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The following article was been taken in whole from “The Canadian Lawn Bowler’s Handbook – 1903”

The St. Catharines Lawn Bowling Club originated, it is alleged, in the later part of the 18th century, its members consisting of United Empire Loyalists, who left the neighboring Republic at the time the American colonies rebelled against the mother country, and took up their residence in the Niagara district.

Associated with these early colonists, tradition says, were those brave aborigines who allied themselves with our ancestors in defence of King and country. It was these dusky allies of the primeval lawn bowlers who first introduced lacrosse, which has since become the national game of Canada. In the “archives” of the club most interesting relics exist in the shape of bowls, rudely carved from chestnut and apple-tree wood, especially chestnut, and covered with a coating of whitewash. These were the implements used by our ancient brethren. At first the orator of the club was puzzled to make out the practical use of the overcoat. He thought that it might have been used in some fierce snow-balling match in early days, in order to conceal the nature of the bowls that were projected at the unsuspecting heads of their antagonists – for “there were giants in those days” – but, after a profound research in the annals of the Paleolithic age, he discovered that the whitewash was employed to protect the bowls from the beavers who infested the banks of the Twelve and Beaverdams Creeks. The beavers, thinking they were snowballs, spared them, and did not, as they otherwise might have done, use them to construct the foundations of their ingenious habitations.

About seven years ago the game of lawn bowling, which had fallen into a shape of innocuous desuetude, was revived by the late John Hammon, a veteran English bowler, who, at his own expense, fitted up a bowling green on the premises attached to his hostelry, “The Mansion House,” and infused his enthusiasm for the Royal game into several well known

citizens; many of whom take a deep interest in its welfare, and who are still honored members of the club. But, alas! poor John Hammon is no longer with us; he has passed forever beyond the bounds; and no more will the “’orn of the’unter be ‘eard on the ‘ill.”

Four years ago still greater enthusiasm became manifest, and large accessions of members were enrolled on the club’s roster. Loyal support has always been accorded by the St. Catharines club to the Dominion and Ontario Lawn Bowling Associations, and its members have been represented at many tournaments, where they have not infrequently distinguished themselves and done honor to their club as winners of trophies.

At the annual meeting of the club this year, the members decided that the green heretofore in use was inadequate for the number of teams which would probably visit St. Catharines to take part in projected tournaments; and it was determined to secure, if possible, the beautiful and perfect lawn attached to the grounds of the Welland House, an establishment which is deservedly the pride of the citizens of St. Catharines. Not only is the Welland House a source of local qualification, it is also a boon to suffering humanity, owing to its magnificent and up-to-date saline baths, unrivalled for the cure or amelioration of many diseases that afflict mankind. A satisfactory arrangement has been effected for the use of this lawn for the present year, and for its proper care and maintenance. There will be room for ten or eleven rinks; and a great deal of pleasure is anticipated by members of the club in being able to furnish to their friends from other clubs one of the most perfect and picturesque bowling greens in the Dominion. To all this should be added the advantage of imbibing – ad libitum – foaming goblets of ice-cold aerated St. Catharines mineral water to assuage their thirst and rectify any temporary derangement of the organic machinery.

“Whisky is said to be a dangerous thing,

So come and drink of our St. Catharines spring.

Hot Scotch and Lager paralyze the brain;

But splits of “Mack” will sober us again.”

The following gentlemen comprise the membership of the now prosperous St. Catharines Lawn Bowling Club; Hon. President, Dr. E. Goodman; President, M.J. McCarron; Vice-President, John Marshall; Secretary, Treasurer, J. K. Kernahan. Executive Committee – The officers and W. G. Yielding, Alex. McLaren, J. G. Moore and W. G. Finlay. Members – S. P. Anderson, C. O. Beam, L. Bissonette, Thos. H. Brown, H.W. Calkins, J. P. Casey, Jno. S. Campbell, C. H. Stanley Clarke, A. Chatfield, C. H. Connor, R. G. W. Connolly, D. B. Crombie, John E. Cuffe, W. G. Finlay, B. Fairfield, Dr. E. Goodman, Dr. J. Gray, J. T. Groves, J. G. Harris, J. K. Kernahan, Dr. Klotz, E. A. Lancaster, A. H. Malcomson, John Malcolmsen, J. B. McIntyre, Robt. McLaren, Neil McGregor, Jno. Marshall, A. W. Marquis, F. H. Morey, J. G. Moore, J. G. McCarron, Alex. McEdward, C. G. McGhie, H. R. O’Reilly, H. O’Loughlin, O. G. Phelps, Wm. Peel, Geo. Rogers, H. M. Rogers, Dr. Sutherland, W. G. Sutton, J. E. Varley, Jas. N. Walker, W. G. Yielding.

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