

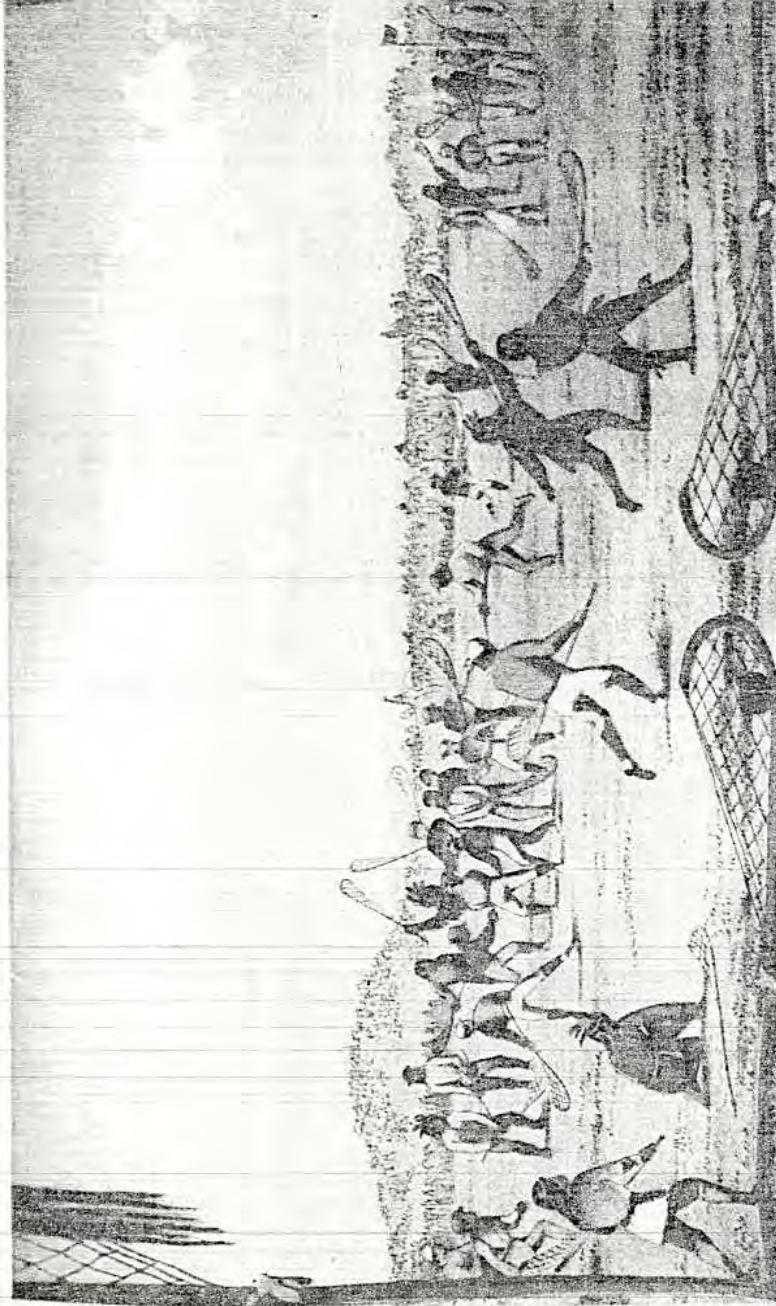
LACROSSE

LACROSSE like hockey is a truly national Canadian game, and Peel, through its county town, Brampton, may truthfully be called its cradle and nursery. From this small community (a garden town of only about 5,000 inhabitants) have come teams able to sweep aside all opposition and attain the honour which goes with the title National Champions. In 1930 Brampton won virtually every trophy offered for competition in major amateur lacrosse circles in the Dominion, including the Mann Cup, the Toronto *Globe* Shield, and the Clare Levack Trophy. The coveted Murphy Memorial Cup, which is awarded annually to the most valued and sportsmanlike player in the Ontario Lacrosse Association came to the town in the same year.

From time to time, in the lean days, public interest in games has declined, and some years ago lacrosse was particularly in ill favour because of unnecessary roughness and brutality in professional ranks. Yet, through all, Bramptonians remained devoted to this most ancient of Canadian sporting pastimes. It should, however, be said that the town has been well repaid for its continued and enthusiastic encouragement of the Dominion's national game. The municipality and its citizens alike have been generous in their appreciation of the successes attending their teams not only from year to year but indeed from decade to decade. These have justified the confidence placed in them, and have broadcast the reputation of this small Ontario town as the producer of true-blue sportsmen and players of the highest ability.

Lacrosse is a heritage from the Indians, and has passed through almost innumerable modifications at the white man's hand. It has been developed into a team sport, in which success depends upon co-ordination and team play quite as much as upon brawn and speed. The continuing popularity of the game in the rural districts is a proof of its value as an all-round athletic exercise and pastime.

As long ago as the middle of the seventeenth century, the *coureurs de bois* learned the Indian *baggatiway*, and call-



INDIANS AND WHITE MEN PLAYING LACROSSE

Courtesy Roy Britnell

W.P. BULL

FROM RATTLESNAKE HUNT TO HOCKEY

J.
GEORGE J. McLOED, TORONTO 1934

Bull, W.P.. From Rattlesnake Hunt to Hockey,
George J. McLoed, Toronto 1934

ed it *le jeu de la crosse*. This was the forerunner of lacrosse as we know it. This game was played by the Indians with a rough stick rounded at the end like the present *crosse* and laced with deerskin thongs, but framework and bag were both much smaller than those of today. The early ball was a rounded wood-knot or a stuffed piece of deerskin that fitted closely into the webbing. Players donned heavy furs and skins as protection against the blows of their opponents' sticks. According to Angus Evan Abbott, the blows were not all received in the actual course of the game, since, if the braves showed any slackness in play, it was afterwards the privilege of the squaws to give them a thorough beating.

History records that in 1763 Pontiac, a Chief of the Ottawas, and leader of the Indian opposition to the new British rule, used the game with characteristic Indian cunning. He invited the British garrison of Fort Michilimackinac to witness his braves at play. The warriors, in two parties, strove mightily and ran like hares, and the British officers applauded loudly. Slowly the play surged towards the open gates of the fort, near which stood the squaws, hitherto apparently innocent onlookers of the match. As the braves appeared the women brought guns out from under their blankets and handed them to the players, who rushed inside the walls before the British had recovered from their surprise. Thus was Michilimackinac lost.

Throughout the history of Canada's early settlement constant references are to be found to the game, which developed gradually from the crude Indian sport of early times to the scientific contest of today. Although Krout, in the *Annals of American Sport*, says that Montreal had a lacrosse club in 1839, the real development of the sport began a decade later when Dr. W. George Beers of Montreal first made a specific effort to adapt the old game to modern needs. A resilient ball of hard rubber was substituted for the Indian ball of shaped deerskin filled with hair, and the stick was enlarged and improved although it had not yet taken its final form. The Indians had used as many players as possible but Beers invented a formation with twelve to a side, placed in various positions down the field. He named the positions: goal, point, cover-point, centre, defence field (3), home field (3), outside home, and inside home. The Montreal

Lacrosse Club was organized in 1850 for play on this basis, and by 1860 this form of the game had become one of the recognized Canadian sports. Thenceforth, in spite of occasional set-backs, development was rapid and country-wide. From time to time further modifications and innovations have been introduced.

According to reliable sources, lacrosse was introduced into Peel in 1865 and was played at Edmonton near side-road seventeen on a field now owned by James Creighton. William Knox, a hotel-keeper in the village, was the president of the club and the players included Robert and Rast Snell, Robert Hiscox and Alex and John Watson. The last-mentioned was a very strong player, much in demand to assist the teams of neighbouring towns. It is said that when he was required in a game two men would be sent to take his place in the harvest field or at other farm work. There being no other teams close at hand, with which to compete, practice games among the villagers were the principal outlet for their love of lacrosse. Several Indian aggregations visited the community from time to time, however. In 1871 the home team defeated the Indians of the Brantford Reserve, a strong twelve, which, in turn, defeated Brampton on the following day. When lacrosse became definitely organized in Brampton, the Watson boys and others joined the Excelsiors, and the Edmonton team disbanded.

Edmonton's next venture in organized lacrosse did not occur until 1914. At that time, under the village's new name of Snelgrove, a team was entered in the Brampton Town League. Home games were played on the township's property and the Town Hall was used as a dressing-room. As the players were all under twenty-one years, Edgar Shields used to reward the team for its successes by arranging free trips to the ice-cream parlour. As a result the boys performed prodigies of valour, and Gordon Graydon put up in the station, then an important milk-shipping point, a poster showing an enormous cup and inscribed, "The Mann Cup for Snelgrove, 1914".

War days intervened, and the game was again dropped until the formation of the Peel County League in 1922. The Snelgrove team of that day was composed of H. A. Shields, Dr. F. McLean, Richard Snell, Charles A. McLean, H.



Courtesy Harry Sheardown

FIRST BOLTON LACROSSE TEAM, 1880

Michael Crotchie, Harry Sheardown, Phelix Amelia, Alsey Wilcox, Hugh Rankin, David Norton, Ernie C. Beamish, T. D. Elliott,
Foncy McDougall
Thos. Fisher, Wm. Blaine, Arthur Doig, Jas. Crotchie, Samuel Snell

Olliff, F. Lacey, J. Pawley, W. M. Topham, Russell Pawley, John Ingoldsby, Edgar Shields, Julius Riffle, and Joseph and Alex Watson. Soon after, Snelgrove, for the third time, dropped out of lacrosse, but in 1932 a team entered in the Peel Box Lacrosse League to play the seven-a-side game just newly introduced.

Lacrosse was first seen in Bolton about 1873. It was played quite informally in the streets, with sticks provided by the Sons of Temperance. In 1875 the Bolton Athletic Club was formed, and entered a team in a league composed of West Toronto, Richmond Hill and Woodbridge. Exhibition games were played with Orangeville, Shelburne and the Maitlands of Toronto. There were also league fixtures. Bolton played lacrosse and baseball in alternate years until the beginning of the twentieth century, at which time lacrosse replaced baseball almost completely. The village team entered the Ontario Amateur Lacrosse Association in 1907, 1908, and 1909, and Bolton's twelve was pitted against Woodbridge, Aurora and Weston in scheduled matches.

