

Saanich Archives
Gordon Head Athletic Club Minute Book
1916-1919

Written primarily
by Secretary M.H. McNaughton

July 25th, 1916

“All for Each and Each for all, should be the motto we try to live up to.”

“Perhaps these young people scarcely realize what a privilege it is to have, here in this Country district, such expert attention in the art of swimming.

“Their fathers, can tell them many a tale of how they sought the old ‘swimming hole’, of the bathing suits they wore on these occasions – little dreaming at the time that their children would one day dip into the broad Pacific Ocean and learn from experts how to battle with its waters, unafraid.”

Undated News Article

“Gordon Head is also known for the outstanding ability of her matrons and maids, as evidenced by the fact that a principal of one of our colleges was recently named the Queen of Sciences,’ viz., Domestic Science and Domestic Art. Some time ago these ladies won the silver cup, at a Provincial Exhibition for the best all-round exhibits shown by any Woman’s Institute in British Columbia. This they still hold, and what is more, like true Britishers they intend to hold always, by keeping themselves abreast of the times, in order to defend it against all contestants. The ladies of this district are forging ahead in patriotic work, accomplishing a most commendable result, and are preparing to do still more for the common cause.”

“An Athletic Club Formed.

“In addition to these successes, Gordon Head has awakened to the fact that ‘All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,’ and that the boy without a playground becomes the man without a job.”

“An offer has come to the club from a keenly interested resident to teach a shooting class. This offer will most certainly be gratefully accepted.”

August 23rd, 1916

“Report of Basket Picnic and Swimming Contest”

“The day was very fine and all members and their friends appeared on time at Scarborough Heights, flags decorated the entrance and at the end of the walk, where a winding path leads down by many a step to the Beach, we passed a Union Jack as it flung its folds to the breeze above our heads.”

September 19th, 1916

“The Sec’y met the ladies at the [Gordon Head] Hall and put before them the purpose of the President in calling them together. Mainly to ascertain their position regarding a supper to be held on the day of the Tennis Tournament.

“The Secretary said that if we had a supper she would like it to be a really nice spread or a hard times supper in either case we might make a charge and should we decide upon a nice supper then she had the promise of six chickens for same. Miss Watson was first to speak and she endorsed the idea of a nice supper to be given by the members and no charge to be made for same. All agreed upon a nice supper and plans were made to carry out this ~~plan~~ scheme.”

September 30th, 1916

“An announcement was made to the offer that Mr. Pither had agreed to give a Victoria recital for the club the receipts from same to be used for some Patriotic purpose.

“Upon Motion of Mrs. Aitkens seconded by Mr. Pearson it was decided to send a Christmas remembrance to the men now serving the Empire from this district.”

“Moved by Mr. Grant seconded by Miss Rendle that Mr. Pither’s concert be arranged for Thanksgiving night and that arrangements for same be left in the hands of Sect. and Treasurer, who were to secure tickets and ask the school children to dispose of same.

The names of those men whom we would wish to remember were then discussed and there being no further business the meeting adjourned.”

October 13th, 1916

“A meeting of Executive was called for 7 o’clock to select a committee to deal with funds from concert and make necessary arrangements for Christmas gifts to our soldiers.

“The Club appointed a committee consisting of Mrs. Aitkens, convenor, Mrs. Watson, Miss Watson, Miss Fullerton and the Secretary to attend to the purchasing and packing of gifts. Work to be done on Thursday afternoon 19th Oct.

“The [sum?] received from concert was an even \$20.00”

“The names of those who were to receive gifts were then agreed upon with the following result:

Mr. Edwards [added in pencil]

Mr. Featherstone

Mr. Murray

Mr. Walsh

Mr. Mallett

Mr. Boorman

Mr. Todd

Mr. Rossier

Mr. Wallace

Mr. Beales”

November 20th, 1916

“A communication from Mrs. Walsh conveying her best thanks to the club regarding a remembrance sent her husband was acknowledged.”

"The committee on packing gifts for soldiers, reported through the convenor as follows. All goods packed carefully by committee and others interested. A personal message sent to each man.

