



NEW ENCLOSED TIGNISH RINK

Fish industry in Tignish area is story of continued successes

By MRS. EDITH ELDERSHAW
In 1924 the first Fishermen's Union in Canada was formed by a group of Tignish fishermen under the direction of a young lawyer Chester P. McCarthy and since that time its move-

ment has spread to cover the Maritime Provinces and has far reaching and lasting effects on many parts of the world. The great movement to better conditions of the fishermen began in 1922. In those days most

of the fishermen spent the blowy days around the shore, and a lot of time was spent in swapping ideas. Some of the stories told by the old fishermen tell of fishing in the spring to pay back bills contracted during the winter months. It took his entire earnings to square up and generally he remained in debt. It was men like William D. MacLeod, the Union's first vice-president; Cletus Gavin, Hubert Gaudet, John M. Handrahan, who came up with the proposition that if they worked together they could accomplish something that could not be worked out as individuals.

country but Tignish Fisheries was essentially a fishermen's co-operative. There were 31 chartered members recorded. Some 17 of those pioneers have since passed away. Hubert Gaudet, who was the first president, is still an active fisherman.

Joseph A. Arsenault, Michael McPhee, Michael Gaudet, Harold Cormier, John M. Handrahan, Howard Harper, Arthur P. Chaisson, Leo Shea, Charles Gavin, William Shea, Ferdinand Gaudet, Merrill MacKie, and James D. Fitzgerald, who was the first secretary, are the remaining chartered members.

SPREAD ELSEWHERE
With the organization of the Fishermen's Union of Prince Edward Island came the organization of Unions in other Maritime Provinces. United Maritime Fishermen came into existence to link up organized fishermen of the three provinces with Chester P. McCarthy as the first president.

The great co-operative movement of the Maritimes came as a follow-up of Maritime Fishermen. The co-operative progress of the fishermen in Tignish was not completed with the formation of Tignish Fisheries Ltd., but those same fishermen sparked the Credit Union Ltd., and showed the Maritime Provinces the way also in Credit Unions. The consumer and producer co-operative serves almost all the needs of the Tignish Community.

FIRST MEETING
The first meeting recorded was held on October 16th, 1922, and the group named themselves the Tignish Fishermen's Council. It existed as such until Mr. McCarthy drew up a constitution and his group incorporated under the laws of the Province in 1924 as the Fishermen's Union of Prince Edward Island. The Tignish fishermen went into the business of processing lobsters and other fish in 1925, buying out plant owned by Dr. J.A. Johnston and the company was incorporated on September 12, 1925, as Tignish Fisheries Ltd.

At that time no Co-operation Act was in existence in this Province. Winter Works program, help and assistance from firms, individuals and organizations, Centennial Island Grant, Dept. of Physical Education who help the recreation association to promote a full sports program. The people of the Tignish community can be justly proud of their achievement.

GOOD YEAR
The past year proved to be very successful for the Fishermen.

las. The 45 boats at Jades Point landed 432,000 pounds of lobsters during the spring season, and 52 boats at Skinners Pond landed 356,923 pounds lobsters during the fall season, while 39 boats landed lobsters to other buyers.

All lobsters are processed at Jades Point cannery. The lobsters of Ebbasfleet Fisheries are all processed there too, where over 200 are employed at the peak of the season. The total lobster pack of 1964 in the cannery was 11,444 cases, 60,000 pounds were shipped live to the Boston markets. Between lobster seasons the cannery is used in canning and processing chicken haddock of which 4,000 cases were processed during the past year. A total of 1,200,000 pounds of ground fish were landed during the past season by 60 boats, and all this fish was trucked to Jades Point and went through the process there. A crew of 50 men and women were employed here at salt fish drying, packing and boxing, from mid-September until the last of December, and two dozen are still employed at this since the beginning of the new year.

