

Celebrating the Beaches Chess Club – Toronto Champions 100 years ago

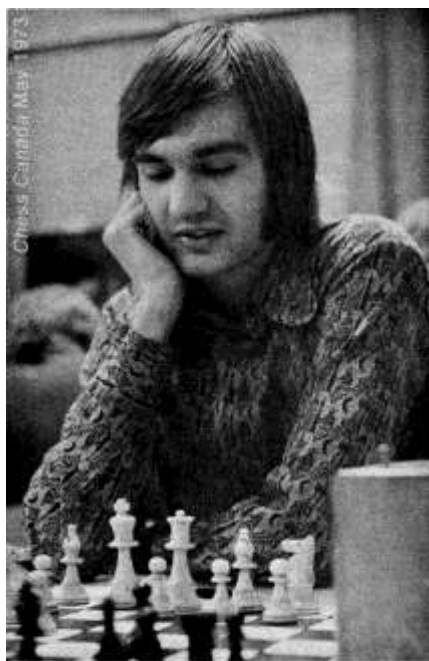
by Erik Malmsten

Presentation given at the Beaches Library February 13, 2018.

I was an enthusiastic chess player growing up in the Bobby Fischer era. Back then a Gallop Poll revealed that 20% of Canadians played chess. In New City Hall, ex-Beacher John Sewell pulled out a chessboard during futile city council meetings.

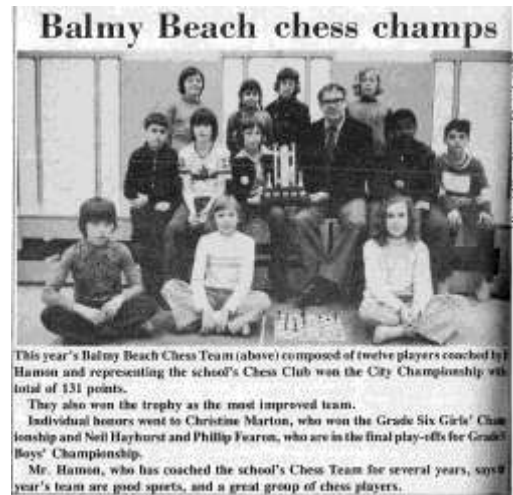
The Players and the Places They Played

In 1972, the new Kew Beach Chess Club in the Beaches Library counted 50 members, although usually only 12 at a time. The old Beaches Chess Club, run by Joe Deidun Sr., was way over at Pape and Gerrard. BCC Champion was Monarch Park's Victor Dzera of Waverley Road, who won the large Hudson's Bay-CKFM junior tournament.



Victor Dzera

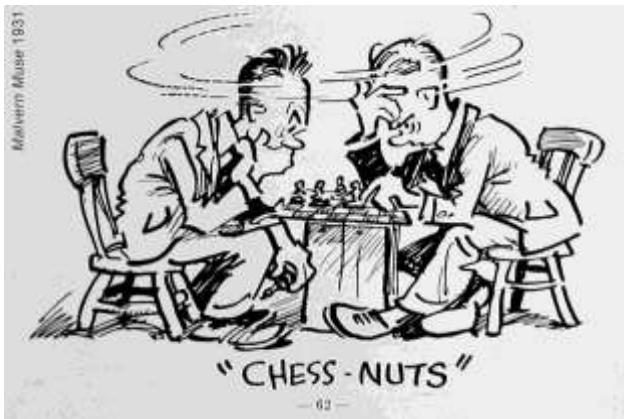
Spruce Hill Road schools Balmy Beach and St. Dennis both won city championships:



There were over 50 teams in the high school league. I played on the Malvern A team (I'm at the back with my hand on my chin), and we sold pop at school dances to pay for equipment:



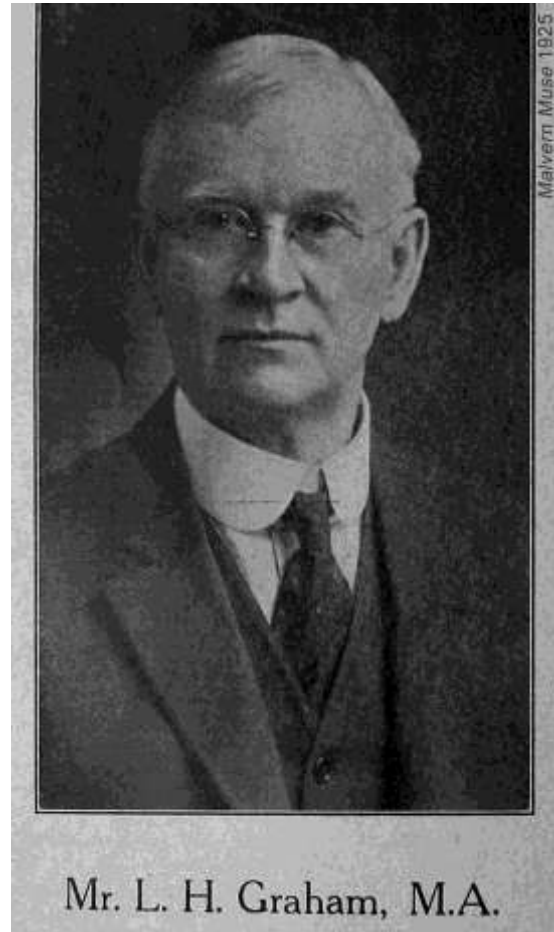
Malvern had a chess club with 25 members as early as 1931. A cartoon from the *Malvern Muse* 1931:



Louis Hartley Graham

Louis Graham (of Balsam Avenue and earlier on Beech Avenue) was born in 1864 near Walkerton, Ontario. A teacher at Malvern when it opened in 1904, he was the Science Master and President of the Literary Society. In 1923, he became President of the Beaches Chess Club at St. John's Norway. Unfortunately in April

1924, he was hit by a passing vehicle as he exited a car on Hannaford Street and died from a head injury. It would be fitting if the school had a chess championship trophy named after him.



Charles David Lennox

Beaches Chess Club President for the next few years was Charles Lennox who lived on Patricia Drive, southeast of Danforth and Woodbine. Born in Toronto in 1862, he was a member of the Queen's Own Rifles, played lacrosse, and lawn bowled for Kew Beach. He was also a warden of St. John's Norway and, in 1920, had played on the Hydro chess team.

He and older brother Edward, both architects, designed City Hall, the King Edward Hotel, St. Paul's, and others. Was it he who placed chess

rooks above the Casa Loma stables? In the 1990s the castle hosted an annual chess master invitational and the TDSB school chess championships (TPSCA President was Dale Davis of Bowmore Road Public School, who grew up on Spruce Hill Road).

Charles A. Crompton

From 1940 to the 1970s the *Toronto Star* had a chess column by Charles A. Crompton. It was later squished between the comic strip columns, my favourite page, so I would have seen the chess diagrams before learning how to play.

Crompton lived on Scarboro Beach Boulevard. He was born in Liverpool, England in 1912. In the 1890s Liverpool claimed to have the world's largest chess club, with 150 members.

Crompton played in two Canadian Championships and once won the Toronto Championship. He started as a bank clerk and became an accountant.

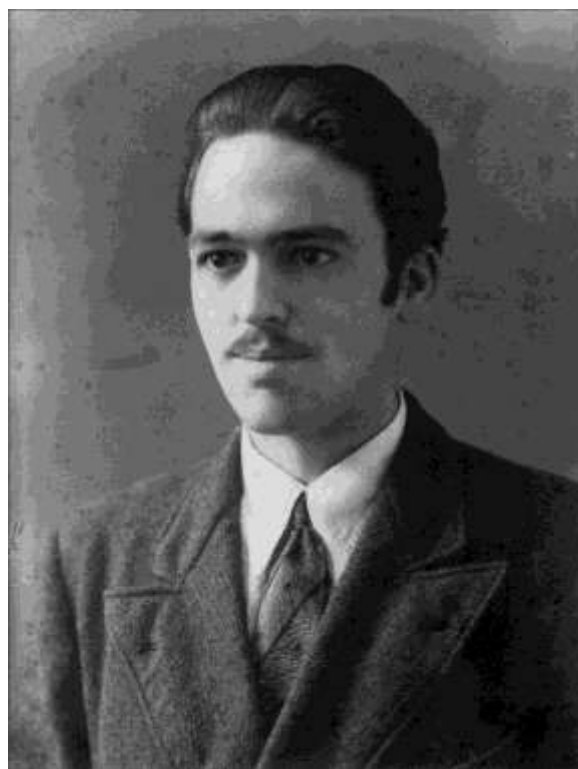


Howard Frank Ridout

Around 1970 I played in a tournament for boys and girls held on a weekend at Neil McNeil High School. I was proud to go home with a big wooden chessboard. The event was run by this guy with bushy white hair, Howard Ridout, who would walk down from his house off of Gerrard Street.

