



TIGNISH YOUTH HELPED BUILD OPEN RINK

Saturday Will See Culmination Of Tignish Centennial Project

By MRS. EDITH ELDERSHAW
TIGNISH — The Tignish Sports Recreation Association with the following Board of Directors: Philip Harper, president, David Harper, first vice-president, Franklin Perry, treasurer, Mrs. Reg. Eldershaw, secretary, Gerald Keough, sports director, Russell Perry, Kenneth McRae, Alcide Boudreau, Robert Keough will see a long awaited dream come true on Saturday February 12 at 1:30 in the afternoon when Hon. Henry W. Wedge, Minister of Health, will declare the Tignish Centennial

Community Sports Arena officially opened. Leading Island dignitaries among them Rev. David MacDonald, Ottawa MP for Prince, invited guests and a large number of sports and recreation minded people will be on hand to witness the official opening ceremonies. Following the opening ceremonies the annual ice sports for all Prince County will be held in the arena. The president and directors feel very honored that the arena was chosen for this event on such a special day al-

lowing the youth to enjoy a little of the sport that was first stressed for them by the workers who saw the need for such a rink for Tignish. The idea of a closed-in rink for Tignish did not originate overnight. It was a long range program that started on October 28, 1960 when a group of people calling themselves the Tignish Athletic Association got together to try in some small way to provide winter entertainment to a neglected youth in a small village. Their main purpose as they met that first evening was to provide a rink for the youth, where skating and hockey could be enjoyed. Gerald Keough, Gordon Grady, John Gavin, Irving MacDonald, Clifton Gavin, Mrs. Milton Keough, Mrs. Gunnaar Pedersen at the first meeting agreed to head the "Rink Committee". They undertook to raise funds to promote the project.

eight years an outdoor skating rink sized 70 ft. by 170 ft. was erected. Skates came out of moth balls once more and the smiles on the faces of the youth that winter was reward enough for a job well done. Methods of raising funds and promoting a much needed hockey program was worked out with a great deal of difficulty due to a lack of membership to help supervise more than 400 young people, but an active rink committee held ice sports and a fancy dress carnival and crowned their first Ice Queen that was later to continue and become a popular event. The outdoor rink was put into shape but snow storm after snow storm that winter hampered operations for several weeks at a time, with community spirit declining as a hard working board of directors faced with many drawbacks almost gave up the fight as a lost cause but the strong will of one or more of the group somehow kept them together. Strong words of encouragement given by Very Rev. M.J. Rooney, pastor of St. Simon and St. Jude Church, had a bearing on keeping the members from giving up during those first few years.

Excitement awaited the youngsters that winter when a new sound system was purchased by the association and installed free of charge by Rev. David MacDonald, minister of the United Church. 175 boys ranging in age from Paperweight to intermediate took part in the hockey program that winter. Phillip Harper, physical education educator at the Tignish elementary school held a number of classes for the children teaching them the fundamentals of skating and hockey. In May members of the government were contacted by the association and invited to come to the village and enlighten the people in the area on the ARDA program. This undertaking was fulfilled and the program is still an active one in the community. In the spring a much needed baseball diamond was constructed on rented property. The Red Cross Water Safety swimming course that year had a record enrollment of 142 children and a class of adults. An aquatic sports day undertaken for the first time and directed by David Millar of the Red Cross was reported as the most successful on the Island. Swimmers also took part in the West Prince County Board of Trade water sports another annual event. Nine very excited and happy youth won the Prince County championship trophy at Charlottetown that year. Taking part in the competition along with their swimming instructor Leo Broderick were: Bobby Boyce, Claire Fraser, David Gaudet, Roy Handrahan, Michael Broderick, Midge Eldershaw, Sylvia Conway, Patsy Richard and Joyce Gavin. Town league basketball teams and a softball team were also sponsored. Early improvements were made to the rink in December that year under the Winter Works program and centennial year took shape in the Tignish Community.

WON CHAMPIONSHIP
The winter sports program to everybody's amazement was climaxed by the Tignish Pee-Wee team coached and managed by Gordon Grady winning the Prince and King's County championship trophy. This was topped off with a sports banquet for over 80 young hockeyists. Bob Schurman guest speaker for the occasion had high praise for all those who helped to make hockey a success that winter.

With the coming of spring the association was forced with a yet bigger problem, the need for summer recreation for the youth, the foundation was laid "dare they stop now", regular meetings were held, and an active committee grew stronger as more members were added to its list of workers.