One of the outstanding players of the old Bolton team was Jack (now Dr. J. C.) Warbrick, a prominent football player who had toured England with an all-star Canadian team, and who was later again to cross the ocean as a member of a Canadian lacrosse twelve. His brother, J. F., was likewise a well-known lacrosse player and was, for some years, a member of the Excelsiors of Brampton. John S. and Fred Dowling were other members of Bolton's teams who won recognition elsewhere. The former played with the Dufferins of Orangeville, at that time considered one of the best teams in the province, and was touring Great Britain with the old Torontos in 1902. Fred Scott's name cannot be overlooked, nor can that of Colonel Arthur E. Snell, M.D., C.M.G., D.S.O., Croix de Guerre, who in his boyhood played for Bolton and later won a reputation with the same team with which Dowling distinguished himself.

In 1922 the Peel County Lacrosse League was formed, comprising, in one group, teams from Inglewood, Erin, Caledon, Caledon East and Cheltenham, and, in the other, teams from Woodhill, Huttonsville, Glen Williams, Bolton and, as already mentioned, Snelgrove. In this first year of operation Bolton won the championship in a play-off with

Inglewood. The first game in Cheltenham ended with a score of 6-6, but Bolton won the return game by a score of 7-1. The Bolton team played in the league again in the following year, but Cheltenham won the championship.

These were the days when rooters knew how to support their team. Fred Haines describes one occasion when Frank Holliss of Brampton was coaching the Woodhill team in a game against Cheltenham. "He had a megaphone and was doing a lot of shouting". The Cheltenham girls decided that this could not be allowed to continue, so they crowded around him as closely as possible and, every time he tried to deliver a word of advice to the Woodhill team, broke forth in loud cheers for Cheltenham and drowned him out completely.

In 1924, for some reason, this league ceased to operate, and several of the teams disbanded. Cheltenham, however, joined the Ontario Lacrosse Association and played for a time against Oakville, Bradford, Fergus and Georgetown, but, according to an old-timer, "never had the same support and it never worked".

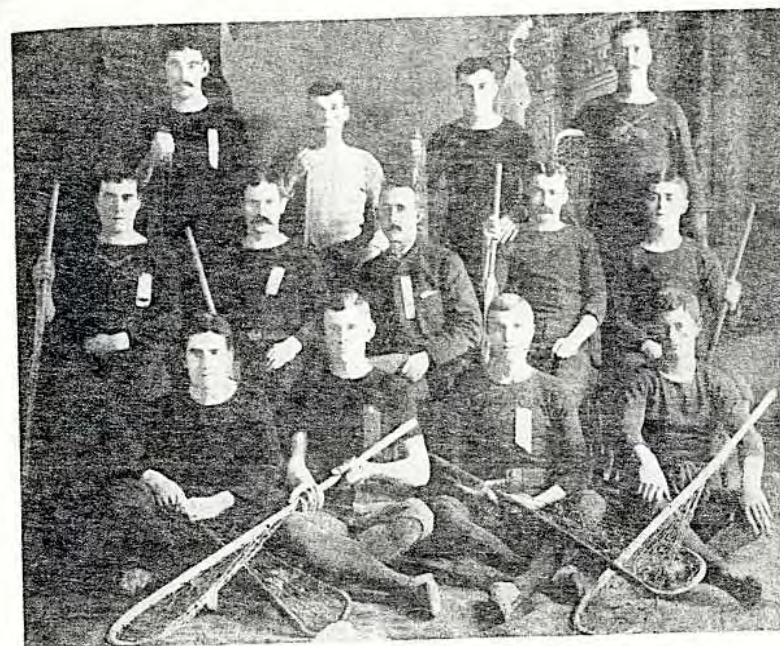
Meadowvale made plans for lacrosse in 1881, as the following clipping from *The Conservator* for 22nd April in that year shows:

"A Meeting was held in the Town Hall on the evening of the 14th April, 1881, for the purpose of organizing a Lacrosse Club. A club was organized under the name of the 'Meadowvale Boers' and the following officers elected for the ensuing year: President, J. Hamilton Folwell; Vice-President, George Gooderham; Captain, Albert A. Powell; Secretary-Treasurer, Jos. Joyce; Committee, A. R. Gooderham, Will G. Worts and J. W. South."

There is no account of any actual games, and it is possible that the players drifted to the larger villages in the neighbourhood and joined their clubs.

Another early lacrosse group was the Malton Roosters, numbering among its members Thos. Allen, now a Toronto publisher, George Cheyne, Andy Cheyne and Fred and Bert Cheyne.

A team was organized in Streetsville in 1875 by Robert Bamford, one of four brothers who were keenly interested in athletics in the community at that time. The team had no funds, however, and was unable to travel any great distances



Courtesy Jas. H. McClintock

STREETSVILLE LACROSSE TEAM, 1886
 Jas. McClintock, Jack Brown, Wm. Allen, Jos. Breakey
 Wm. Quennell, Jack Pratt, Robert Graydon, Joe Phair, Wm. Lewis
 Geo. Gardhouse, James Benzie, Sam Clark, Jno. Alexander



Courtesy J. R. Fallis

EXCELSIOR CLUB, BRAMPTON, 1893
 Dr. Ed. Peaker, Dr. J. G. Roberts, Dr. Ken Peaker, William Dawson
 Dr. D. L. Heggie, William Stewart, Sam McClure, Fred Milner, Robert Stewart
 Billy Kelly, James R. Fallis, William J. Allen, G. A. Stewart

to play games. Thus no competition could be found and after a season of difficulties, enthusiasm flagged.

A few years later, in 1882, Robert Barber, of the prosperous wool-manufacturer's family, became interested in the national game and inspired his fellows to adopt it. The beginnings were humble. No experienced players were to be found in the town. None of the early participants knew the rules except that the player must not touch the ball with his hands or strike an opposing player. The literal interpretation of the first of these rules led to some amusing results. Eph. Brown recalls an occasion on which the ball became lodged under the edge of a plank sidewalk by the fence. Four players strove madly to dig it out with their lacrosse sticks, thereby conforming to the rules of the game which forbade anyone to touch the ball with his hands. This they continued even after a fifth man had run in from the dusty road, slashing and bodying his way through the group to poke his lacrosse stick among the others which were vainly striving to extricate the ball. Brown also comments on the lack of team-work. He refers with amusement to several great pine-stumps on one field where they played. Around these, individual players used to dodge and dart, holding tenaciously to the ball as they waited their turn to make a long dash for the goal, meantime entirely overlooking every opportunity to pass.

On 1st July, 1882, the team played its first match against the Ætnas of Georgetown. This was stubbornly contested and the teams were well matched, in enthusiasm as in lack of science. After a couple of hours of desperate warfare the game ended at 2-2.

This first Streetsville Lacrosse Club, about four years after organization, became known as the Royals. For some years the team played the usual games with neighbouring towns and villages. In 1888 it joined a league including the Excelsiors of Brampton and the Young Torontos of Weston. It was disbanded at the end of 1889.

Members of the original Streetsville team of 1882 included: John Pratt, goal; Joseph Breakey, point; Joseph Brookbank, cover-point; George Gardhouse, first defence; Fred Harris, second defence; Joseph Phair, centre; James Trimble, second home; William Allen, first home; Hall

Trimble, home field; William Quennell, outside home; and Frank Trimble, inside home.

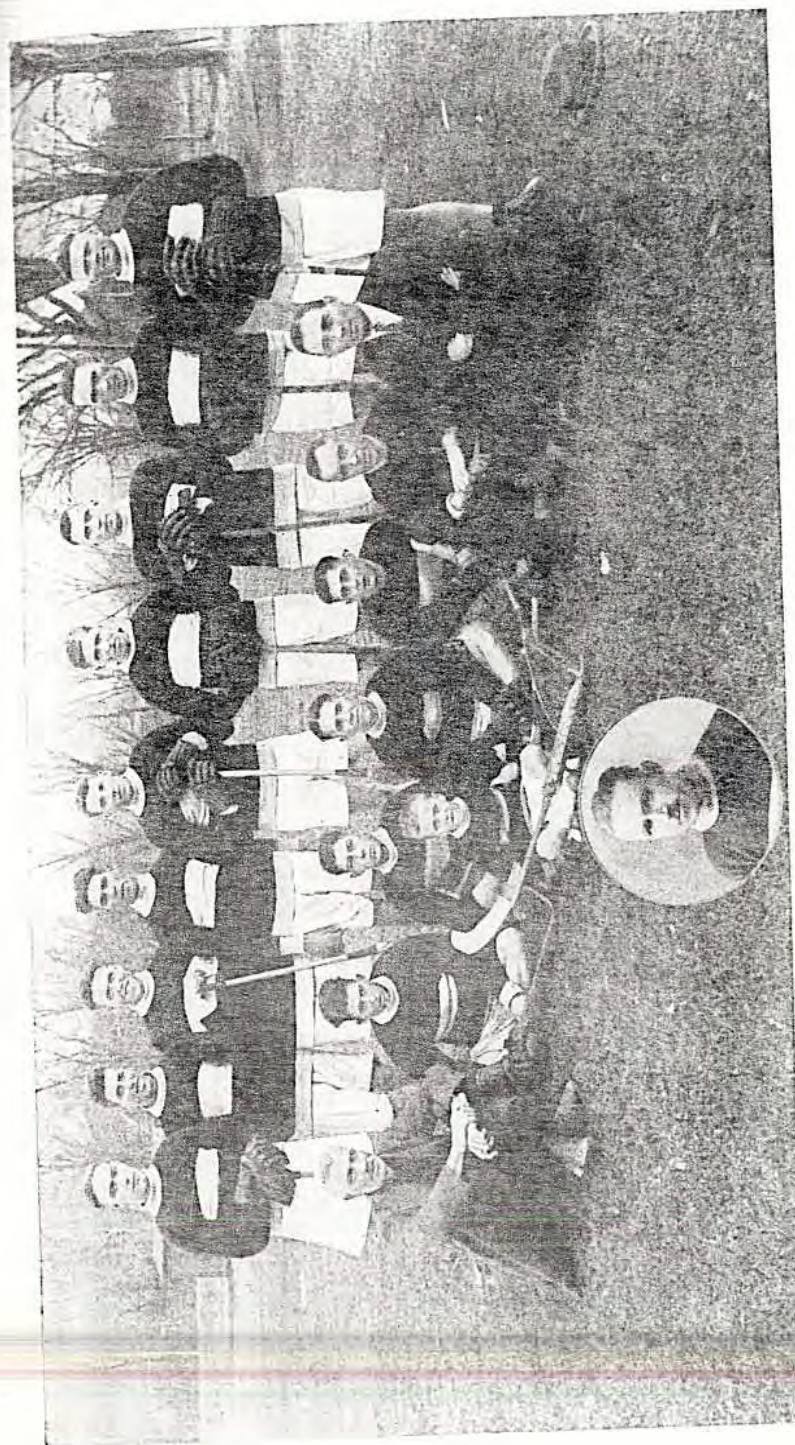
James McClintock has some interesting stories to tell of this team. He describes one series, for instance, played with "a very rough team from somewhere down in Toronto". The first game, near the cattle-yards, resulted in a victory for Streetsville and "the others were sore". The return match was played in Toronto in "a ten-acre field on Bathurst Street". The visitors played