Ridout was born northeast of Woodbine and Danforth in 1914. When Ridout himself was a teenager, he played at the Beaches Chess Club, walking down from Danforth and Donlands.

Photos from his son Jack:



In a 1933 simultaneous exhibition, where one strong player plays many others simultaneously, Ridout was the only one of 34 to defeat Frank Marshall, the American Champion! And he did it in only a few moves. Ridout was a tricky player known for crazy openings.



Marshall — Ridout

12. Bd3 Nxd4 13. 0-0 ...



13... Nxf3

Ridout played in the Canadian Championship at the Central Y in 1946. Here his wife Hilda illegally moves a piece on his board:



There's a lot of concentrating going on these days at the 28 competitors from four Provinces battle it out for the title for the camera as Mrs. Hilda Ridout gives husband Howard F. Rauch, Ottawa, is neither legal nor appreciated. Eighteen-year-old...

Ridout also played in two Canadian Championships in Vancouver and scored well in speed tournaments in the US. He was friends with Canadian Champion Abe Yanofsky in Winnipeg.

In 1964, he was the chief organizer of the Canadian Open in Scarborough. The 76-player tournament was won by Grandmaster Pal Benko.

In the 1960s, Ridout would have players from the Scarborough Chess Club on Macey Avenue over to his house on Beach View Crescent.

Ridout apparently didn't know chess master Rudy Draxl, Harmonie Chess Club Champion, who lived nearby on Golfview Avenue.

Throughout the years he gave simultaneous exhibits in shopping malls and taught at schools. In the 1980s, Ridout organized tournaments at the Willowdale Chess Club.



In 1997, he received a North York Volunteer Award. The Scarborough Chess Club names an annual tournament after him.

The YMCA

Our Malvern teacher Mr. Mairo, a tournament player, told me about the Central YMCA Chess Club on College, west of Yonge. The club was open seven days a week and Toronto's best players were in the Saturday afternoon 5-minute speed tournaments. By the end of the afternoon the cloud of cigarette smoke would burn my eyes and make my shirt smell.



The YMCA building on College opened in 1913. On the second floor of the Y the chess

club was at the west end, bridge room in the corner, then GO room, checkers room, and at the east end, the hall where the World Junior Chess Championship was played in 1957.



The YMCA's logo has a red triangle representing the growth of all persons in spirit, mind and body, and chess was often part of the exercise of the mind. "Rational recreation" develops character and morality, such as fair play and team effort. The first completed Canadian Chess Championship was played in 1873 in the first YMCA at Queen and James, next to where the Eaton Centre stands today.

In 1974, the old men of the Toronto Chess Club merged with the larger Central Y's club to reach over 300 members. They brought over a couple of old trophies and a sign-in book. Looking through it I came to a page from March 10, 1916, listing players in a simul with Frank Marshall.

William Peter Cawkell

One of the players, W. Cawkell, wrote down his address, 25 Spruce Hill Road, the same street that I lived on. In fact, the numbers had changed and it was the same house I grew up in! I had always wondered about this man, and that was the beginning of this project.

Toronto had recruiters in England. Toronto's population boomed from 228,000 in 1900 to 506,000 in 1914, and the city annexed suburbs including East Toronto. Ward 8 (east of Greenwood Avenue) continued to grow from 34,000 in 1919 to 79,000 in 1931, with 93% of UK descent (32% UK born). Top religions in Ward 8 in 1931 were 42% Anglican, 25% United, 15% Presbyterian, and 9% Catholic.

Population by National Origin

1931			
	Toronto	631,207	
	(East of Greenwood)		
Ward 8			
Total		82,008	Per Cent
1	English	46,529	56.74
2	Scottish	15,189	18.52
3	Irish	14,307	17.45
4	French	1,143	1.39
5	German	1,044	1.27
7	Italian	690	0.84
6	Hebrew	677	0.83
8	Dutch	539	0.66
9	Finnish	113	0.14
10	Chinese	110	0.13
11	Greek	108	0.13
12	Swedish	105	0.13
13	Polish	76	0.09
14	Russian	70	0.09
15	Negro	41	0.05
16	Ukrainian	34	0.04
17	Syrian	30	0.04
		80,805	98.53
	Ontario born	49,218	60.02
	UK born	26,302	32.07
	USA born	1,714	2.09
	Nfld born	258	0.31
	1931 top 3		
	Ward 8	92.70	

In 1908, Cawkell's first year in Canada, he played at the Toronto Chess Club but was also on the J. F. Brown bowling team in the

Mercantile League (10-pin, a couple of years before 5-pin was invented in Toronto).

BOWLING.

ON C. B. C. ALLEYS.

In the Mercantile League Eaton's Riekeys took three games from J. F. Brown Co. and Eaton's Walkers two out of three from Canadian Kodak No. 11.

Eaton's Riekeys.	J. F. Brown Co.
W. McEwan.....524	W. Joyce ... ..359
H. Levan.....451	W. Cawkell .....402
W. Brown.....447	J. H. McLennan.388
A. Clarke.....476	R. Purth .....345
J. Laekie.....482	F. J. Berry .....422

Total.....2,380	Total .. ....1,815
Eaton's Walkers	C. Kodak No. 11.
Barry.....415	J. Fitzgerald ....422
White.....480	F. Idenden .....481
Lillie.....446	C. Shea548
Hayward.....426	W. Leslie550
J. Walker.....432	J. May406

Total.....2,190	Total2,207
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Globe, January 12 1909

In 1916, Cawkell became the Secretary of the Canadian Furniture Manufacturers Association.

FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS APPOINT SECRETARY

At a fully representative meeting of all classes of Canadian manufacturers of furniture, held recently in the rooms of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, at Toronto, it was unanimously resolved to appoint William Cawkell as secretary. Mr. Cawkell has taken office at 501 Traders Bank Building, Toronto, and it will be his duty, in connection with an advisory



WILLIAM CAWKELL
Secretary Canadian Furniture Manufacturers

board, to consolidate and co-ordinate the various interests of the furniture manufacturers throughout the Dominion.

Mr. Cawkell is well known in the furniture trade, having been secretary for the F. J. Barragheen Furniture Co. for the past six years, and before that was an assistant accountant for the J. F. Brown Co., furniture dealers, being appointed soon after they built their large Yonge Street store.

Upon the eve of his departure from the Barragheens Company Mr. Cawkell was presented by the firm and staff with a handsomely fitted up travelling bag, accompanied by a very flattering address.

Cawkell was one of the best players in the Beach, and, in January 1917, the *Daily Star* published the moves of his tie in a simul with the Canadian Champion John Stuart Morrison at the Central YMCA. Few local games were published and it wasn't until 1933, at age 70, that he finally had his only published win.

In the 1921 Toronto Championship, Cawkell set a Canadian record for the longest game – 12.5 hours, played over several evenings. He lost to Malcolm Sim, the new *Evening Telegram* chess and checkers columnist who had refused to publish a Cawkell crushing win over a weak player. Sim lived near Broadview and Queen and his day job was delivering milk.



Cawkell was active as a chess organizer: President of the Beaches Chess Club, the

Toronto Chess League, and later, in 1924 and 25, the Toronto Chess Club. After his wife Annie died he remarried Mary, a much younger woman, and moved a little west to Pine Crescent. He became President of the Balmy Beach Club, lawn bowled, and donated his ping-pong table to the club. He was also an officer of the Ontario Rugby Football Union.