Sixteen men work at Tignish Run dressing and salting fish from July to October. The mechanical and artificial drying equipment is located at Jades Point along with the new salt fish cold storage building. Twenty carloads of fish products were shipped during the year. The boatbuilding plant at Jades Point is accumulating quite a fleet of fishing boats as several new ones continue to be turned out, and old ones repaired. Designer and builder is Henry Arsenault, who with the assistance of Arthur DesRoches and Joseph W. Doucette can turn out a boat in a few short weeks. Major improvements and expansion is forecast by the manager, Mr. Shea, both at Skinners Pond and Jades Point in the year ahead. This growing and expanding business today has the following board of directors working in the interest of all fishermen: Joseph W. Doucette, Albinus Gavin, Hubert Galant, Aylve Bernard, Ferdinand Gaudet, Ray Cormier, Nelson A. Gaudet, Roy Doucette, and Milton Keough. Roy S. MacLeod is their assistant manager, and Miss Anne Marie McAlduff is office secretary. Albin Gallant is factory foreman.

BUOTE FISHERIES
Jerry Buote, who operates an expanding fishing business at Tignish Shore, has a fishing fleet of 60 boats.

Improvements were made to his business during the past year, where 60 people are employed during the lobster season. A total of 285,000 pounds of lobster were processed, 137,000 pounds of cod and hake were landed. At the Buote cannery clams or mackerel are processed and put into cans.

There has been no great change in the Irish Moss picture during the year. The market is reported very good, and buyers will be waiting to buy all that is harvested.

Recreation played heavy role in community life

By EDITH ELDERSHAW

Centennial year in the community of Tignish will long be remembered as a most exciting and progressive one. It was a year of celebration, hard work, and decision.

Like other years, it could fade away and be forgotten, except for the strong will of the people, who worked to do something constructive to preserve its memory. At a Centennial meeting held early in the year, Rev. Floyd McGaugh chairman and the people present listened attentively as members of the Tignish Sports Recreation Association with their president John Gavin "Sparked" the idea of a closed in Rink as a Centennial project for the people of the community.

The idea of an indoor rink did not originate overnight. It was a long range program that was started on October 28, 1960 when a small group of concerned citizens got together to try and promote winter recreation for the youth of the village. With the outlook one day for an enclosed rink.

On Tignish day held in July the major event was a sod turning ceremony for the Centennial Community Rink by Hon. Henry W. Wedge Minister of Welfare and Labour. The recreation association fa-

cing a very busy and full year of activities launched its first major program for the youth early in January, with a Centennial Ice sports and fancy dress Carnival and crowned Miss Joan Keough Queen. There was a record turnout of 800 young people. History unfolded during the day as the Fathers of Confederation were welcomed to the village costumes of 1864 were much in evidence at the carnival.

The outdoor rink was kept in fine shape during the winter season. 180 young boys ranging in age from Mosquito to intermediate took part in the hockey program.

The Red Cross water safety swimming course with an enrollment of 113 young people completed two weeks of swimming instructions with a Centennial Aquatic Sports day.

A 10 mile Centennial Walkathon for people over 35 years of age was carried out along with Centennial Lobster Bonanza and picnic. Over eight thousand dollars was spent by the association promoting an all around sports program for the youth.

Nine acres of land was purchased during the summer, the land included a baseball diamond that was put in top shape by the association, with ample room for the new proposed rink.

parking lots and driveways. Volunteer workers started clearing up the land, making plans for the large Rink structure that would be built of wood and steel trusses at an approximate cost of \$35,000 under the winter works program in November.

To help get the project underway a membership campaign was carried out in the community from October 5th to 10th, with Aubin J. Gallant chairman. The membership was in three categories, membership one and honorary life membership to be paid in three years. Letters were also sent out to firms and organizations and a fair response was received. In November with the Board of Directors comprising Kenneth MacRae president, Rev. Clare MacDonald, Gerald Keough, Wilson Shea, Alcidie Boudreau, Robert Keough, Russell Perry, David Harper, Mrs. Reg Eldershaw.

Henry Arsenault was named Rink building foreman. What was stressed, promoted, and planned for by the association was at last nearing reality.

NEW RINK
The spacious building 220 1/2 ft. long by 110 1/2 ft. wide was erected. The ice surface is 180 ft by 78 ft. with a large promenade all around. The main part of the building houses two main dressing rooms, Canteen, ticket and Officials offices. At the rear of the building there is two large dressing rooms for visiting players and a store room that is not completed at the present time. The upper part of the building will have two offices and a trophy room when completed. The magnificent structure has opened its doors to a full winter recreation program in skating and hockey, that has 13 teams in action at the present time.

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