"for possibly twenty minutes. At the end of this time there was no score, and four of the Streetsville players had to be helped to the station. The Toronto papers, however, gave the home team a score of 2-0."

Another team of outsiders visiting Streetsville in the late eighties came a man short, and most of the Streetsville players felt that this had been done purposely, as their sportsmanlike captain permitted the strangers to secure a substitute on the spot. The selection was "a great husky farmer, named Ringer, who had accompanied them on the excursion to Streetsville". In the forty minutes elapsing before he cut his bare toe on a broken bottle and had to leave the game, he did a great deal of damage among the Streetsville players.

McClintock also has some good stories about individuals, particularly the goal-keeper, whom he describes as turning handsprings up and down the field when anything exciting happened, even if this occurred in the midst of a game. This agile athlete eventually became "strong man in a sort of pyramid travelling circus".

In 1890, sponsored by A. R. Fawcett, editor of the *Streetsville Review*, the Thistle Lacrosse Club came into being. It was a team composed principally of juniors, but they had learned skilful stick-handling, and the club made a good showing in games, despite a shortage of players. In a tournament in its first year it won a silver trophy, defeating Milton and the famous Maitlands of Toronto during the same afternoon. The players on that occasion comprised J. Pratt, goal; James McClintock, Eli Atkinson and J. Brabey, defence; George Gill, centre; and Joseph Phair, W. Allen, James Benzie, Samuel Clarke, George Gardhouse, John Elliott, Nat Brown, John Brown and Jack Saunders, homes. The officials of the club in 1894 were: Robert Graydon, president; Joseph Phair, manager; and William Allen, cap-



Courtesy Thos. Jameton

INGLEWOOD LACROSSE TEAM, 1923

Ted Kaufman, Harry Fudge, Craig McCannell, Russell McGrath, Edwin Siches, Ted Graham, Mac Jameton, Bert McGrath, Jack McCannell, Albert Siches, Wm. Kidd, Drummond Davidson, John Ramsay, John Davidson, Craig Smeaton, J. J. Carey, Jobiny Robbins (mascot), Hilland Sibbald (mascot)

tain. Except for Phair and Allen the line-up had completely changed in four years, players now including: Michael Monaghan, William G. Caslor, Eph. J. Brown, Hugh Allen, Charles H. Fulton, Richard Sharp, Johnston Maxwell, Rufus Irwin, Garnet L. Graydon, Floyd E. Graydon, Richard Hawke and Benjamin Brookbank. The Thistles team played its last game on Labour Day, 1895, losing to a Brampton team in a contest for a silver cup.

The games seem to have been followed with great zest by the fair sex, but not always to the financial profit of the team. As a result, in July, 1894, the *Streetsville Review* carried the following notice:

"The Thistles would like to make it known to the ladies who are in the habit of jumping or crawling under the wire fences, that in future if they will go to the man in charge of the gate and tell him that they have no money, he will let you in, as those are his orders, or if the same ladies will go to the secretary of the club, he will no doubt give them a season ticket sooner than run the risk of them either tearing their dresses or making an exhibition of themselves in their frantic efforts to get over or under the fence before they are seen by any of the Thistles."

During the first decade of the twentieth century lacrosse did not flourish in the southern part of Peel as it had in the northern sections and there were no teams from Streetsville or other southern points playing in groups in the Amateur Lacrosse Association in 1907, 1908 and 1909, or in the Peel County League in 1922. The game was not resumed until within the last few years, when it took a new form, that of Box Lacrosse. In this Australian version of the Canadian game the number of players is reduced to seven, and the line-up virtually conforms to that of hockey. Hence the game can be played in a small enclosure, such as a hockey-rink, and teams can be made up in communities too small to afford twelve good players.

In 1932 the old Peel League was revived to play the new game, Port Credit, Islington, Malton and Streetsville being represented in addition to the old entrants. In this year Inglewood won the northern group and Streetsville the southern. In the finals for the county championship, Inglewood defeated Streetsville in two successive games at Brampton, by scores of 12-5 and 14-4. The following players comprised the Inglewood club: Jack Jones, Malcolm Jameson, Ed. Walsh, Jack Walsh, Richard Walsh, Claude Cameron, Elmer

Wilson, Jack Davidson, Drummond Davidson, Linton Hurst, Ted Kaufman, James Dodds and Hartley Caslor.

The Lake Shore Intermediate Box Lacrosse League, organized in 1933, comprised teams from Streetsville, Port Credit, Long Branch, Islington, Willowdale and Burlington. After a season of excellent and interesting competition, Burlington finished the schedule in first place and Streetsville in second. In the post-season championship series Streetsville was returned the winner and very successfully represented the league in the Ontario Intermediate Amateur Lacrosse Association championship eliminations. It defeated the Haldimand Rifles Team from Brantford in the first round and Scarboro Grads in the semi-finals, but was defeated by Cornwall in the final series. Streetsville won its home game, 10-5, and lost the other, 11-4, thereby missing its first Ontario lacrosse title by two goals. The members of the team were: Franklin Haddon, goal; Jim Burton, Verne Steggall, defence; William Arthurs, John Nixon, rover; Tom Doherty, Wilson Smoke, centre; Harry Hill, Bill Keye, Fraser Lockhurst, Bill Munroe, Harvey Andrew, Norman Ellis, Unitt C. Bailey, Graydon Clipperton, wings; C. R. Evans, manager.

In 1934 this league operated in direct affiliation with the O.A.L.A. It was divided into two groups, the standing of which at the end of the season was as follows: Group I—Burlington, Brampton, Streetsville, Caledon East; Group II—North Toronto, Islington, Port Credit, Long Branch.

The Chinguacousy Intermediate Box Lacrosse League was formed in 1933 with teams from Cheltenham, Victoria, Woodhill, No. Ten, Snelgrove and Alloo. No. Ten defeated Cheltenham in the play-off for the championship and the Charters Publishing Company Trophy. The players on the championship team were: P. Payne, C. Carter, goal; E. Imber, W. Bovaird, Sr., Robert Donaldson, D. Arthurs, defence; George Paine, William Arthurs, rover; W. Bovaird, Jr., Ed. Pollard, centre; W. Arthurs, O. Payne, E. Payne, R. Ingram, wings; B. Dodds, J. F. Fleury, Charles Garbutt, D. McCandless, alternates; W. Bovaird, manager; J. A. Poskitt, secretary-treasurer.

The Chinguacousy Box Lacrosse League is entering the second year of operation with the same clubs. In addition



Courtesy Evening Telegram, Toronto

CALEDON EAST BOX LACROSSE TEAM, 1933

Amos McKenna, Oscar Boyce, Jas. Norton, Elgin Nelson, Jas. Cannon, H. K. Berny, Cliff Munro, Geo. Baker, Percy Warr, T. R. McCartney, Irwin Harris, W. B. Cannon, Gordon Atkinson, Perry McKinley, M. A. Houston, Sberd Weir, Claude Conlter, Jas. N. Proctor, Geo. W. Berny, Joe Proctor, Gordon McCaffrey, Borden Allison, Harry Berny, (mascot), Hartley Caslor, Norton Heard

there is a junior group made up of teams from Cheltenham, Alloa and No. Ten.

The North Peel Lacrosse League was organized in June, 1934, with intermediate teams from Inglewood, Caledon, Caledon East, Bolton and Woodbridge. T. R. McCartney, Caledon East, became president; Alex. C. Rayburn, Caledon, secretary. The executive committee was composed of: Norton Heard, Caledon East; Harold Van Wyck, Caledon; C. Sheardown, Bolton; Ed. Walsh, Inglewood; Alf. Harrington, Woodbridge.

The North Caledon Lacrosse League, a junior organization, was started this summer with the following clubs: Alton, Mono Mills, The Maples and Caledon. Fred Rowan, Alton, is president and Robert Smith, Caledon, secretary.