Kenneth Cawkell

Cawkell's son Kenneth, called "Scotty" because he was born in Scotland, was a top athlete at De La Salle, an Inter-Collegiate Handball Champion, and played in the Beaches Softball League. In rugby football, he was on the winning 1921 Canadian Junior team, St. Aidan's, along with Ted Reeve. Scotty was then the Captain of the 1927 Balmy Beach Grey Cup winning team.



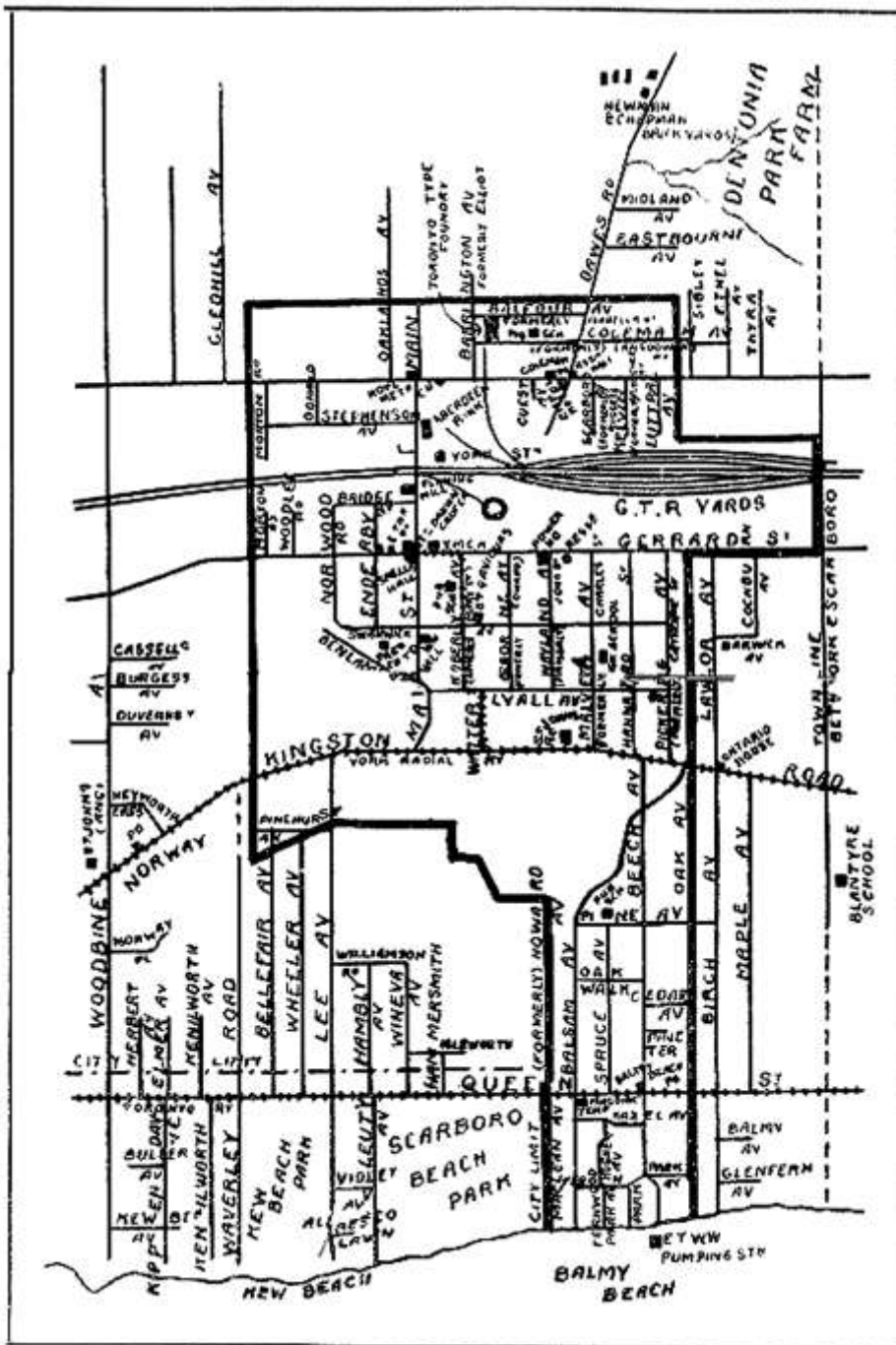
That Grey Cup game was broadcast, likely a first, on the *Daily Star's* radio station with play-by-play by Foster Hewitt. Moving pictures of the game against the Hamilton Tigers were shown at the Beach Theatre, on Queen, west of Waverley, which closed in 1970 (now the Beach Mall). Scotty couldn't attend, as he and Malvern grad Yip Foster were playing professional hockey in Massachusetts.

Scotty was also the Manager of the 1930 Balmy Beach winning team and later a baseball umpire. He lived for three decades on Queen at Victoria Park Avenue and is a member of the Balmy Beach Sports Hall of Fame.

1907 East Toronto map:

John Wesley Beynon

I think John W. Beynon influenced William Cawkell's move to the Beach. The City Directory of 1905 lists Beynon in Balmy Beach, then in 1908 on Queen, across from Spruce Avenue (Spruce Hill Road).



Beynon was born in 1841, a son of Reverend George Beynon from Ireland, a father of Canadian Methodism. Beynon was a barrister in Brampton, a Sunday school superintendent, and a Conservative candidate. While living in Brampton, he had played in the Dominion Chess Championship in Orillia in 1897.

In December 1908, he played in the Dominion Championship in Toronto, losing all his games. But, nonetheless, he was probably the first Beacher to play in the national chess championship. He's in the first row, second from the left. His nephew Percy is in the back row, second from the right:



Earlier in March 1908 John W. Beynon was elected Curator of the Toronto Chess Club's new quarters above a bank on the northwest corner of King and Jarvis.

Frank Percy Beynon

Beynon's son Donald played as did nephews Frank Percy and John H., and his older half-brother George W. In 1909 Percy took over as Curator, probably responsible for duties like setting up and putting away the chess pieces (the space was also used as a checkers club).

In 1908, Percy became Toronto's first-ever Junior Champion and, in 1911, Percy won the Toronto Championship. He moved to New York as a chess professional, but returned to enlist and died at the front in a battle with the retreating Germans. A chess biography of his time in New York was written by Olimpiu G. Urcan in 2010 at ChessCafe.com.



Frank Percival Beynon
[Source: *American Chess Bulletin*
November 1918, Vol. 15, No. 8, page 232]

The City Directory listed Percy's mother Marie Edith as an authoress. Many Methodists had reading circles, and I found her book from 1897 online: *Saints, Sinners and Queer People*. She actually mentioned chess:

A funny thing happened at the close of the wedding service, that's where the all-important kiss comes in, you know. Bertram forgot about the people who were standing around, and he kissed me not once or twice but half-a-dozen times quite ravenously, just as he does when no one is looking. I don't know how long he would have kept it up if I hadn't freed one corner of my mouth and said 'check!' He is a chess player, and that word straightened him up in an instant.

Hector Henri De Mers

In October 1915, in the Toronto Chess Club's new quarters in the St. James Parish House at Church and Adelaide, the executive was elected and the new enthusiastic Publication Agent was "Beacherite" Hector Henri De Mers.

De Mers immediately started a small chess column in *The Toronto Daily Star* that competed with the more detailed, mainly international chess news in the *Globe* by previous Publication Agent Malcolm Sim. De Mers' chess column in the *Star* petered out in 1917 and came back briefly in 1926 and 1932. He wrote over 150 articles on chess, as well as apparently some on Quebec. He reported on the events of the Beaches Chess Club and listed the names of locals who solved his chess problems, such as Sammy McDermott of Malvern Avenue. So it's thanks to Heck De Mers that I've uncovered records of this local history.



De Mers was born in Quebec in 1881. He was a member of the Toronto Swimming Club and won the Canadian Fancy Diving Champion at Hanlan's Point in 1904. He is the high diver top left:



He married Mary when they were working at a business school in Sault Ste. Marie. She was from the Port Union area of Scarborough. In 1908, he was the Principal of a business school in the Junction area.

As a promoter, in 1919, he was the first to drop flyers from a plane over Scarboro Beach.

In the late 1920s, he moved back to Montreal to work at a school there and returned to Toronto in the late 1950s.

One granddaughter remembers her grandparents playing chess at the kitchen table and grandma was the better player; She had played in a

Women's Championship in Montreal in 1951.