"Boxes contained good eats and smokes only. Committee names and a copy of Victoria papers enclosed. Miss Somers moved seconded by Miss Dunnett that this committee receive the thanks of the Club and that a slight shortage on a/c [account] of postage [rc (rate change)?] be made right."

"Mr. Pearson presented a report of the first dance, given on Halloween, a sheet or pillow case party. Good music and an excellent supper provided by the ladies. A good attendance and the sum of \$5.10 handed to the Sec'ty for Red Cross.

"He reported also that a dance will be given on next Friday night Nov. 24th, (the singing class to be held on the following night). The proceeds to be given to Red Cross works.

"The Club was offered a lecture on early days in the Yukon and woman's work in connection with the war, at Dawson, by the wife of the former Commissioner who has now donned the kahki [i.e. khaki] and is in charge of a Yukon Battalion. [Martha and George Black]

"Arrangements for same were left in the hands of the Secretary. The lecture to be quite free. Mr. Pearson offering to take Mrs. Black in and out from the City and Mr. Tucker undertaking to have the Hall warmed and lighted.

"Mrs. McFadden will be asked to sing read on this occasion and a soloist will, if possible, be found."

Undated

"Mrs. Black's Lecture

"At Gordon Head Hall on Tuesday evening Dec. 19th [1916]. The [Reader and Speaker] were introduced by our pres. who was in the chair. The Hall was prettily decorated in Christmas Greens. The platform carpeted and finished artistically, lights all trimmed and brightly burning (thanks to Mrs. Cameron).

"The Hall was well heated and the program was all that could be desired.

"Mrs. Black proved herself a most entertaining story teller, giving us all an excellent idea of life in the Yukon and women's work in connection with the war.

“After her lecture was finished the speaker was recalled and gave us several side lights which were most interesting. Then she allowed the audience to question her about climate, population, vegetation, [game?] ____, giving answers without delay. Mrs. McFadden’s readings were most acceptable. Mr. Somers moved a hearty vote of thanks which was seconded by Mr. Fullerton. The ladies who so kindly gave us this treat were brought out and returned to their homes by Mr. Pearson as agreed.”

January 2nd, 1917

“Mr. Pearson reported for the dance committee. The last dance given was not so well attended as the previous one – probably because of several counter attractions and in addition to this the weather was bad, very bad. The sum of \$6.00 was received – but this was all required to pay expenses. Nothing left for R.C. [Red Cross].

“Mr. Pearson announced a dance for St. Valentine’s Day when the whole proceeds will be given to the Red Cross or some other Patriotic enterprize [i.e. enterprise] to be decided upon later. Upon this occasion every family will be asked to pay fifty cents and to send something for supper. A friend of the club is to provide the music at his own expense.

“Mrs. Aitkens report for the parcel committee was then made. It [told?] of the packing of parcels for our men at the front in detail and was most interesting as was the report of the Halloween Dance.”

“Mrs. Chas. Grant was asked to meet the girls of the Club and find out their wishes regarding a Hockey Team and if they agreed to form a team they might expect every support and consideration as a new section of our club work. Mrs. Grant agreed to this.

“As one of our members had enlisted for overseas service and was about to leave the district for Military duty. It was proposed by Mrs. Aitkens, seconded by Miss Beales that the Club give a farewell dance for Mr. Fullerton.

“This motion was unanimously carried. A great deal of discussion followed as to the date on which the dance should be held.

“Capt. Todd volunteered to interview the convenor of the music committee in order to get his consent to hold the dance after the singing class on Friday evening, Jan. 5th / provided it would in no way interfere with his work. Captain Todd agreed to inform the Secretary of Mr. Watson’s reply so that notices might be sent out as nec. This arrangement satisfied the Club and was agreed to upon a show of hands.”

Undated

“Report of Club Dance in honor of Mr. Thornton Fullerton:

“Held at the Hall on Friday evening Jan. 5th.

“The plans agreed upon were carried out to the letter.

“The children’s games in which young and old participated began at eight o’clock. At nine the floor was made ready for dancing and a jolly evening was spent by all.

“A simple supper was served at eleven o’clock and dancing was resumed with added zest.