The village of Caledon East was justly proud of its Intermediate Box Lacrosse team of 1933. Few clubs from a centre of its size could muster a line-up of equal calibre. The team finished its schedule in the Northern Peel Lacrosse League with Caledon and Inglewood without a reverse. In the provincial play-downs for the Intermediate O. A. L. A. championship series it defeated the Durham 1932 champions, winning its home game 9-6, and thus, although it lost the verdict at Durham 14-15, captured the round by two goals. It was eliminated by Norwood in the second round by 15-10 in a two-game set. In addition it captured second prize in the Alliston tournament, losing in the final contest to Alliston, after having disposed of Bradford and Owen Sound. The members of this club were: George W. Berney, president; Harold K. Berney, manager; Gordon Atkinson, secretary-treasurer; Percy "Ski" Warr, coach; George Baker and James Norton, goal; Joseph Proctor, James Berney, Leo Kehoe, Albert Harris, defence; James Murphy, Gordon McCaffrey, centres; Elgin Nelson, Gordon Atkinson, Borden Allison, Clifford Munro, Hartley Caslor, Harry Nelson, William B. Cannon, Morris A. Houston, homes; Claude Coulter, Norton Heard, rovers.

It is to Brampton, however, that the lacrosse honours of the county belong, and to Brampton that all credit must be given for the part which its teams have played in maintaining and developing an ever higher standard of play in Canada's national game.

Harry W. Dawson, while attending a professional match in Toronto, in the company of his father, secured a lacrosse stick from the trainer of one of the teams. This was the first stick brought into Brampton. Dawson had a busy time for the next week or so, lending it to small boys who pleaded for a chance to try it. The first regular play began in 1871, when George M. Lee, second Master in the High School, organized a team there. At his suggestion the boys adopted the designation "Excelsior", from Longfellow's poem, and as the traditions of this great team have been handed down from father to son, the club has retained its original title, known today through Canada and the United States.

The Excelsiors, to try out their wings, decided to challenge the Second Twelve of the Ontario Club. The challenge was accepted and the Excelsiors, much to their own surprise, defeated the visitors. The match was played in June, 1871, on the only field available, viz., the fair grounds of The Peel Agricultural Society. After the game, the Excelsiors fêted their rivals at the Queen's Hotel. For the return match, played the following September in Toronto, the Ontario Club chose rough land near the Parliament Buildings. The Excelsiors, unaccustomed to this kind of ground, were defeated. They felt that their reception was not particularly cordial, but they were now a recognized factor in inter-community competition and this encouraged them to further effort.

On the day the Excelsiors went to Toronto for this return game, Lee left Brampton to pursue his legal studies. On 4th September, 1876, he was appointed by Sir Oliver Mowat as Registrar to Vice-Chancellor Proudfoot at Osgoode Hall. He held this post for five years and then became, successively, Clerk of Records and Writs, Taxing Master, and Registrar of the Supreme Court of Ontario, remaining in Osgoode Hall until his superannuation in 1928.

Among the first Excelsiors were: John Jerman Manning, later the prominent lawyer and customs officer of Brampton; G. H. Smith; David Trueman Lowes, a great all-round athlete and afterwards a well-known horse-breeder; Joseph Tilt, who became a horse-breeder and farmer; Wesley Craig; Hector McTavish; George Walker, later a local preacher in the Methodist Church; Robert Morton; Archibald and Neil McKechnie, the former



Courtesy C. V. Charters

EXCELSIOR JUVENILE LACROSSE TEAM, BRAMPTON, 1910

Reg. Sproule, Allan Robinson, A. G. Davis, Harry Sproule, Aubrey Robinson, William Barlett, George Sproule, J. O. Adams, A. K. Griffen, Thomas Cook
C. V. Charters, Bob Fletcher, Herb. Cook, R. B. Duggan, Jack Burrell, Hurst Sheppard, Walter Manning, Rupert Laird, George Clark, James Roberts

subsequently a well-known Holstein cattle breeder and the latter a B.A., LL.D., and professor in the Baptist College at Woodstock; James A. Morton, later a school teacher at Derry West and Brampton and head master at Brampton; and John Watson, also an expert quoits player. Alex. Watson, B.A., for many years principal of Madoc High School, was one of the earliest and most famous members of the team. His formal position was that of goal-keeper, but at least once in almost every game a substitute took his place in the net, while fleet-footed, always-smiling Alex raced the length of the field with the ball, often to break through all opposition and score. Adam Morton, father of James A. and Robert, was field captain, a position which was a combination of the present-day coach and captain. The field captain was in uniform but did not carry a stick. He moved back and forth on the outside of the playing-field exhorting and directing the players. Neil McKechnie was the club's treasurer.

T. W. Duggan was also connected with this group of sport pioneers and, at the early age of thirteen, laid the foundation of his successful business career by purchasing lacrosse shoes by the dozen pairs and retailing them to the players at the magnificent profit of ten cents per pair, less the loss on some that were never paid for.

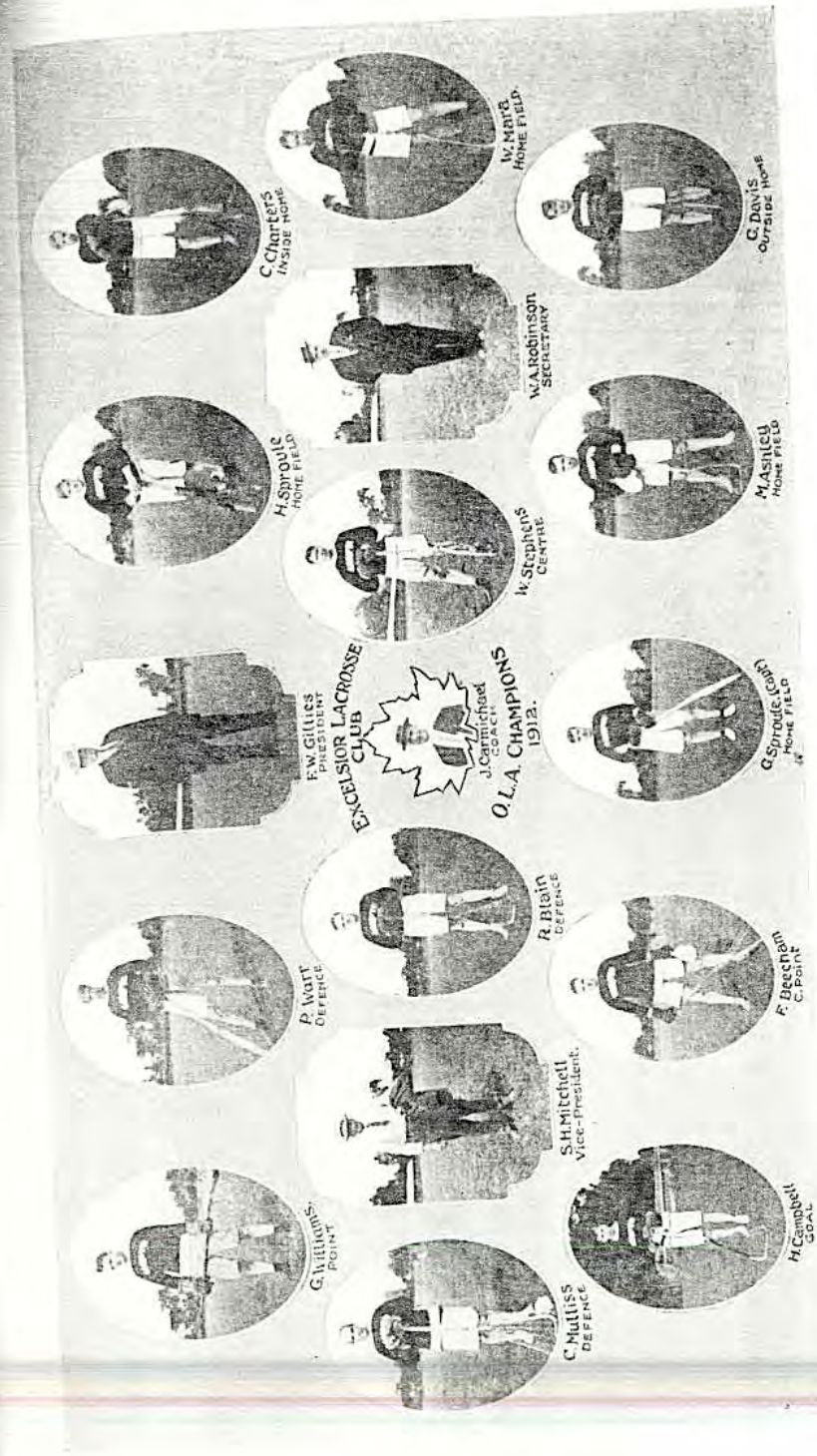
Possibly the Excelsiors plumed themselves too ostentatiously on their triumph over the second twelve of the Ontario Lacrosse Club of Toronto. At any rate a group of clerks in Brampton, led by Tom Ash, Will Woods, George Ballentyne and S. McBride, thought the young players much too smart, and organized a club known as the Eureka's, for the purpose of "taking the youngsters down a peg". T. Ballentyne, Albert Hill, James Pattullo, a son of Dr. Alex., Tuttle, Edward Joyce and H. Morphy, the tennis enthusiast, were some of the other members of this club. The Eureka's practised hard, with firm determination to outdo the high-school twelve, but the Excelsiors remained undefeated. Very soon the teams were united in a town organization, which took over its name from the high-school twelve and became known as the Excelsior Lacrosse Club.

Lacrosse was the principal athletic attraction in Brampton from 1871 to 1875, and many memorable contests

took place, involving on one occasion the winning of a championship at London. One notable game took place on Dominion Day, 1874, at the Driving Park in Brampton, when the Excelsiors met a team of Six Nations Indians. As it was a holiday, crowds of people from the town and the country-side flocked to the scene of the contest. There was a great deal of betting, and high feeling caused much noise and some fighting; sounds which the town band, as it paraded up and down, endeavoured to drown. The Indians made some excellent catches and "played into each other's hands well", but were outclassed in running by the Excelsiors whose dodging also appeared to puzzle their opponents. According to McClelland the Indians played in all their war paint and feathers and nothing else but a breech-cloth. They were strong and agile and their chief and captain, "White Eagle", was a magnificent runner and "could jump over a man's head without the slightest effort". On this occasion the Bramptonians were victorious but a few years later were less successful against Indian opposition. In this second encounter the home twelve defeated the Indians in the first game by a score of 1-0, after one hour and five minutes of play, T. W. Duggan retiring nursing a nose broken by an Indian's stick. The second game, after an hour of play, ended in a similar score with the figures reversed.