In 1913, they lived on Waverley Road and in 1914-16 they were living at 88 Kew Beach;

Hector's occupation Manager, Toronto Window Cleaning, a residential cleaning company. Note, not Kew Beach Avenue but Kew Beach, where the tennis courts are now:



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1231, f1231_1(1470)

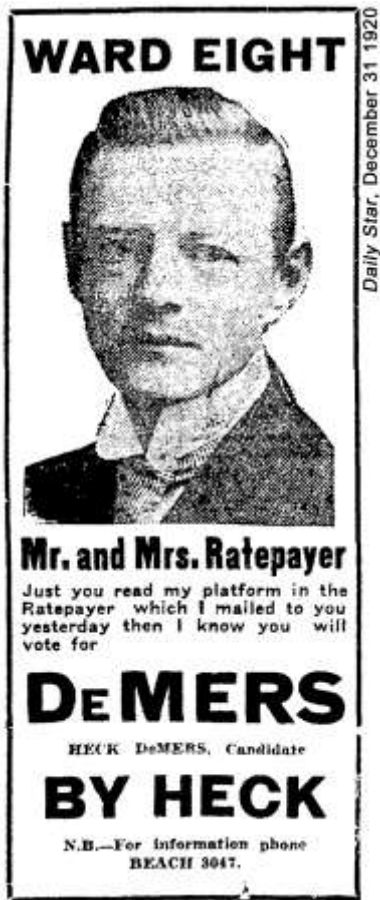
Hector taught swimming at the Eaton camp in Victoria Park:



On September 1918, at St. John's Hall, De Mers was voted in as Secretary of the East End

Ratepayers Association and he soon had his name in the paper when he announced that he had secured five carloads of coal for ratepayers. He became publisher of the new weekly *The Ratepayer*.

In 1919, De Mers tried running for mayor, but was disqualified as the residence he rented on Waverley had too low an assessment by \$50 (\$1,950). In 1920, now registered at the house he bought on Columbine Avenue, assessed at \$2,732 (now both houses are worth \$1 million), he ran for Alderman for Ward 8 and lost. In 1925 he moved to the top of Waverley and in 1929 to Victoria Park Avenue. His daughter Hectorine (Rene Livingston) was listed as a teacher at Balmy Beach and lived on Hubbard, then Silver Birch before moving to Halifax.



De Mers also made metal clocks using only an awl and hammer and won first prize at the CNE

in 1917. Here is a 1957-ish photo of Hector and Mary with a grandfather clock he made:



Founding of the Beaches Chess Club

On Thursday, November 25, 1915 the first meeting of the Beaches Chess Club was held in the Kew Beach Lawn Bowling Club, at Lee and Lake Front. Circa 1903 the Kew Beach Lawn Bowling Club had 300 members.

This historic postcard is a view from where the Leuty lifeguard station is today. The club was in the castle-like building to the left:



The Beaches Chess Club opening night event was a simultaneous by Anglican Reverend Francis Morgan Dean, President of the Toronto Chess League.

Ernest and Walter Snell

Two keen players were Ernest G. Snell and Walter Giddings. Ernest and his family lived above the Walter J. Snell grocery store on the south side of Queen, west of Lee; Giddings also worked in the store. In 1927, Walter Snell replaced his store with the Kew Park Mansions.

Walter Snell had a bakery and lodge hall up on Main Street at Gerrard. He donated a silver shield for the Beaches Chess Club Champion, first won by John T. Wilkes.

Herbert Chamberlain Hopkins

Herbert Hopkins was a good player who held up the bottom board of the Beaches team. He was born in 1876 in Leicestershire, England, and owned a shoe repair shop at 2224 Queen, between Beech and Spruce Hill, one door east of the apartment building. His family lived above his store. His wife, Elizabeth, was a florist. Before that, Hopkins' shop was briefly at the northwest corner of Balsam and Queen, and in 1909 he lived on Lee Avenue. During the war leather was directed to military use, so he had to make old shoes last.

In 1916, from a little east of Woodbine to Scarborough Beach, there were 90 stores to 50 residential houses. Six butchers and five shoe stores. Balmy Beach had about 35 businesses to 45 houses. Along Queen, there were six Chinese dry cleaners (the Chinese Head tax prevented women from being brought from China).

Queen and Lee 1916 South side

Cullen Leslie, barber 1922 Pollard Albert R, bchr 1925 Stennett Bros, gros ♦ Kippendavie av ends 1928 Capnerhurst Geo 1941 Martin Edwd 1943 McCully S Rolph 1945 Sunnucks Clement flour Kenilworth Skating Rink, rear 1947 Cox Margt Mrs, gro 1949 Egar Edith Mrs, mlnry Egar Geo D 1951 Parsons Geo, elect fixtures 1952 Bain Thos, cigars 1953 Sinclair Jas M, confy 1961 Harlock Chas R, gro ♦ Kenilworth av intersects 1967 Vacant 1968 Peter Pan Theatre 1971 Wightman John R, real estate 1972 Winger Wm ♦ Waverley rd intersects 1973 Nugent Wm R J 1977 Edmunds Francis P 1981 Smith Chas E 1982 Hartwick Theodore 1983 Evans Arthur E 1989 Coles Fredk F, phy 1991 Lewis John F Kew Gardens (City Park) Public Library (Beaches br) 2161 Davies Wm Co. Ltd, bchrs Watson Lionel 2162 Snell Walter J, gro Snell Ernest G	2167 Morris Edwd D, real est Central Business College Dorn Bank (br) ♦ Lee av intersects 2171 Tamblin G. Ltd, drugs 2173 Family Theatre 2174 Nichol Chas, fruit 2175 1/2 Beaches Billiard Parlors, billiards 2176 1/2 Nichol J W, exp 2177 1/2 Parker's Dye Works Ltd (br) 2178 Warran Addie, sewing machines 2181 Hendry John W, shoe mkr 2182 United Cigar Stores Ltd, (sub br 202) 2185 Giroux Jos L, gent's furrgs 2185 1/2 Foster Thos, gro 2187 Turney Henry, barber 2188 Hall George, bchr 2191 Milnes Coal Co (br) Elsie Flo, confy Coulter Joe Cloutman Arthur 2192-2193 1/2 Hasall Thos R, elect supplies 2195 Gals Wm A, gent's furrgs 2197 Simpson Wm G, real est 2199 Hillier & Co, pimbws 2201 Vacant 2203 Giesel Bernard E. ♦ Leuty av ends 2205 Bourbonnais Leo, rest 2207 Morrison R Penraon, confy 2212 Chinese Indry Alfred. 2213 Bergmann cigars 2215 1/2 Harrison & Williams, amusements 2217 Vacant
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North side

1954 Enghand Francis confy 1956 Rowling Geo H, fruit 1958 Bailey Cecil G, hdwre ♦ Kenilworth av intersects 1960 Black Wm, gro 1962 Wharin Herbert J 1964 Leighton Chas 1966 Gregory Robt 1968 Brown Lewis A 1970 Wharin Sydney G 1972 Hancock Laura 1974 Bennett Arthur B 1976 Renardson Edwd ♦ Waverley rd intersects 1980 Vacant 1982 Clark Jas 1984 Haneland Andrew H 1986 Young Wm D, phy ♦ Bellfair av commences 2000-2 Badall Saml, fruit 2004 Moore Harry, shoemkr 2004 1/2 Chinese Indry 2010 McLennan Supply Co, hldrs, supplies & feed 2018a Llewellyn Rupert, bicycles Gordon Sophia Sears Fredk C 2019 1/2 Young Geo R, confy 2012 Reed Wm J, dry gds Cumming Robt Brown Wilbert G 2014 Blanchard G W & Co, gros 2016 Bridges Robt R, gent's furnishings 2018 Clayton Meat Co, Ltd ♦ Wheeler av commences 2020 Apperley Geo T, gro 2022 Ewers Annie C Mrs, mlnry	2024 Waters Herbert, florist 2026 Garbutt Florence, con 2028a Garbutt Robt H 2028 Lush Harold V, bchr Hall Vernon 2028 Chinese Indry Lasalline Edwd 2032 O'Connor Jno L, garage 2034 Barron & Howson, rl est 2036 Reeve Mrs Jennie, staly Lee av post-office (br) 2038 Heller Morris R, gro Johnston Chas, ptrs 2040 Clark John W, tlr Pond Wm 2042 Cook Albert J, shoes McIntosh Robt M, dentist ♦ Lee av intersects 2046 Bank of Nova Scotia (br) Morton G Victor, dentist 2048 Kirkland Wm A, hdwre 2050 Bongaris Johanna, hair dresser 2050 1/2 Beatty Ernest W, barber 2052 Wright & Co, dry gds 2054 Atkins Chas R, twdr Giroux Joseph L 2056 Solomon John A, staly 2064 Simons Andrew, fruits Smith Wm Thackeray Beale 2066 Walmsley Thos, fish 2068 Cobblestick N B, un- derstaker Bennett Joseph 2070 Ferguson Robt, gro ♦ Hamby av commences 2070-2072 Public Library (Beaches br)
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STAR CHESS CORNER

(Conducted by H. H. De Mers).

