

WALTONA PARK

IN THE SUMMER OF 1955 MY UNCLE GEORGE AND I DECIDED TO MAKE A PICNIC PARK OUT OF HIS PASTURE ON MILL ST.

WE OPENED AN ENTRANCE, DRILLED A WELL, PUT IN A HYDRA LINE, BUILT PICNIC SHELTERS, TOILETS, REFRESHMENT BOOTH, WALKING BRIDGE OVER GRAHAM CREEK, BALL FIELDS, ETC.

THE FIRST LARGE PICNIC WAS BOWMANVILLE LEGION. ON MANY SUNDAYS THERE WOULD BE MORE PEOPLE IN THE PARK, THAN NEWCASTLE'S POPULATION OF 1000.

THEN TRAILER TRAILERS AND CAMPERS STARTED TO COME AND WE BUILT A VEHICLE BRIDGE OVER GRAHAM CREEK, AND ADDED SEWAGE, ELECTRIC, WATER HOOKS UPS, SHOWERS.

GEORGE AND DUNNATH SOLD FARM BUILT A SMALL HOME AT ENTRANCE TO PARK. THEY WINTERED IN DUNEDIN. FLORIDA.

WE HAD DAMMED THE CREEK FOR SWIMMING BUT IN 1961, GEORGE DECIDED NEWCASTLE NEEDED A COMMUNITY POOL. IT WAS COPIED AFTER PORT HOPKINS LIONS POOL. THIS IS SHOWN IN POST CARD AERIAL VIEW, ALONG WITH NEW REFRESHMENT BOOTH, CHANGE ROOMS, DANCE PAVILION.

THE POOL WAS A BIG PLUS FOR NEWCASTLE CHILDREN AND PARENTS, RED CROSS SWIMMING LESSONS, FAMILIES COULD SWIM FOR \$25.00 A YEAR AND SAFELY WITH A LIFE GUARD ON DUTY.

Hilroy

THE ONLY COMPLAINT THAT I STILL HEAR, IS THAT THE WATER WAS TOO COLD.

HOWEVER MANY PEOPLE WHO WERE CHILDREN IN THE SIXTIES SAY HOW IMPORTANT WALTONA POOL WAS TO THEM AND THEIR PARENTS FOR SAFE SWIMMING. & great fun.

THE UNFORTUNATE DROWNING OF A YOUNG BOY IN 1958, IN THE VILLAGES FAVOURITE OLDTIME SWIMMING HOLE BELOW THE C.N.R. TRACK MADE SAFETY A BIG ISSUE.

THE PARK WAS SOLD, LATER EXPROPRIATED BY ONTARIO HYDRO AND BULLDOZED. FORTUNATELY BY THAT TIME THE NEWCASTLE LION'S CLUB HAD A BUILT A COMMUNITY POOL BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

THE ONLY REMAINING EVIDENCE OF THE PARK'S EXISTENCE IS THE 24 FOOT SQUARE CEMENT DANCE FLOOR.

For
Mindy Van Dyke

Just a short write up -
if you need more info - let
me know -

Photo's taken by
Dunreath - if History - 34mm
society can use - please keep

Murray