

MEMORIES OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AS A YOUTH IN 1950's and 60's by Don Dalziel

These social activities are in addition to church activities.

There were piano lessons. Edna Pringle was the teacher in the 50's and there were recitals whereby students could show their talents. These were usually held in the Community Hall. In 1957 Stan Irwin, Darlene Snider, Kleinburg, and Gordon Blair, Nashville won at the Kiwanis Festival for a piano trio under 11 years of age.

Myrna Moore/Horsely gave piano lessons and singing lessons in the 60's and again there were recitals and variety nights for the students to display their talents.

There was a junior bowling league.

The Junior Horticulture started in 1958. There were 26 members and for 25 cents you were given garden seeds and instructions how to plant a garden. It was your responsibility to plant and look after this garden that meant keeping the weeds out. A judge would come around and judge the garden. There was a flower/vegetable show where you would enter and compete with other members in the hope of winning the treasured trophy. (see photocopy) By 1960 there were 55 members from Nobleton, King City and Schomberg.

The Nobleton Figure Skating Club will be discussed in the sports section .

There were 4-H agricultural Clubs . The closest to us were the ones held in Bolton with showing at the Bolton Fall Fair. Other fairs that I remember competing in were Erin and Markham. There was a calf club, swine, corn, forestry (had to plant a windbreak or reforest an area) and grain. For example for the calf club one had to choose a calf and raise it and send in monthly reports in to the Department of Agriculture, participate in a judging competition, take an exam, attend meetings, and you were also marked on your calf's appearance and your showmanship to win. Have you ever braided unwilling calf's tail, put black shoe polish on the hooves, white on the knees, given the calf a bath and above all train the calf to walk around a show ring? Even worse was trying to bath a pig and using tons of Baby powder to make sure that the pig, mine being a Yorkshire one, looked nice and clean. You had to train the pig to walk around the show ring without rooting in the ground and your only tool was a cane. Peel County had an awards night and presentations for all the winners from the various clubs in the county.

4-H Homemaking clubs were sponsored by the W.I. . There were cooking, sewing , garden clubs, etc. One attended meeting, took minutes, kept a record book and completed a project. The hardest one I ever took when we had to make a bedspread, pillow shams and a dresser scarf. At the end of the project there was an Achievement Day for all of York County where your record book, checked by the

home economist before hand and a display of something made. If successful, you were rewarded with a sterling silver spoon. 12 projects got you county honors and 18 provincial honors. Each club had to put on a skit , demonstration or exhibit. (see photocopy). Three local girls Evelyn Mactaggart, Helen Irwin and Gail Mactaggart won the Anna P. Lewis Scholarship upon graduation from high school.

In the summer swimming was in the Humber on the King/Vaughan, One was warned not to swim in Bell's Lake as was a bottomless lake. A bus took a group of students to Thornhill Pool . (see photocopy) My cousins and neighbours had fun in our flooded back lawn or in the galvanized bath tub.

Each student in June was given a free pass to the C.N.E. There was a bus from Nobleton to the C.N.E. or else a group of families got together and headed down on Pure Food Day because there would lots of samples in the food building.

In the winter, there was always hockey or skating on the farm ponds. I always looked forward to going to Toronto to see Eaton's animated windows at Christmas, ride the Toyland train, sit on Santa's knee and have your picture taken and of course park at Eaton's College Street and take the bus to downtown Eaton store.

Scouts