In 1876 the Excelsiors encountered a team from Brantford in a game which John M. Hartley describes in a most amusing fashion. Having been advertised as Indians, the Brantford players had stained their faces and arms to a copper hue, and the game was played after sunset so that the deception would not be uncovered. It is said that a further spectacular note was given to the game by the use of balls soaked in oil and lit like flaming torches, and the play was fast and exciting. The "stunt" was arranged to help finance the two teams, and was very successful. It is probably to this game that T. W. Duggan refers in his diary when he speaks of a "great torchlight procession and masquerade, lacrosse match at night, player with a ball of fire, and had a balloon ascension".

For a couple of years lacrosse gave way to baseball, but on 22nd January, 1878, the Excelsior club was reorganized at a meeting held in the office of J. W. Beynon, Q.C.



Courtesy: Scott Galbraith

The Brampton team continued with but few changes in its personnel until 1881, when the majority of the seniors retired, bequeathing to the juniors the duty of maintaining the town's high record. Prominent members of this team at that time were Samuel Charters (M.P.), Richard Blain (M.P.), T. W. Duggan, Leonard Suggitt, George Sinclair, George Beck and Albert Hill. The Junior Excelsiors were organized in 1880, and in their early days played Georgetown, Milton, Orangeville, and a number of teams from Toronto.

In 1882 the province was divided into districts for lacrosse purposes and a series of championship schedules arranged. At that time lacrosse was played in three periods, each of which terminated with the scoring of the first goal by either side, the winner in two of the three taking the series. The Excelsiors' first match, after the change, took place in Stratford on 15th August, 1882, when they defeated the Beavers of Seaforth. The first encounter lasted an hour and thirty-five minutes, the second, an hour and fifteen minutes, and the third, four minutes. Adam Morton acted as Brampton's field captain, F. Dawson as umpire and Jack Pringle as referee.

The champions had a bad day on 10th September, 1882, when they met the Toronto Maitlands in a similar three-game round at the Industrial Exhibition Grounds in Toronto. Thousands of spectators crowded the field. There were no proper regulations to keep them back and playing was seriously impeded. Spectators rushed on the field whenever Brampton threatened the Toronto goal. Brampton protests were of no avail, and disturbances and interference continued. Ultimately the referee, J. W. Main, was obliged to stop the play until people left the field and gave an opportunity for the game to proceed. Finally the ball was driven between the flags of the Excelsiors, and the Maitlands chalked up their first victory.

In the second trial the struggle was exceedingly keen for more than forty minutes. Sam Charters, captain of the champions, scored once for his team, but the goal was disallowed by umpire A. Boustead of Toronto. Five minutes later the Maitlands made their second score. The third game lasted only a few minutes, the referee calling time and dis-

continuing play because of the frequent interruptions from the crowd on the field.

As already noted the Excelsiors had been maintained by the unselfish pride of the citizens of Brampton. This confidence was amply merited in 1882 and 1883, when the team won the championship of the Western District, defeating teams from such communities as Guelph, Elora, Mount Forest, Fergus, Orangeville, Milton, Stratford, St. Mary's, Listowel and Harriston. In 1884, however, the run of victories was broken, and Richmond Hill's brilliant Young Canadians snatched the honours in a rousing game, in regard to which the Toronto *Daily Mail* commented as follows:

"A stiff game of lacrosse was played at Brampton on Wednesday last, between the Young Canadians of Richmond Hill and the Excelsior Club of Brampton. Five games were played, the match lasting for three hours. The Young Canadians took the first, third and fifth games and the Excelsiors the second and fourth. The Brampton boys have held the medal for the last three years but at last they must bid it farewell."

Civic pride is expressed in a further report of the same contest culled from the files of the Richmond Hill *Liberal* for 24th July of the same year:

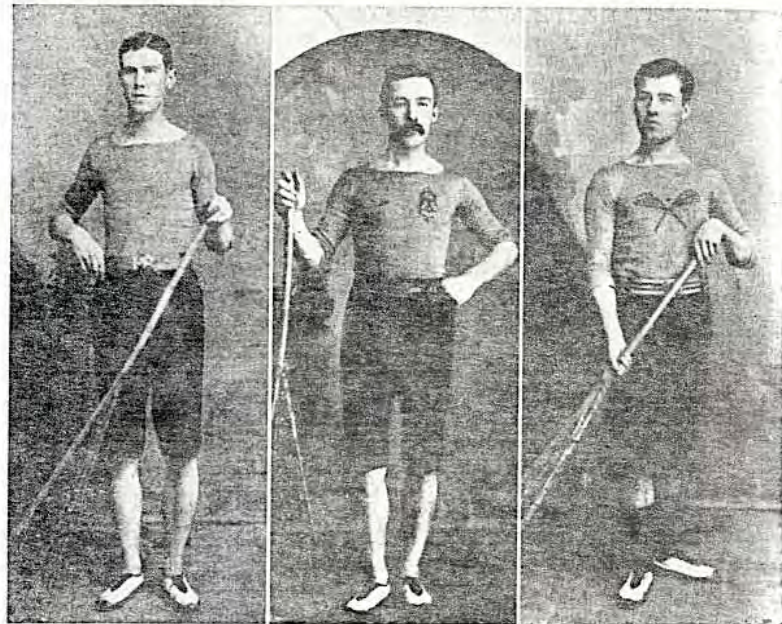
"Those who witnessed the match pronounce it to have been one of the most hotly contested, and interesting games ever participated in. . . . Every player did honour to himself and to the club to which he belongs. Of the games won by the 'Young Canadians' the ball was put through the flags in the 1st and 2nd by C. Savage, and in the 3rd by S. Searle.

"No sooner had the welcome news reached home by telegram, than their many admirers went to work, prepared torches, got the Band in readiness, the ladies prepared a comfortable meal in the Temperance Hall, the Village was beautifully illuminated from one end to the other, and by the time of the arrival—between 12 and 1 o'clock—the whole place was excitement. . . . They enjoyed their late supper, amid the congratulations for their success. Short speeches, appropriate to the occasion, were delivered by the Reeve, Messrs. J. Elliott, P. Savage, M. Wilson and T. F. McMahon, after which the assemblage dispersed, giving three cheers for the Queen, the ladies, and the Young Canadians."

Meanwhile the Brampton team and its supporters had gone home dejectedly, T. W. Duggan to write sadly in his diary:

"Our boys played to win but had poor defence—Fred Manning was ruled off because he had played with another club—Jack Baker and Jack Lowes were no use, I felt kind of bad".

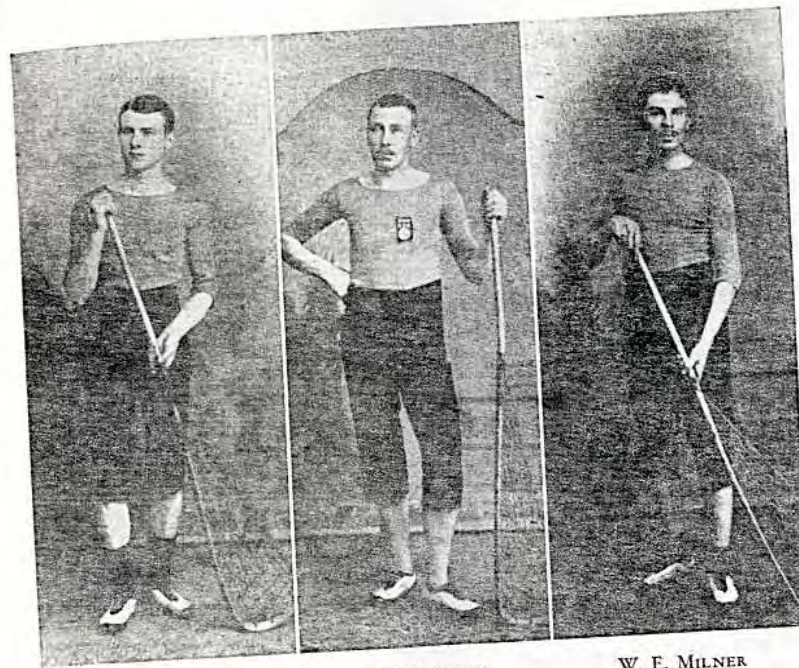
The next morning he felt a little more cheerful, and notes:



S. CHARTERS

S. T. BALLENTYNE

B. NICOLL



G. PEAKER

J. G. ROBERTS

W. E. MILNER



J. McCARTY

J. ASHENHURST

F. W. MARTIN



S. H. JAMES

E. FALLIS

E. JOYCE

Courtesy S. Charters

"All the fellows are discussing yesterday's defeat—boys are going to practice hard, determined to bring it (the medal) back from its holiday trip—Trueman Lowes talks of pitching in".

On 5th August, Brampton Civic Holiday, the Excelsiors won a silver cup at Whitby and a week later lost a match to the Ontarios by the close score of 3-2, Duggan noting again, "Boys played great and will down Richmond Hill alright". Alas! His prediction was not fulfilled. On Friday and Saturday he had only grief to record:

"The great match at Richmond Hill . . . about 300 went—great excitement, terrible amount of betting—was crazy and wicked enough to put up some myself. We got so excited we hardly knew what we were doing—to our amazement our boys were defeated by 3 straights—grounds very bad and that accounts for it—our boys could not do anything on them . . . Brampton presented a funereal aspect . . . when the news came of the great defeat—certainly we are a pretty sick lot to-day".

In Richmond Hill on the other hand, the *Liberal* of 21st August, was full of exaltation.

"The much talked-of match between the Young Canadians and Excelsiors of Brampton for the Western Championship, was played on the Fair Ground at Richmond Hill, on Friday, 15th August, and resulted in a complete victory for the home team by three straight games, thus retaining the Gold Medal and the Championship.

"The following are the names and positions of the teams.