The result of the simultaneous chess exhibition at the Beach Chess Club, given by Mr. Malcolm Sim, city champion, was as follows:

Malcolm Sim..... 0	J. T. Wilkes	1
Malcolm Sim..... 1	H. Hopkins	0
Malcolm Sim..... 0	T. Crossley	1
Malcolm Sim..... 1	H. J. Lane	0
Malcolm Sim..... 1	E. Snell	0
Malcolm Sim..... 1	A. Firth	0
Malcolm Sim..... 1	W. Giddings	0
Malcolm Sim..... 1	Chas. Barkey	0
Malcolm Sim..... 1	T. E. James	0
Malcolm Sim..... ½	H. H. DeMers	½
Total..... 7½	Total	7½

The draw for the Beach chess handicap tournament for the first encounter, to be played before December 26, is as follows:

Wilkes vs. Crossley.
Cankell vs. Clark.
DeMers vs. Barkey.
Merrill vs. Firth.
James vs. Lane.
Wyse vs. Giddings.
Hopkins vs. Blakeman.
Lewett vs. Snell.

Three games to be played between each player and his adversary for the first round.

The different divisions are as follows:

Class A—Wilkes and Cankell.
Class B—DeMers, Merrill, James, Wyse.
Class C—Hopkins, Lewett.
Class D—Snell, Blakeman, Giddings, Lane.
Class E—Firth, Barkey, Clark, Crossley.

The odds to be given are: Pawn and move, Pawn and two moves, Knight, Rook.

Daily Star, December 15, 1915

Beaches Joins Toronto Chess League

The Toronto Chess League expanded from Toronto, Central YMCA (in their new building on College Street), and Varsity (University of Toronto) to include new teams from Beaches, Parliament, and the West End YMCA (College and Dovercourt, opened in 1912). To make it competitive, masters weren't allowed.

1915-16 Toronto Chess League

	Total
Central Y	4
Beaches	3
West End Y	3
Toronto	2.5
Parliament	2
Varsity	0.5

Beaches lost their first match to Parliament .5-4.5, but in their last match defeated the Central

Y, the tournament winners, 4-1. The season was a success as the league was competitive, with five of the six teams scoring 50% in individual games. The closing banquet was held at the West End Y and featured an orchestra. De Mers brought his daughter Hectorine and the boy next door and the kids played "hide and seek" chess.

The Beaches Club moved east to the Masonic Temple on Balsam Avenue, south of Queen. The Temple was designed by Charles Fredrick Wagner, who also did the Waverley Baptist Church, Kew Beach Presbyterian Church on Wineva Avenue, and the house on the northwest corner of Balsam and Pine. Wagner was also a judge at the Balmy Beach Success Club regattas.



The Temple opened in 1907 and in 1914 boasted 225 members. Community groups such as the Beaches Red Cross and a branch of the Hambourg Conservatory of Music used the space. The Temple was closed in May 1962 and burned down after a wedding in November 1966.

Cawthra Park

Queen Hwy. East

Pine Ave

Willow Ave

Crossley Ave

Wilkes Ave

Hopkins Ave

Masonic Temple

Lane 2

Balmy Beach Club

McLean Ave

Telford Ave

Park Ave

Scale: 1/2 inch = 1 mile

CITY OF REGINA

Urban and Community Development

2010

University cancelled all sports and their fields were used for marching drills. The Conservative federal government introduced conscription in August and the “temporary” Income War Tax in September. And some women could now vote.



1916-17 Toronto Chess League

	<i>Total</i>
Beaches	9
Parliament	5.5
Toronto	5.5
West End Y	5
Varsity	4.5
Central Y	0.5

Each team played each other twice.

1916-17 Beaches Chess Club, TCL Champions

		<i>Average Board #</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Perc ent</i>	<i>Unfi nish ed</i>
William	Cawkell	1.2	2.5	3	83	+2
John	Wilkes	1.8	4.5	5	90	-
Harry	Lane	3.4	1	4	25	+1
Edward	Merrill	3.8	2	2	100	+3
Herbert	Hopkins	4.8	3	4	75	-
C. A.	Graham	5	1	1	100	*

* - No medal

William Cawkell and John Wilkes were undefeated on the top boards while Herbert Hopkins and Edward Merrill were excellent on the bottom boards. Only Harry Lane had a negative score.

Edward Belden Merrill

Edward Merrill of Kingswood Road was the slowest player, as often his games were not finished (A judge would later decide the result). Merrill later became an engineer for the new Toronto Hydro and in 1920 played the top board on their chess team.

Parliament won the B section. Players on the Beaches B Team were Thomas Crossley, C. A. Graham, Robinson, Walter Gidding, Arthur Firth, and Ernest Snell.

John Thomas Wilkes

John Wilkes, born in Ontario in 1884, lived on Pine Terrace, east of Beech Avenue, from 1912-16 with his wife Martha and two children. He worked for piano manufacturers and after 1914 for Gerhard Heintzman who only made one model of piano, for home use. In 1922, he lived on Main Street north of Danforth, then in 1930 Blantyre and Kingston Road, then up Victoria Park Avenue.

Daily Star, July 27, 1916



J. T. Wilkes

Wilkes played more team games than any other Beach player, scoring at least 30 out of 43 games. He often played in the simuls, on the East of Yonge Street vs. West of Yonge matches, and on Toronto teams that travelled to

Hamilton. His only game published was a win against a Hamilton player in 1925. He won several handicap tournaments where the stronger player starts the game with one less piece.

Harry Jabez Lane

Harry Lane became the new contact person for the Beaches Chess Club. He was born in 1883 in England and married Maud. In 1916, they lived at Pine Terrace, then in 1919, moved to Fernwood Park where they lived for over 40 years. His Harry J. Lane Studios Ltd. was on King Street West and, after 1946, he was a commercial artist for Rapid Grip and Batten.

Lane won the Beaches Championship, a gold medal and the Snell's trophy. He defeated Morrison in a simul at the Beaches Club in November 1917. In 1918, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Toronto Chess League, and in 1919, the Vice-President. He placed high in the 1920 Dominion Championship in Toronto.

Mr. J. S. Morrison Gives Exhibition at Beaches Chess Club Last Night.

The opportunity to play against Mr. J. S. Morrison in his simultaneous exhibition of chess drew a large crowd at the Beaches Chess Club last night.

Seventeen players signified their intention to play against him, but, owing to the shortage of war implements, only fourteen were able to participate.

Several of the players were of very formidable strength, and congratulations are due the Canadian champion for his highly satisfactory score, he securing ten wins, two draws, and losing two, as follows:

J. S. Morrison...	1	W. Gliddings	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	1/2	H. Hopkins	.....	1/2
J. S. Morrison...	1	A. Firth	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	0	H. J. Lane	.....	1
J. S. Morrison...	1	H. Stamper	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	1	W. C. Coleman	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	1	Robt. Stewart	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	1	W. A. Taylor	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	1	Wm. Cawell	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	1/2	T. Crossley	.....	1/2
J. S. Morrison...	1	E. G. Snell	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	1	L. H. Graham	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	1	H. Hunnar	.....	0
J. S. Morrison...	0	W. E. Carswell	.....	1

1—City champion.