Minor and major league baseball was organized and carried out with success, in spite of the fact that Gordon Grady village policeman was leaving to take up police duties in Summerside. That year the Tignish Aces captured the provincial intermediate rural baseball crown by defeating Morell and going on to play Plaster Rock, N.E. for the Maritime Intermediate B championship. The play went the three games but the Aces were defeated in a hard fought series.

Early in October plans were laid to secure more members so a winter program could be promoted and better supervised. The rink again was put in top shape, and enlarged, dressing rooms were added and all the comforts of an outdoor rink were enjoyed. Nine hockey teams were organized sponsored and coached that winter by members of the association, with David Harper as president.

ASSOCIATION BORN
In the spring of 1962 the Tignish Sports Recreation Association with governing by-laws and constitution was born with John Gavin a 19-year-old bookkeeper as president, and a board of directors comprising David Harper, first vice-president, Gerald Keough, second vice-president, William Handrahan, third vice-president, William Pedersen,

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It was a day of rejoicing for the Recreation Association, what they had stressed, promoted, planned and lusted for since first forming four years prior was at last nearing reality. But sadness overshadowed the day as an active member of the Board of Directors Rev. Floyd McLaugh curate at St. Simon and St. Jude church for six years was called to serve in another parish.

After listening to some concrete reports aired at the March centennial meeting by members of the Recreation Association on the need to have an indoor rink the vote was unanimous to have a rink constructed as a centennial project for the community. This turned out to be a full and busy year for the members.

Nine acres of land was purchased during the summer, the land included a baseball diamond and field track, with ample room for the proposed rink and parking lots and drive-ways.

The major event during centennial day celebrations in July was the sod turning for the Cen-

tennial rink project by Hon. Henry W. Wedge then Provincial Minister of Welfare and Labour, who was accompanied by his wife and Reid Sangster, Provincial director and director of the resources development group for the Island.

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chairman and an active board of collectors. The membership was in three categories. Membership \$1.00, life membership \$50, to be paid in two years, and honorary life membership \$100, to be paid within three years. Letters were sent out to various firms and organizations and a fair response was received.

At the annual meeting held in October another jolt awaited the members, the president John Gavin and one of the spark plugs of the organization announced that he would be leaving the village to take up residence in Ontario.

There was no need to dwell on the disappointment of losing another member, the show was well on the road and it must go on, at that meeting the following board of directors were appointed to carry on the task of having the rink built: Kenneth McRae, president, David Harper, first vice-president, Russell Perry, second vice-president, Gerald Keough, treasurer, Mrs. Reg. Eldershaw, secretary, Rev. Clare MacDonald, Robert Keough, Wilson Shea, and Alcide Boudreau.

BUILDING ERECTED
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NEW CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY ARENA AT TIGNISH

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Best Wishes
On the Opening of
TIGNISH CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY SPORTS ARENA
We are pleased to have been associated with this new arena.
Rogers & Arnett Ltd.
Summerside

CONGRATULATIONS
On the opening of the
Tignish Centennial Community Sports Arena
The Tignish Sports Recreation Association are to be congratulated on the completion of this fine, new building which will contribute so much to the development of our community.
TIGNISH FISHERIES CO-OP ASSN. LIMITED
Tignish P. E. I.

BEST WISHES
on the opening of
TIGNISH CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY SPORTS ARENA
We are proud to be associated with this worthwhile project.
FRED PETERS BUILDING SUPPLIES
St. Louis P. E. I.

Congratulations
on the opening of the
Tignish Sports Arena
E. C. PERRY LTD.
Tignish P. E. I.

Working Together
For A
Better Community
We are proud to have been associated with the Tignish Sports Recreation Association on the construction of the
Tignish Sports Arena
Tignish Credit Union
Tignish P. E. I.

BEST WISHES
To The Tignish Sports Recreation Association on the Official Opening of the . . .
Tignish Centennial Community Sports Arena
We are proud to be associated with this very worthwhile project. . .
Tignish Co-operative ASSOCIATION LTD.
Tignish P. E. I.

Saturday, Feb. 12th.
marks the
OFFICIAL OPENING

Tignish Centennial Community Sports Arena
Be on hand Saturday, Feb. 12th at 1:30 p.m. when The Hon. Henry Wedge, Minister of Health, officially opens the new Tignish Centennial Community Sports Arena. . . Rev. David MacDonald and Robert Campbell MLA as well as many other dignitaries have been invited to the opening which gets underway with the Prince County Ice Sports beginning right after the official opening.
The program is climaxed with an exhibition hockey game between Tignish Aces and Albany St. Pats, so come and enjoy yourself at the new Tignish Sports Arena . . .