"Young Canadians—J. McConaghy, goal; W. E. Wiley, point; S. Mager, cover-point; T. Young, J. Piper, C. Skeele, defence field; F. Powell, centre; A. Pugsley, G. Derry, B. Brown, home field; S. S. Searle, cover-point home; C. Savage, point home.

"Excelsiors—F. Manning, goal; F. Lowes, point; J. G. Roberts, cover-point; R. Blair, F. Main, E. Fallis, defence field; E. Joyce, centre; B. Nichol, T. Peaker, T. Lowes, home field; S. Charters, cover-point home; T. Ballentyne, point home. . . .

"The day was extremely warm and dusty, notwithstanding which, about 1200 people congregated to see the sport. The Grand Stand erected for the occasion was crowded, principally by ladies, who in their gay attire, presented a handsome appearance, and lovers of the fair sex were amply rewarded for their admission fee before the match commenced. . . .

"FIRST GAME—The ball was faced at 2.45, the home team playing down the slope. One of the Young Canadians got the rubber and immediately sent it down near the visitors' flags, but it was speedily returned and accidentally thrown over the fence by an Excelsior. The ball being again faced off and tossed down grade was caught by Savage who made a throw on the flags, but the shot went wide. The ball was now tossed up and down for a short time, and after some brilliant play on both sides, Savage made another fine shot sending it through the goal and scoring the first game for the home team, time, 20 minutes.

"Great applause followed from those interested in the Richmond

Hill club, but the friends of the Brampton team, nothing daunted, were still prepared to back their men for any amount.

"SECOND GAME—After a few minutes' rest, the second game was started. F. Powell drew the rubber and sent it flying eastward. Down the field again it sped, where a sharp tussle took place between Young and Lowes, the latter going suddenly through the board fence; but the ball was on the opposite side, and was soon hovering over the visitors' goal. Here was shown the finest play during the afternoon, the sphere being thrown again and again with wonderful accuracy on the flags by Pugsley, Skeele, and Searle, the latter especially exercising perfect judgment, his play and movements being simply grand. Again and again were the formidable attacks nobly repulsed by F. Lowes, Roberts, Blair and Main, until Searle passed the ball to Savage, who by a quick throw, slipped it through and counted one more game, time, 17 minutes.

"It was now apparent that the Young Canadians would be the victors, and that the winning of the third game, barring accidents, would be only a matter of time. But the Excelsiors still seemed determined, whilst their backers looked as if the whole affair was wrapped in mystery.

"THIRD GAME—The third game, which was destined to be the last, was commenced without much delay, Powell again pulling the ball from Joyce, but before the centres rightly knew where it was, Derry had stolen down and secured it for himself, immediately sending it spinning on the home flags. But here it did not remain long, as Roberts had captured it and showed some fine skill as a lacrosse player, and almost succeeded in winning a game. This was the only time during the match that the Young Canadians appeared to be in danger, but the fear was soon relieved by McConaghy, who made magnificent play all through the contest. At length, after 12 minutes' play, Mager, who had been showing good work, got the ball and gave it to Searle, who passed it to Savage; he in turn sent it whizzing between the stakes, thus terminating the struggle, and retaining for Richmond Hill the proud title of the Champions of Western Ontario.

"The excitement was now intense, and many were the congratulations the victorious team received on defeating a club with such a brilliant record as Brampton possessed. The visitors played a good game, but in many cases showed over-confidence in their powers, and failed in measuring the strength of their opponents. Besides which, their Goal-keeper was unfit for his position."

Brampton's own traditions support this account, at least as far as the over-confidence of the Excelsiors is concerned. The match is said to have been over so quickly that people leaving the grounds after its completion met others arriving, as they thought, only a little late. The Excelsiors had brought "half Brampton" in their special train, and each supporter had brought plenty of money to back his hopes. "The team came home without glory and the supporters without their money", more being lost on this game than on any other within the memory of W. J. Fenton.



Courtesy Clarence Skeele and J. S. McConachy

YOUNG CANADIANS, RICHMOND HILL, 1884

M. Wilson (Field captain), F. Powell, J. S. McConachy, S. Searle, B. R. Brown, H. A. Nicbols, Walter E. Wilcy
G. Derry, Clarence Skeele, J. Piper, C. Savage, M. Palmer
"Sunny" Mager, A. Pugsley, T. Young, D. Pugsley

Not always could Brampton gain coveted honours on the lacrosse field, as the experiences of 1884, and a similar defeat at the hands of the same club in the following year, showed, but the town's faith in its teams never faltered. That faith was justified once more, and in 1890 the Intermediate Championship was won by Excelsiors, the deciding games being played at Toronto on 11th September, when Brampton defeated Stratford in the morning and Beaverton in the afternoon. On their return from this victory, Brampton met its champions with band and torches, and celebration continued far into the night.

Even as long ago as 1890, members of the Excelsior Club were enticed to other communities desiring to strengthen their teams. Six members of the champions joined the Cleveland, Ohio, team in that year. Several others accepted positions in Toronto. Two former Brampton players, Wm. S. and David S. Hartley went with the Toronto team to the World's Fair in Chicago two years later.

Yet in spite of this loss in men the Excelsior Intermediates again won the Ontario Championship in 1893 and 1894 with a team which included J. G. (later Dr.) Roberts, the first Bramptonian to be distinguished by the presidency of the O.A.L.A.; R. Y. Stuart, subsequently manager of the Brampton bakery; J. R. Fallis, in later years a prize winner at the Canadian National Exhibition with fowl and horses, also for a time M.P.P. for Peel and local registrar of the High Court; D. L. Heggie, who became a surgeon in Brampton; W. Stewart, school-teacher in the county, who went West with his brother, John Smith Stewart, another member of the team, and later Brigadier-General, D.S.O., C.M.G., Croix de Guerre and M.P. for Lethbridge; K. Peaker and E. Peaker, now dentists in Toronto; G. Modeland; William J. Allen, of Streetsville; W. H. Kelley; W. Dawson and F. Milner.

This was generally regarded as the strongest team that Brampton had brought to the lacrosse field up to that time. It was not without its critics, however, chiefly in the neighbouring towns, and when it was defeated in September, there arose a paean of rejoicing led by the *Streetsville Review*.

"We saw the Montreal Shamrocks play Brampton in a lacrosse game last Monday. The Montreal team play as if they understood the game, but

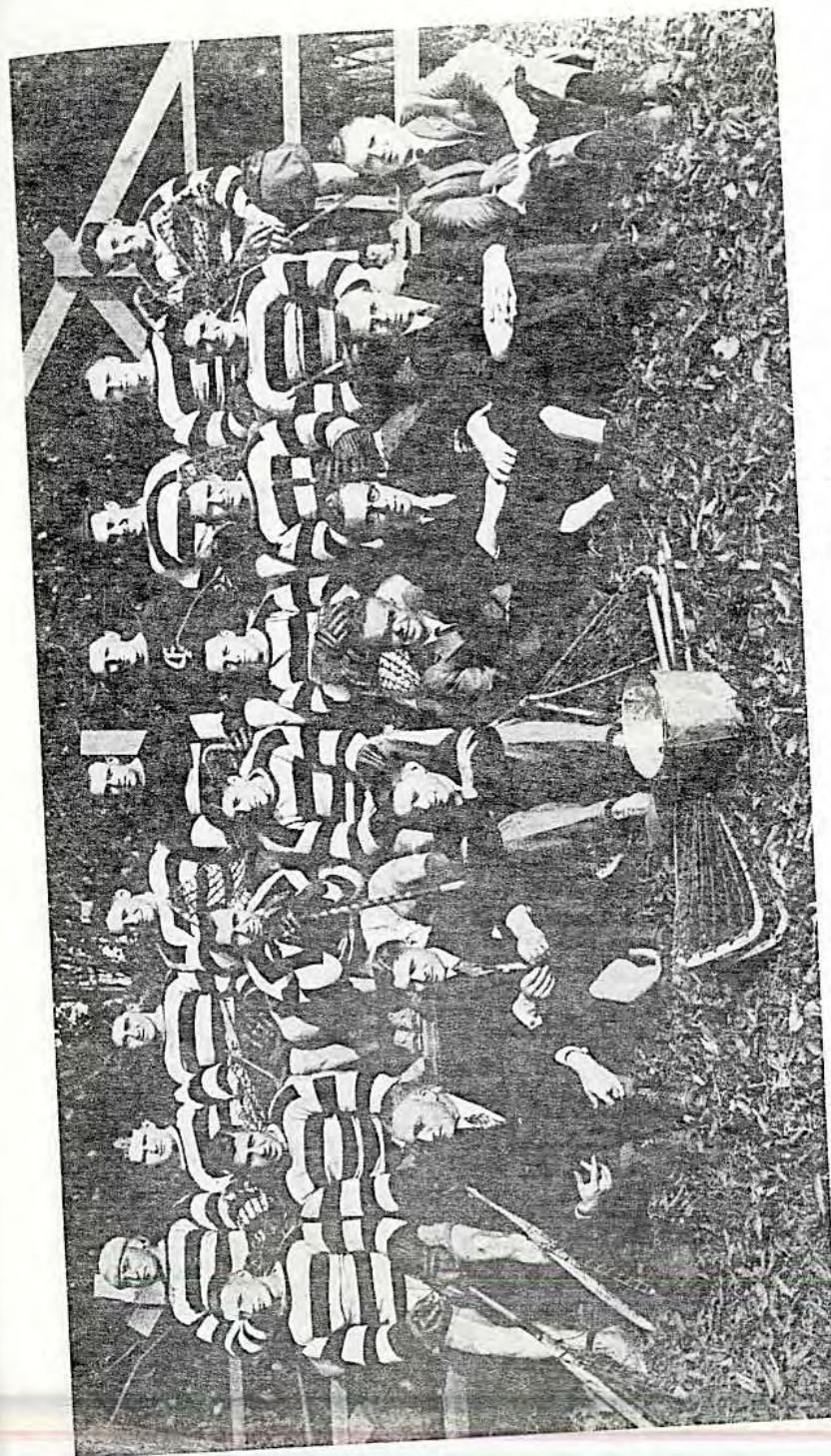
Brampton, with the exception of Messrs. Heggie and Allen, go at it in a heap, never watching the lay of their men, and in fact, they are never to be found in their places, therefore it would be almost useless to try and keep track of them. There is at least one good turn that the Shamrocks did when they wiped her out 7-1, and that is Brampton was shown conclusively that she could not play lacrosse, if she does own Peel County and its suburbs."

