3,578. This money was all raised but \$1,500 and the trustees signed this mortgage and asked to be left in charge until this was paid off.

Mr. J. Cherry was hired as caretaker in 1940 and served faithfully for several years. Special fund raising committees were set up and a great deal of money made from dances and a special drive to pay off the mortgage was held in our first Jamboree which was a big success and we were free of debt. Our next project was the building of the Arena, after this was accomplished, there was a community association appointed with one new member added each year and one retiring. Then the deed of the hall was turned over to this association and the business of both hall and arena were looked after by this group. The W.I. played a big part in both projects helping keep the hall in repair. At the present time, 1962, a big project is in the making and we will hope to report this a big success.

In the spring of 1962, a new kitchen was installed by contractor Bruce Clark, two new washrooms upstairs by contractor Hultse of Schomberg, some improvements to the floor surface. The W.I. contributed around \$3,000. to this project.



1975



A social event was in progress around 1910 when this photo was taken in the building which was known as Nobleton's "Music Hall." Land on which the frame structure was built was donated by a local farmer in 1885 and, over the years, it became a centre for many community activities.



Interior of Community Hall 1992
Above - Upper Level Facing South
Below - Upper Level Facing North





Lower Level of Community Hall 1992
Top - Kitchen
Middle - South End
Bottom - North End



1986

1936
**Banquet Marks Opening
of Nobleton's New Hal**

The banquet on Friday night to officially mark the completion and opening of Nobleton's new community hall will be remembered as one of the most auspicious events in the history of the King Township village. Every available ticket was sold and many prominent persons attended.

The realization of a desire held for many years by Nobleton and district residents for a better hall was evident to those who inspected the up-to-date community centre, which has already become the hub of the community's social activities. Upon examination the building revealed itself as being complete and adequate in every particular for today and years to come. It was therefore with a feeling of the utmost satisfaction, gained from the fact that their new hall was now a reality, that local residents sat down to well laden tables, and with the guests admiration of the achievement in building such a fine hall was felt most dominantly.

The banquet was a most enjoyable affair. A splendid menu was arranged and an entertaining toast list was carried out with the popular radio announcer, Jim Hunter, acting in the capacity of toastmaster. Toasts were interspersed with selections by the orchestra and community singing. Until the arrival of Jim Hunter, Foster Hewitt, the incomparable sports' announcer, so well known from coast to coast, substituted, and in the parlance of the hockey fan, "scored again."

"To those who have contributed or assisted in the building of the hall" was the important toast proposed by Rev. F. V. Abbott. In response Norman Robb, one of the leaders in the new hall movement, spoke of the whole-hearted support accorded the project by Nobleton and district residents and how the early organization was done and the final completion realized after months of hard though harmonious work on the part of both ladies and men.

To Mrs. Norman Davidson, Russell Snider and Lorne B. Goodfellow he especially referred for the indefatigable energy they put forth from start to finish. A brief tribute was extended Harvey L. Snider, 87 year old native of Nobleton who was present. Also among those present was Mrs. Fanny Pringle, Nobleton, whose father, Martin Snider, donated the land three quarters of a century

ago for the old "Music Hall." The new hall has been built on the same site. To those persons, who have lately moved to the Nobleton district and have their farms and summer places thereabouts, sincere thanks were extended for their generous financial aid.

The fertile farming lands and the fine people of the Township of King came in for some very kind words when Fred Whitlow proposed the toast, "The Municipality of King." The speaker touched briefly on the historical background of the township and told some humorous incidents concerning his avocation-farming. Asking how Nobleton got its name, upon inquiry, we find the speaker was right—from a family by the name of Noble who settled in the district a century ago. Incidentally the mother of Lord Beaverbrook, Canadian-born English publishing magnate, was a Noble and a descendant of the family after which Nobleton was named. Reeve J. F. Jefferson in replying told of the fine qualities which characterized King, the largest township in York county, and of the close proximity to Toronto which makes it so attractive to city dwellers, who wish summer places.

It was with profound regret that those present learned from Rev. S. J. T. Fortner that the guest speaker, Hon. Newton W. Rowell, Chief Justice of the Province of Ontario, was unable to be present owing to indisposition. Mrs. Rowell was present and occupied a seat at the head table and brought greeting from the distinguished jurist. Mr. H. R. Jackson, the guest speaker, told of the joy it was to get away from the city to their farms in the Nobleton vicinity and mingle and enjoy the company of the people of the district.

The toast to the ladies was proposed by Crown Attorney C. L. Snyder. He jocularly described the ladies as "Angels of the Kitchen" and evoked much laughter with his description of a Scottish police court scene. In replying on behalf of the ladies Miss Margaret Watson alluded to the aid the ladies of the district had been in the building of the new hall. She thanked the gentlemen present in pleasing terms for honoring the ladies with the toast.

The climax to the affair came when those present were joined by many from the wide area and dancing enjoyed to the swing of music on the glistening and inviting new floor.



Community Euchre Sponsored by W.I. March 1996

With a fully equipped kitchen and dining facility on the lower level and bar facilities and dance floor on the upper level, the hall is used extensively for activities such as banquets, receptions, meetings, voting, Girl Guides, Horticultural shows, Lions Club, Women's Institute, craft shows, church bazaars and euchre. The hall is "owned" by King Township and is supported by rental fees for use. A volunteer board of management oversees the running of the hall. The hall board includes members from the Women's Institute (Jean Boynton, Dorothy Lane and Mary Anne Merritt) and the Lions' Club (Lloyd Smith, Ken Hodgson and Joe Tasca). The current caretakers are Jan and David Ball. The board makes sure that minor improvements and maintenance are done on a yearly basis. In 1979, the front entrance was closed up and a side entrance and foyer were added. A new furnace was installed in 1982 and glass display cases were added to the foyer in 1983. The appreciation of the people in town goes to the hall board and the township for continuing to provide this excellent space for community activities. (1996)