“There were two events worthy of mention – A stirring speech from Capt. Williams who asked for other recruits from the district pointing out the strong calls for assistance from the Motherland.

“Later on Mr. Edwards gave the message of the Club to Mr. Fullerton wishing him much good fortune, great opportunities for service and a safe return. To all of which Mr. Fullerton appropriately replied. Everyone then joined in singing For he’s a jolly good fellow and wishing him Godspeed.

“There were a number of guests present from the City, from Cedar Hill and surrounding communities. All adding their share to a very successful evening.”

May 30th, 1917

“The correspondence was then gone into and consisted mostly of letters of thanks from our fighting men at the front, who had been remembered by the Club during the year. One of these men, Mr. Stanley Featherston, had sent the club a cup to be competed for by lady members in any way thought best by the Executive.

“Mr. and Mrs. Featherston made the presentation and this little ceremony formed a very interesting part of our Annual Meeting.

“A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Stanley Featherston for his really beautiful gift. As a mark of our appreciation Mr. and Mrs. Featherston were made Honorary Members of the Club.”

“Mr. Pearson reported verbally for the Dance Committee showing that all money over and above expenses had been handed to the Red Cross Society, and that the best of good feeling had characterized the work of his committee.”

Undated

“Considerable discussion then arose over the disposition of the cup donated for competition among the lady members of the Club.

“It was finally decided that the lady winning the greatest number of points in aquatic sports competition should hold the cup for one year. At the end of that time it would again become the property of the G.H.A.C. to be held for annual competition.

Newspaper Article, August 23rd, 1917

“Gordon Head Club Holds Annual Fete”

“The Featherstone cup and medal for the swimmer gaining the most points was won by Connie Beales. [who also won the following year]

“Following the races the prizes were presented by Mrs. Featherstone.”

___ 20th [1917]

“Medal was presented and cup to Miss Connie Beales for her success at Swimming Contest.

“Mrs. Featherston making the presentation and Mr. Featherston expressing his very sincere appreciation of the efforts of the Club especially in aquatic sports.

“Mr. & Mrs. Featherston were made honorary members of the Club to the satisfaction of all the membership.

“Moved by H.A. McNaughton, seconded by Miss Fullerton that we borrow from our funds a sum sufficient to buy gifts for our men at the front and later on give an entertainment for replacing the borrowed funds. Carried.

April 29th, 1918

“Treasurer’s report showed a balance of Twenty-Dollars, on hand, after defraying all expenses including a donation to Red Cross amounting to \$47.70 and amt. of \$20.00 for parcels to our men overseas at the war.”

“Dance Committee. H.A. McNaughton several successful dances the proceeds amounting to Forty-Seven dollars and seventy cents being handed over entirely to the Red Cross.”

1918

“On account of Influenza the committee program was interrupted.

“The Health Authorities placed a ban upon dancing and all public assembly.”

September 30th, 1918

“An executive meeting of the G.H.A.C. was held in the Gordon Head Hall on Monday at eight p.m. to arrange for our yearly Christmas remembrances to members of the Club now overseas on Active Service.

“All present were desirous of sending parcels as usual and \$30.00 was allowed to cover the expense of same.

“Moved by H.A. [Null?], seconded by Miss Somers that Mrs. Aitkens should be Convenor of parcel committee with power to select her helpers. Carried.

“List of men to whom parcels are to go:

"M[essrs.] Walsh, Mallet, Boorman, Todd, Rossi[er?], Wallace, Beales, Roberts, Williamson and Fullerton.

"Unanimously agreed to, the meeting then adjourned."

May 9th, 1919

"The Committee on Parcels Mrs. Aitkens Convenor gave their report and received the hearty thanks of Executive. At this point letters of thanks from the soldiers who had been remembered were presented. All were pleased and grateful for our interest."

May 1919

"It was decided to hold a dance under the auspices of this Club on May 23rd at 8:00 p.m. The Social Committee to take charge of refreshments. Miss Somers to have charge of decorations, a large committee to assist.

"The Secretary was instructed to write invitations to our returned soldiers asking their presence."

"The Secretary was asked to send a note of congratulation to Mr. Mallett who was fortunate enough to receive a Military medal for courage under trying circumstances [...]"