The Excelsiors, undiscouraged by such invidious comments, continued to prosper. In 1895 they were finalists in the Senior series, defeating St. Catharines 4-3 in the semi-finals, but losing to Seaforth in the final match, 4-0. The gallant Excelsiors did not confine their efforts entirely to sport, if an account in the *Toronto Telegram* in January, 1897, may be taken as characteristic:

"The interval between lacrosse seasons is being pleasantly filled in at Richmond Hill and Brampton. The far-famed Excelsiors are playing 'As You Like it' while their hated rivals are playing 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'. Shakespeare would wish he had never died if he could see Jethro Gersham Roberts as Rosalind in the Brampton production, and he would wish he had never lived if he could observe Mr. Frew Dick of the Peel *Banner* playing Touchstone."

Although in 1896 Fred Milner and Ken Peaker were playing on the teams of the Torontos and the Tecumsehs respectively, and others also left the Excelsiors, lacrosse continued to hold a prominent place in sporting circles, and fine teams and players were developed. In 1912, senior and junior teams managed to carry off the Ontario Lacrosse Association Championships without losing a game. In appreciation of the honour the teams had brought to Brampton during the season, the town council gave to each member of the senior team a gold watch and to each junior a signet ring. The presentations were made by Mayor T. W. Duggan and by Thomas Mara. The Excelsiors repeated their victory in 1913 and qualified for a trip to the Pacific coast to oppose the Vancouver Athletics for the Mann Cup in the following spring.

While not successful in their quest for the cup in June, 1914, Excelsiors made a strong bid, winning the first game 5-4, but losing the second 2-6, making a score of 10-7 against Brampton on the round. Returning in July, the Excelsiors again won the Ontario Championship. This team included H. Campbell, G. Williams, C. Mulliss, F. Beecham, P. Warr, Roswell I. Blain, W. Stevens, G. Sproule, W. K.



EXCELSIOR INTERMEDIATES, CHAMPIONS, 1924
 O. Whitmore, G. Kendall, G. Fletcher, S. Beatty, E. Smart, W. Botvair, B. Barry, B. Harrison, J. Nixon
 C. Jennings, W. O'Hearn, A. Doddemead, R. Jennings, W. Large, J. Madgett, J. Worby
 A. Jennings, N. Garbutt, Roy Sproule, H. S. Galbraith, W. K. Mara, C. V. Charters, J. O. Adams

Mara, H. Sproule, A. G. Davis, C. V. Charters, J. Roberts, M. Ashley and N. Anderson. T. Thauburn was vice-president and manager and J. Carmichael was coach.

In 1922 the Brampton Junior team defeated Shelburne 12-5 in the final match of the Junior Ontario Amateur Lacrosse Association. This won them the Association Championship and the Iroquois Cup.

The Intermediate O.A.L.A. Championship came in 1924 to the Brampton Intermediates. The score was 5-3 in the final game against Wallaceburg for the La Fortuna Cup.

A strenuous, but successful, season was that of 1926, when the Excelsiors met their keen rivals from the neighbouring town of Weston for the championship of the Dominion. Once more Brampton was victorious, and once more the council commemorated the event by presenting gold watches to the players. Lieutenant-Governor Cockshutt faced the ball in the final game, and reminded Samuel Charters, M.P., that it was forty-two years since the Brantford team, of which His Honour had been a member, had met the Excelsiors in Brampton. Of the Excelsiors of that day only one member besides Charters is alive, viz., Frank W. Main, of Chicago.

Good fortune seemed to be deserting the Excelsiors' banners in 1930, when the first game of the season was lost to St. Simon's of Toronto. Spurred on rather than discouraged by this defeat, the team won its next six games, three from St. Simon's and three from Oshawa, the champions and Mann Cup winners of 1929. With Eddie Powers as coach, the team forged rapidly ahead and led the league at the completion of the schedule. A play-off series of three games was arranged with the Oshawa twelve, holders of second place, but only two were played. The Excelsiors were successful in capturing the first game 6-4 and the second 3-2, thereby winning the Senior O.A.L.A. Championship and the *Globe* Shield, first presented in 1900.

The Brampton team was now among the little group of provincial winners competing for national honours, and the gold cup presented in 1910 by Sir Donald Mann as a challenge trophy for Canada's national game. This cup, at the request of the donor, had, in 1928, been turned over by the New Westminster Club for annual competition in

the Canadian Amateur Lacrosse Association. In the 1930 semi-finals for this cup, the Excelsiors met the Eastern Canada Champions, Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, at Montreal, and won handily, 4-1. In the finals, to determine the winner of the Mann Cup, they met New Westminster's Salmonbellies, the Western Canadian champions, in a three-game series at Varsity Stadium, Toronto, on 30th August and 1st and 3rd September. The first game brought victory to the Excelsiors by a score of 8-1, but the Salmonbellies turned the tables in the second contest and defeated the Brampton twelve, 5-4. On 3rd September, therefore, the two teams met for a third time to decide which should be recognized as champion of the Dominion. When only twenty minutes remained of the hour's play and the contestants were dead-locked in a tie score of 1-1, the Excelsiors mustered their powerful mass attack to score three goals and carry off the Dominion Lacrosse title by a score of 4-1, bringing home the coveted Mann Cup.

At the conclusion of the season's whirlwind campaign, the Excelsiors, as winners of the Senior series proper, met Hamilton, winners of the Senior B Series. The result, after the Excelsiors' triumphant campaign, was a foregone conclusion. In two games they completed this play-off for the Ontario Association honours and the Levack Trophy.

Individual as well as team honours came to Brampton. George Sproule, long star of the Excelsiors, was selected as winner of the Murphy Memorial Trophy. This award is given to the player selected as the most valuable and sportsmanlike contestant of the season in the Ontario Association. It came in a happy moment when the team of which Sproule was a member was completing its remarkable record of successive victories.

Sproule's team-mates were: Ollie Burton, Stewart Beatty, Harold Gibson, Albert Large, Gerald Kendall, George Thompson, William O'Hearn, Albert Burry, De Forest Wilson, Edward Reeves, Cecil Stapleton, Norman Zimmer, Ernest Gowdy, Pete Ella, Elgin Core, Claude Jennings and Lambert Powell.

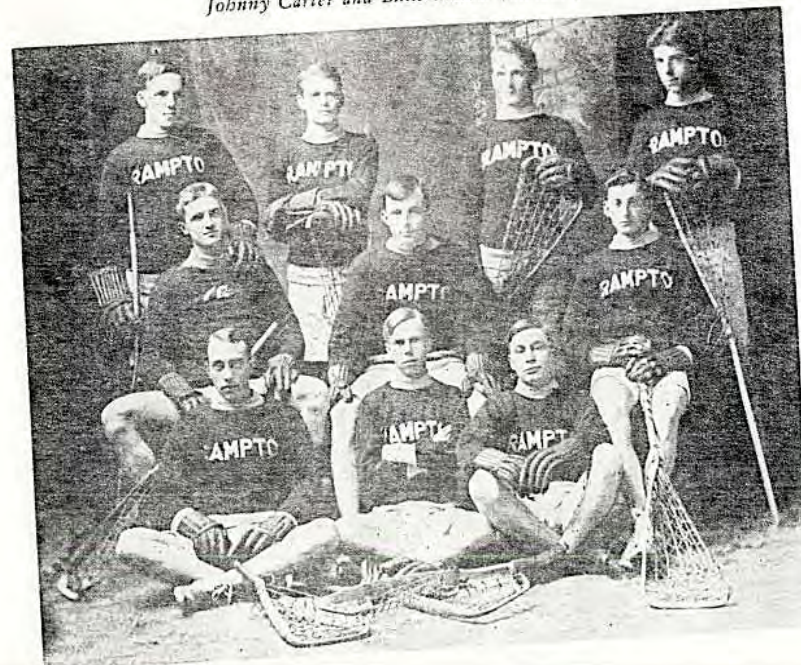
For the Intermediate and Junior Brampton teams, also, 1930 was a banner year. The La Fortuna Cup, won by the town team in the Intermediate O.A.L.A. in 1890, 1893,



Courtesy John A. Poskitt

NO. TEN LACROSSE TEAM, 1933

*Sam Rock, Wm. Bovaird, Don Arthurs, Ernest Imber, Bob Donaldson, Geo. Payne
Charles Garbutt, Wm. R. Arthurs, John A. Poskitt, Gordon C. Ella, J. Morris, Irvin
Carter, Earl Payne
Wm. C. Bovaird, Oliver Payne, Bob Ingram
Johnny Carter and Billie Morris (mascots)*



Courtesy C. V. Charters

EXCELSIOR INTERMEDIATES, 1912

*Frank Beecham, A. G. Davis, George Williams, Percy Warr
R. B. Duggan, Norm Anderson, Herb. Cook
James Roberts, C. V. Charters, M. McCulloch*

1894 and 1924, came back once more. The Junior team won the Iroquois Cup, only once before in its possession, in 1924. In 1931 the 1930 champion team, after a glorious visit to the Pacific coast, returned with the Mann Cup still in its possession. The band of the Peel and Dufferin Regiment, first prize winner in Class B competition at the Canadian National Exhibition, was expected home about the same time. The citizens of Brampton, "all agog with excitement" as one paper puts it, arranged a joint reception for their musicians and lacrosse players. Bands from Bolton, Woodbridge and Orangeville, one hundred members of the Lions' Midget Lacrosse Association, several town groups, and the champions riding on a decorated float, formed a proud and magnificent procession through the streets of "the Flower Town of Canada". In Toronto, celebrations were given in honour of the team at the University Club and the Tivoli Theatre, and these festivities culminated in a visit to the home of the author, as president of the Peel Old Boys' Association.

