



History Highlight: Lawn Bowling In Prescott *By the Prescott Museum & Visitor Centre*

The Prescott Lawn Bowling Club has the distinction of being one of Prescott's longest-standing sports clubs. Organized in 1890 by the Prescott Athletic Association Ltd. most of the club's early history is obscure prior to the purchase of the playing field on Dibble Street between St. Lawrence and West Streets in 1915 from the estate of William Justus Jones. However, it is believed that they rented a space from the Wiser family, who owned a bowling green on their Dibble Street lot, where the Prescott Municipal Building now stands. The estimated location of the bowling greens was on the corner of the lot on James and West Streets.



Prescott Lawn Bowling Team, July 1906



Prescott Lawn Bowling Club
Crest

The clubs' earliest trophies date back to 1910, one of which was donated to the club by Dennis Higgins, a well-known hotel owner in Prescott and a member of the St. Lawrence Lawn Bowling Association. The other was donated by the Hon. G.D. Graham to serve as the club's end-of-season championship. Its inaugural winner was the team of C. Keeler, G. Brownlee, C.E. Judge and W.J. Allen. Another championship cup that existed during this era was the Wiser Cup, given to the organization by J.P. Wiser in 1911.

Throughout the early half of the 20th century, the Prescott Lawn Bowling Club attracted a large membership. With its season spanning from May to August, the bowling greens were packed nightly, with several interclub competitions for both men and women. On the weekends, the fields often played host to many competitions from places such as Smith Falls, Ottawa, Brockville, and Kemptville. When school was out for the summer, the club also hosted dedicated events for families, giving children the opportunity to learn how to bowl.

History Highlight: Lawn Bowling In Prescott

By the Prescott Museum & Visitor Centre

The club's largest number of members peaked around the start of the 1960s, which included the following names: E.A. Allen, James Long, Elmer Saunders, Earl Roy, Roy Lindsay, Bert Wormington, George Slattery, Gerald Wormington, Lorne Duck, Sid Bowers, Howard Conley, Dr. W.O. Williams, Douglas LaPorte Sr. Allan Place, Les Easton, Earle Moulton, Ted Black, Walter Webb, H. Bain, E. Barber, P. Carr, B. Chambers, I. Conley, T. Coyea, Agnes Doyle, B. Elliott, M. Francis, M. Gordon, O. Kinsley, E. Lawrence, M. Lindsay, I. Long, A. McLean, R. Monk, I. Ralph, R. Ruby, S. Shouldice, V. Slattery, B. Todd and M. Whitney.



Prescott Lawn Bowling Team, Circa 1908



Prescott Lawn Bowling Team at Clubhouse Circa' 1911

The late 1960s marked a drastic decline in membership at the Prescott Lawn Bowling Club, the organization played host to a successful team during this period. In 1968, the team of Pete Wert, Gerry Whitley, Doc Grant, and Hector Maxwell won both the Ontario and Canadian lawn bowling championships. In the following decade, Gerry Whitley and his brother Darwin Whitley went on to win the Ontario pairs championship and were runner-up for the Canadian doubles championship in 1978.

By the 21st century, the club experienced its largest dip in membership with an average of a dozen active members for much of the 2000s and 2010s. Since the pandemic, the club has quietly suspended activities, with the closest active lawn bowling organizations being the Brockville Lawn Bowling Club and the Iroquois Lawn Bowling Club.