Daily Star, November 29 1917

December 1916 saw the largest-ever number of players in a Toronto city championship: 72 including 6 from the Beach. Lane was the eventual winner in late 1917, winning over James Mavor of the U of T (Shaw named a character in the play *Candida* after him).

Daily Star, November 5, 1917

H. J. Lane of Beaches City Chess Champion

Prof. Mavor Beaten in Deciding Game for Championship.

Mr. Harry J. Lane won the city chess championship on Saturday night by winning the final game of a series of three from Prof. Mavor of the Toronto Chess Club. The series of three games resulted in two wins and one draw. Mr. Lane is secretary of the Beaches Chess Club. This is the first time the cup has been taken out of the rooms of the Toronto Chess Club. Mr. Lane is a player who has come to the front this season. The card for Saturday's game is as follows—White (H. J. Lane); Black (Prof. Mavor). Opening — Giuoco Piano:



He, his brother, and a co-worker escaped a fire:

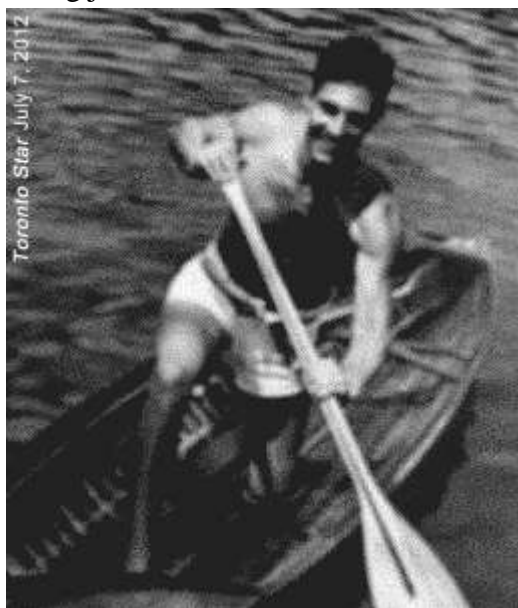


ESCAPE FROM FIRE SWEPT BUILDING.
Ralph C. Venour (on the LEFT) of 233 Radhurst street, and Harry Lane of 44 Fernwood Park avenue, employees of the Catalogue Art studios, had narrow escape when trapped on the second floor of the Richmond street building, which was gutted by fire last night. They were unable to get down the stairs through the smoke and had to be rescued by the firemen.

Daily Star November 28, 1922

Norman Doug Lane

In 1919, Lane's first son Norman was born. Norm, good at geometry, studied to become a Doctor of Mathematics and taught at McMaster University. He lost an eye when he was a teenager but was able to paddle for Balmy Beach and at the 1948 Olympics in London won a Bronze Medal in the C-1 10,000 metres, taking just over an hour:



Kenneth Ralph Lane

Lane's younger son Kenneth, born in 1923, went to the 1952 Olympics in Finland and won a Silver Medal with Don Hawgood in the C-2 10,000 metres:



He won 14 Gold Medals in international competitions. He was an active canoeing official for 55 years and edited the *Canadian Paddle* magazine. In the 1980s he was a Canadian Squash Senior Champion. He also lawn bowled, golfed and was a duplicate bridge player. He was elected as a member of the Balmy Beach Sports Hall of Fame and Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame, and received a Queen's Jubilee Award for volunteer service.

John Stuart Morrison

In November 1917, Beaches new team line-up had top scorer Wilkes knocked down to third board, with Toronto Champion Lane on second, and Canadian Champion J. S. Morrison on Board 1! Bringing in a ringer? No, Morrison actually lived here! His mother Mary briefly moved to Scarborough Road (Her other son had just died at Vimy Ridge).

Morrison grew up in the west end. His father Adam, once the Principal of Bond School and later a teacher at Lansdowne School, died in 1908. His father gave up chess for checkers early on. Morrison learned chess from books in 1907 and got lessons at lunchtime at work, the Toronto Engraving Co., from co-worker Alfred Hunter of the Toronto Chess Club.



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 2241

Morrison on the left is playing American Champion Marshall while looking on are the bearded Anglican Right Rev. Bishop W. D. Reeve and Rev. F. M. Dean.

At only 19, Morrison won his first of many the Toronto Champions, last in 1945. He was also a five-time Canadian Champion.

He regularly played in international tournaments and was ranked in the top 100 in the world. Several of his games have been published in books such as *Chess Fundamentals* by World Champion Jose Capablanca. In September 1918, in Chicago, he had a brilliant win over Edward Lasker, defending champion of the event. In 1922, in London, he won a game against future World Champion Max Euwe. He was top board on Canada's first Olympiad team in 1939.



J. E. Narraway, of Ottawa (left), in session with Champion J. S. Morrison in the third round of the fight for the Canadian title at the St. James Parish House. Morrison experienced a rare defeat in this match.

Evening Telegram, September 2 1927

1917-18 Toronto Chess League

	Total
Beaches	9.5
Parliament	9
Judea	7
West End Y	5.5
Toronto	5
University	4
Central Y	2

The Beaches win was reported on in both *British Chess Magazine* and *American Chess Bulletin*. Perhaps not as big news locally as Toronto defeating Vancouver for their first Stanley Cup.

Miss Florence M. Spragge.
Winner of the ladies' chess championship of Toronto in 1917, who was awarded the championship for 1918 at the annual meeting of the Toronto Chess League last night.

GOOD YEAR IN CHESS LEAGUE

Beaches Club Captures Shield
Second Time — Miss Spragge Champion

Globe, October 18 1918

Miss Florence Spragge won the Women Championship. She was a long-term member of the Toronto Chess Club Executive and also played bridge, tennis, and golf.

A new prize for top individual score was donated by Robert G. Hunter of the Central YMCA – and he ended up winning it!

1917-18 Beaches Chess Club, TCL Champions

		<i>Avg Bd #</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Unfinished</i>
Stuart	Morrison	1	3	4	75	+2
Harry	Lane	2	6	9	67	+2
John	Wilkes	3	6	9	67	+1
William	Cawkell	3.1	6.5	9	72	+1
Edward	Merrill	3.9	3	6	50	+4
Thomas	Crossley	5.6	7.5	10	75	-
Herbert	Hopkins	5.8	3.5	5	70	-
N	Coran		0.5	1	50	*
	Featherston		0.5	1	50	*

* - No medal

Thomas Crossley

Young Thomas Crossley advanced from the B team and became a top scorer on the A team.

Crossley was born in Essex, England, in 1893, where he learned chess at age 15. In 1915, he likely lived on Woodbine Avenue, north of Queen. He worked as a bookkeeper, his father a janitor. But his older half-brother Charles Arthur Crossley, cigar maker, lived on Pine Terrace, between the houses of Lane and Wilkes. It's likely that on visits they improved his play.



In 1921 Crossley became the office manager of the Furniture Manufacturers Association, working with Cawkell. He and his wife Adah moved to Walter and Kingston and later became part of Johnson, Crossley and McComb. They then moved to Leaside, but he still attended the club.

Crossley went on a winning streak of 17 straight serious games in 1917. He was Beach Champion in 1918 and for most years after. Throughout the 1930s he was President of the Beaches Chess Club and Vice-President of the Toronto Chess League. In 1957, the Beaches Chess Club awarded him an Honorary Life Membership.

Beach Champion, 1927.



Evening Telegram, May 21, 1927

T. CROSSLEY.

Crossley hails from London, Eng., where he got a grasp of the rudiments of chess around his 15th year. He joined the former Beaches C.C. in 1915, when their headquarters were on the lake front at the foot of Lee ave. After some practice he first lined up against the Chess Editor in simultaneous play, netting one of the two games lost on that occasion. By 1918 Crossley had progressed to the extent of winning the club title, and held it for a further seven years from 1920 to 1926.

Balmy Beach Club

In April 1918, the Beaches Chess Club moved to the Balmy Beach Club to unite chess and checker players. De Mers noted that there were 10 checker players for every chess player in the city.

Balmy Beach Club was ranked the top paddling club in Canada in 1915, but membership had dropped as the paddlers enlisted.

The Balmy Beach clubhouse opened in 1905. The Balmy Beach Recreation Association met at the Spruce Avenue fire hall to organize the annual street fair, including a dog show, which raised funds for the construction.

After a fire in April 1915, an additional floor was added. Activities such as chess, bridge, or

euchre were played in the Board Room. The Ukulele Club had weekly dance and card nights.