The Excelsior Club has at all times taken an active part in the promotion of the game throughout the Dominion. J. J. Manning was a member of the old National Association which met annually at Toronto and Montreal. Dr. J. G. Roberts at one time occupied the president's chair of the Canadian Lacrosse Association and T. Henry was, for a number of years, a member of its council. W. D. Ingram was a member of the provincial council and, at the time of his removal to Winnipeg, occupied the position of vice-president of the O.L.A.; no doubt he would have become president of the association had he remained in Ontario. The Excelsiors' next representative on the provincial board was Percy Warr, who served on the council for several years, was elected to the vice-presidency, and subsequently became president. Jack Burrell, a former Excelsior, also served efficiently on the Ontario provincial governing body for several years.

In Brampton everyone has always been interested in lacrosse, even though some know very little about the science of the game. In August, 1884, T. W. Duggan recorded in his diary: "Big 'greeny' lacrosse match, great fun, such shining I never saw". In 1885 an amusing match was played

in the town between the Ugly Mugs and the Mug Uglies or the Dudes and the Anti-dudes, the Dudes winning with "three straights. Among the players were W. Stork, Al. Chisholm, Williams, et al vs. Edwards, Ferris, and others." Even for those Bramptonians whose chief interest is in some other sport, lacrosse has exercised a strong attraction, as evidenced by the following clipping gleaned from F. A. Parker's scrap-book, and headed:

Tennis vs. Cricket:

What will go down in history as the most amusing game of lacrosse witnessed here since the fats and leans contended for the mastery ten or twelve years ago was that played by members of the tennis and cricket clubs on Tuesday evening. Following are the names of the players: Tennis—McFadden, W. H. Chisholm, Holliss, Scott, W. F., Mahaffy, McFadden, Ken, Cooper, Stork, Whistler, Parker, Haggert, Pringle. Cricket—Holden, Anderson, J., Graham, Milner, Asbury, Treadgold, Thauburn, Lowes, Manning, Armstrong, Scott, J. M., Grah. Dr. Roberts was referee, and G. R. Anderson and T. Kennedy, umpires. The cricketers won four straights, Milner, Lowes, Asbury and Manning were prominent on the cricketers' side, the latter having bodied Mr. McFadden over the fence. For the tennis side Chisholm, Parker, Ken McFadden and Cooper were most frequently in the neighborhood of the ball. It would be impossible to describe the play. It was a cross between a pantomime and a quilting bee, and must be seen to be appreciated. A spectator sends the following lines on the game, and as we publish two kinds of poetry, we are delighted to give it space:

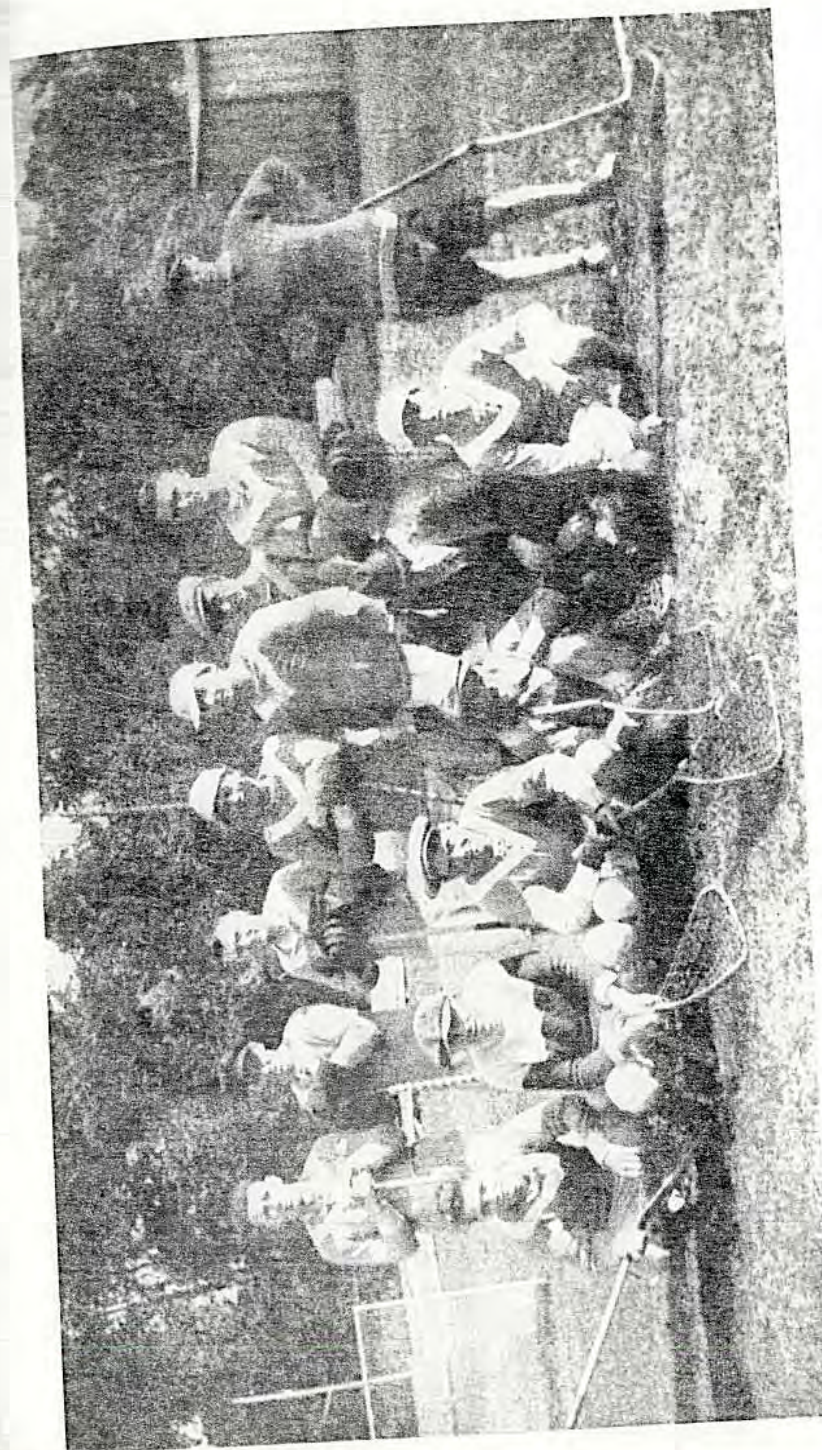
The tennis men and cricketers agreed to have a game,
And on each side were players of brilliant old-time fame,
The play was fast and furious, the crowd was wild and dense,
But the excitement reached the killing point when McFadden cleared the fence.

The cricketers, with might and main, all started in to play,
And after fifteen minutes' work had matters their own way;
Their home put up a speedy game and likewise their defence;
But the grand stand raised the rafters when McFadden cleared the fence.

The tennis men were all outclassed; (they're weak and mild you know);
Dress-makers are about their size—'gainst them great skill they'd show;
Then Parker, Scott and Holliss and the rest would be immense,
And no members of the lady twelve would make McFadden clear the fence.

The tennis men are not content with the result of Tuesday night;
They say if they had another chance they'd beat them out of sight;
They want a game for money, and are waiting with their pence,
And the ladies promise a dollar a piece if McFadden clears the fence.

Closely linked with the glowing story of Brampton's



BOLTON LACROSSE CLUB, 1922
Lyn Gould, Bill Phillips, Eli Elliott, E. Wilkinson, Stewart Cameron, F. Stubbs, A. Fowler, D. Houston
A. Byrne, Chas. Norton, William Bayes, B. Robertson, N. S. Courtney, Herb. Elliott

Courtesy Stewart Cameron

lacrosse history is Rosalea. Through the kindness of successive generations of the Jennings family, this athletic-ground, except for a few years during and following the war, has been in constant use as the Excelsiors' playing-field. No discussion treating the subject of lacrosse could be regarded as complete if it omitted recognition of the generosity and enthusiasm of the owners of this property.

The sportsmen of Brampton have always been loyal in their support of Canada's national game. A poem entitled "Lacrosse, the Sport of Canada", written for *The Mail and Empire* by the late Fred Jacob, long the inspiration of the St. Simon's team, Toronto, expresses equally well the sentiments of many Bramptonians.

"I'm one of the old lacrosse boys, a friend of the gutted stick;
I tell you the old game's got me, at times I think I'm sick
Of the days that it takes for training, of the games that are earned and
lost

'I'm through,' I say, when we put away our stick with the Autumn frost.
But when May comes down on the West wind, 'tis then that I feel the
pang

At the thought of the fun I'd be missing, and you find me back with the
gang.

I've done my stunts in the scorching heat, a heat that no one knows
Who has not lived for a Summer, in 'Our Lady of the Snows.'
I've felt the grass a-frizzle, and I've felt my tongue hang out,
While the sweat on my neck and forehead streamed down like a water-
spout;

I've seen the field a-whirling, and never really knew
How I nerved myself for another spring and stayed till the whistle blew.
There are jolts, and you bet you feel them, when you get the body fair—
Some bumps you take and some bumps you give—in the end you call it
square;

Maybe you shed a tooth or two; your skin is not always whole;
But it's worth it all when you grab the ball, and bang in the winning goal.
You know that the crowd is with you; you can hear the loud-mouthed
fan,

'Go down on the home, for the love of Mike,' or 'Everyone cover a man.'
And oh, how your blood goes leaping when the boys in the bleachers roar,
'Bore in on the nets and break the tie—just two minutes to score.'
You have pulled out a game by a hair's breadth or you've cracked beneath
the strain,

But they still have a thrill in after years when you play them all over
again—

So measure the creases ready, and put the nets in place;
The teams are padded and steady, and the ball is there to face;
I'll be out to do my darndest, if I'm only an 'Also ran,'
For this is the sport of Canada, a game that takes a man."