Every September saw over 100 rinks in the Balmy Beach Labour Day lawn bowling tournament. Other Balmy Beach activities included sailing, swimming, lawn tennis, hockey, rugby, baseball (bachelors vs. married men), range shooting (off of Eastern Avenue), and 5-pin bowling. A few years later badminton was added.

The Harriers from the West End YMCA (Queen and Dovercourt) trained on the beach and helped develop athletes at the Balmy Beach Club. And that's perhaps why that might be the YMCA triangle in the Balmy Beach logo [*The History of the Balmy Beach Club* by Kevin McConnell 2012.]



Scarboro Beach Park

It was unusual to have chess in the summer, but De Mers worked on a big event at the Scarboro Beach Park.

The amusement park divided Kew and Balmy Beaches. It was 42 acres with 1,000 diversions: a roller coaster, Tunnel of Love, Shoot the Chutes, re-creation of the San Francisco Earthquake, and music including Italian bandleader D'Urbano and the Black quartet Harmony Kings [*The Boardwalk Album: Memories of the Beach* by Barbaranne Boyer, Boston Mills Press, Erin 1985.]

In 1918, a big attraction was the return of Harry Flying Melville who would parachute from a hot air balloon. Sometimes he landed among picnickers in Kew Gardens.

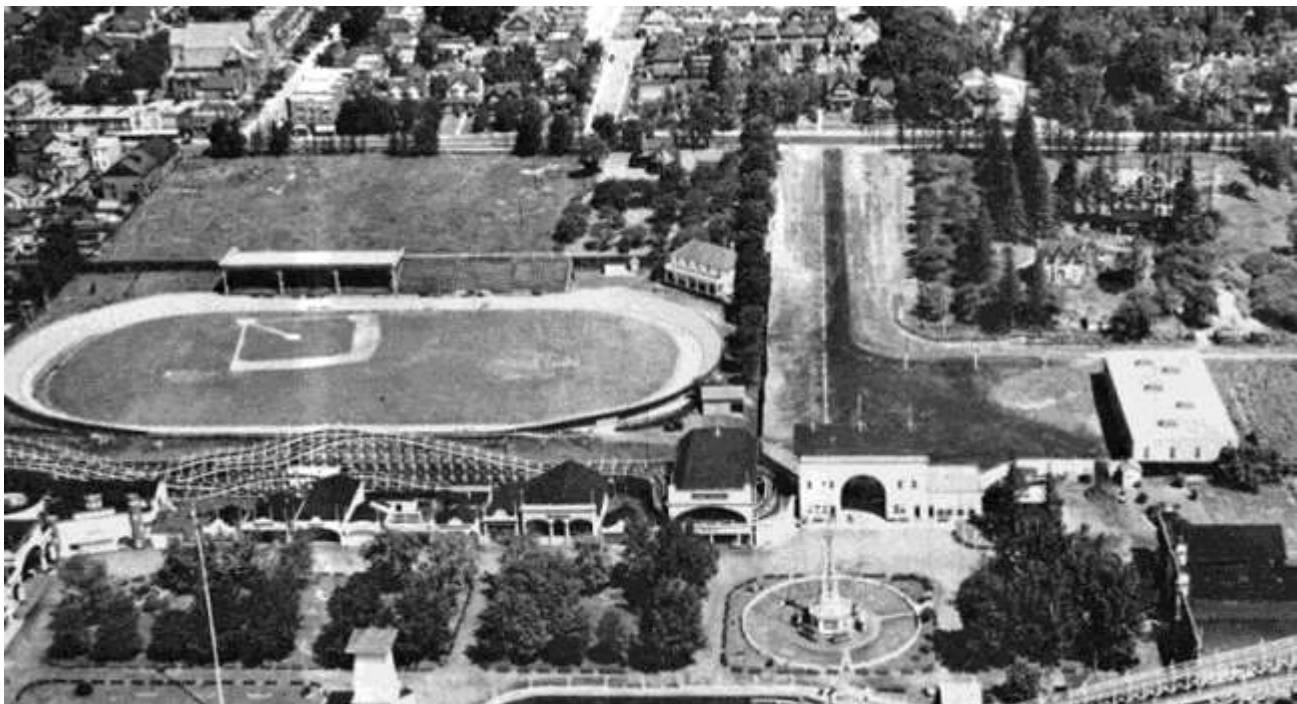
There were also Captain Schell's performing lions, the Helkvists Famous Fire Divers, and the

Four Portia Sisters who were French gymnasts and contortionists. There was always lacrosse and baseball.

Special events included a picnic raising \$410 for prisoners of war, a costumed bicycle parade from City Hall, and a 200-car parade taking 1,000 orphans to the fair. The Toronto Kennel Club had 150 dogs in their show, won by a Maltese terrier, followed by Whippet races.

Many of the amusements were provided by Americans who had experience at the Coney Island amusement park. Nathan Louis Nathanson arrived in 1907 and claimed to introduce the first ice cream cone to Toronto (at Scarboro Beach). He went on to be the first President of Famous Players cinema chain.

The aerial photo shows the sports field and roller coaster, the boardwalk is below while visible north of Queen are the streets Wineva (with church), Hammersmith, and Glen Manor:



People would dress up for a church or lodge picnic. Perhaps the boardwalk reminded the English immigrants of walking along the promenade of their seaside resorts, such as Brighton, Blackpool, or Scarborough. In the evenings there were outdoor movies, and under

the lighted tower 400-500 boats could be in the water. In August of 1918, the temperature went over 100°F (38 Celsius). Bathing suits could be rented. Locals avoided the area, preferring to paddle over to the Scarborough Bluffs.



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 161

Morrison had suggested a living game where the chess pieces were acted out by people. De Mers organized it at Scarboro Beach Park and it was seen by 2,000 people in the sports field stands.

A band played as the children in costumes took the field—some of the pawns were in kindergarten! De Mers' two daughters were pieces and the Black King was played by a McKnight. The game replayed was a famous one by American Paul Morphy in 1858 that was only 17 moves long. Every time a piece was taken Miss Dorothy MacGregor of the Girl Guides would blow a bugle, that would have been 12 times.

The pieces also crammed together to form a sort-of-cat shape, a famous chess problem of mate in 4 moves by Sam Lloyd, 1888.

After the living pieces there was a match with a team of players who lived East of Yonge, captained by Cawkell, defeating the team West of Yonge for the Scarboro Chess Shield, 7.5-2.5.

There has also been Living Chess in 1879 in the Grand Opera House, 1931 at Hanlan's Point, in 1966 at the CNE with real horses, and in 1985 at Nathan Phillips Square with politicians among the pieces. My favourite was in 1984 at Harbourfront with Theatresports comedians as the pieces taunting each other.

THE BEACHES

LIVING CHESS PAGEANT STAGED AT SCARBORO

Gorgeous Event Draws Large and Interested Crowd—Resident Wins Poster Prize.

Beaches, Aug. 15.—A Living Chess Pageant was staged last evening on the green in Scarboro Beach Park by thirty-four young ladies, young men, and children. From a spectacular standpoint the performance was a success, and was much appreciated by the 2,000 people present.

The "white" pieces as well as the "black" pieces, comprising king, queen, bishops, knights, castles, and pawns, were presented to the audience from the stage. A musical program then was given, with the assistance of the Q.O.R. Band, in charge of Major Barrow. The major pieces marched to their respective squares to the strains of the "Soldiers' Chorus," from "Faust," "Aida," while the pawns were placed, and the band played "Just a Baby's Prayer at Twilight," owing to some of these children being of the kindergarten class.

The "immortal" game of Paul Morphy, the late chess genius, against the Duke of Brunswick was then staged, move by move, under the direction of the organizer, Mr. H. H. Demers, in the costume of a King's Jester. A bugler, Miss Dorothy MacGregor, of the Girl Guides sounded a bugle call every time a piece was taken off the board. After the game a special chess problem, the creation of the late Sam Lloyd, was also placed on the board, representing the famous "Kilkonny cat."

Play For Chess Shield.

The names of the young people taking part in the program were as follows:

White—King, Lillian Allen; queen, Audrey Tate; bishop, Elsie McKnight; bishop, Hectorine Demers; knight, Marjorie Reid; knight, Jesse Forster; rook, Eleanor Slater; rook, Blair MacGregor.

Black—King, R. McKnight; queen, Hilda Poinier; bishop, A. Lines; bishop, S. Burgoyno; knight, Harold Muir; knight, K. Berridge; rook, K. Taylor; rook, H. Taylor.

The white pawns were: Phyllis Reid, Marguerite Demers, Florence Howard, Evelyn Worthall, D. Graham, E. Cawell, E. Lines, and Edna Rowling.

The black pawns were: H. Costigan, J. Costigan, Clifford Mayberry, Douglas McCarthy, Douglas Lovatt, Nelson McMillan, Pat Grant, and Frank Slater.



LIVING CHESS AT THE BEACHES.

Some of the major pieces who took part in the "Living Chess Pageant" held at Scarboro Beach Park last evening. No. 1 is Miss Eleanor Slater, of 41 MacLean avenue, a "White Castle." No. 2 is Robert McKnight, of 40 Waverley Road, the "Black King." No. 3 is Miss Hectorine Demers, a "White Bishop." No. 4 is Miss Blair MacGregor, a "White Castle." No. 5 is Miss Audrey Tate, of Kenilworth avenue, the "White Queen." No. 6 shows the two White Knights, Marjorie Reid, Queen and Balsam, and Jessie Forster, 6 Spruce Hill Road. No. 7 is "The White King," Miss Lillian Allen, of 68 Osborne avenue.

Daily Star August 16, 1918



De Mers organized living chess again at Scarboro Beach in 1923. This photo, recently discovered by his descendants, is from then.

Beaches Chess Club and Toronto Chess League (Post-war)

The 1918-19 TCL season started after the end of the war on Nov. 11. Morrison didn't play as he was in a masters' tournament in New York.

Beaches had a bad start, losing to U of T (who had a chess room in the new Hart House). At the end of January Beaches lost another match, 3-1 to Judea, and that was enough to lose the championship to Judea of Kensington Market.

1918-19 Toronto Chess League

	<i>Total (est)</i>
Judea	10
Beaches	9
Parliament	5.5
Toronto	5.5
University	5.5
Central Y	5.5
West End Y	1

Judea also won the Bishop Reeve Trophy in the B section. The Beaches B team included William Carswell, Edward Merrill, B. Hannon, Robert Stewart, and W. C. Coleman.

Reporting of the results dropped off and there was no table of the final results. But Beaches new First Board Sydney Gale won the Hunter Prize for top individual score.

Sydney Eugene Gale

Gale was born in British Guinea circa 1889, and was their local champion who wrote a chess column. He had three games published in the *British Chess Magazine*. He arrived in Toronto in 1912 and quickly became the Toronto Champion and again in 1916 and 1922. He had the most wins in the biannual Toronto – Hamilton matches, scoring 8 to 4. He played fast and won the 1934 Canadian Rapid Transit Tournament (ten seconds a move). He was a mathematician and accountant for Imperial Oil, often working in Hamilton. He was married and had a daughter who was born in Scarborough in 1940.



Toronto Daily Star, January 26, 1918

S. E. GALE,

The 1919-20 season took a break for the Dominion Victory Chess Tourney, held at the Toronto Chess Club. Gale was the Secretary of the organizing committee. James Moncur of Hamilton donated \$30 for two brilliancy prizes and De Mers offered a \$5 prize for the shortest game. The closing banquet was at the Ontario Club, 16 Wellington Street.

Defending Champion Morrison, working in Alberta, couldn't make it due to illness. Gale lost a game to R.A.F. Sergeant William W. Robson, resulting in a tie for first place with Captain John B. Harvey, a student at U of T. But Gale won their tie-breaking match 2-0, the \$100 First Prize, and the First Brilliancy Prize. Robson was third.

Harvey — Gale

21. Nf3 ...



21... Ng6!!

SIDNEY E. GALE WINS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

BEATS CAPTAIN J. B. HARVEY IN SUDDEN-DEATH MATCH TO BREAK TIE

Mr. Sidney E. Gale last night won the Canadian chess championship by defeating Captain J. B. Harvey in a sudden-death match to break the tie for first place at the National Chess Tourney. Mr. Gale is entitled to retain his laurels until the next tourney, which will be held in Montreal in 1922. He learned the game in British Guiana, and won the colonial championship. Since coming to Toronto he has won the city championship, and has had marked success in match and simultaneous play.

An *At Home* will take place next week at the Toronto Chess Club, at which the prizes won in the tourney will be presented.

The final standing of the leaders was as follows:—

	Won.	Lost	Draw.	Ttl.
xSidney E. Gale ..	10	1	1	10½
xCapt. Harvey	10	1	1	10½
W. W. Robson	9	1	2	10
H. Stombach	7	4	1	7½
xJ. Price	7	5	0	7
xM. Sitt	7	5	0	7
xH. J. Lane	6	4	2	7
T. Harry Jones ..	6	5	1	6
G. F. Griffin	5	7	0	3

x — Above score shows Gale and Harvey tied for first place, and Moncur Price, Sitt and Lane tied for fifth place.

Globe, February 11 1920

Harry Lane tied with Malcolm Sim, who was dealing with his mother's death. They each won a print of the painting claiming to be from 1603, "Shakespeare and Ben Jonson at Chess."

Gale drew Alexander Alekhine at the Central Y in 1924 and defeated Alekhine, now World Champion, in the Eaton Auditorium in November 1932.

1919-20 Toronto Chess League

	<i>Total (est)</i>
Beaches	11.5
Judea	10
West End Y	7
Chevrons	6.5
University	3.5
St. James	2
Central Y	1.5

Beaches won the Holt Shield team prize and Parliament won the Bishop Reeve Trophy for the B Section. Thomas Crossley won the Hunter prize for top individual score.

1919-20 Beaches Chess Club, TCL Champions

<i>(missing 1 result)</i>		<i>Board #</i>	<i>score</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Sydney	Gale	1	3	7	43	
Harry	Lane	2.1	4.5	8	56	
William	Cawkell	2.7	7.5	11	68	
Albert	Forde	2.7	5.5	6	92	
Thomas	Crossley	3.8	9.5	11	86	
John	Wilkes	4.8	7	11	64	
Herbert	Hopkins	5.9	7	9	78	
W. A.	Taylor	1	1	1	100	*
H.	Atkins	6	1	1	100	*
Robert	Stewart	6	1	1	100	*

* No medal

Albert Ezra Forde

A strong new Beaches player was Albert Forde, CNR payroll chief clerk living on Elmer Avenue. In 1917, he had won a tournament at

the Toronto Chess Club. In 1926, the CNR accounting office had a 10-player tournament at lunchtimes. In 1934, Forde became President of the Toronto Chess Club, and, in 1939, he worked at the CNIB, as he was blind. But he could still play chess on a special board with a hole in each square to hold the peg of a piece. Instead of colours, one side's pieces had a bump on the top.

Another new team in the B Division was Hydro.

The Beaches B team included B. Hannon, W. A. Taylor, Fredrick Adgey, Archibald DeFries, William Carswell, Robert Stewart, Louis Graham, Peter K. Goode, and Arthur Firth.

A team composed of veterans was first called the Red Triangle Club. They met at the YMCA at Queen and Victoria. They renamed as the Chevrons and competed in both A and B sections.



In 1920-21 Judean won for the second time, but there wasn't any local chess column with the standings.

Wilkes was the highest Beacher, scoring 6 out of 8.

William Wilson Robson

The new Beaches First Board was William Robson who won the 1921 City Championship. On the Chevrons team he had scored five out of seven. Born in England, he learned chess at a young age and was the Newcastle Champion.

Robson came to Canada in 1913 at age 25 and in August 1914 enlisted in the 9th Battalion. In 1918, he defeated a London master, a feat that was published in the London *Field*. He was the only member of the Canadian Convalescent Chess Club team to win a game. He lived on Centre Island, and died in 1939.



Beaches Team Players 1915-22

			Score	T	%
1	John T.	Wilkes	30	43	70
2	Thomas	Crossley	27	37	73
3	Herbert C.	Hopkins	22.5	32	70
	William P.	Cawkell	22.5	35	64
5	Harry J.	Lane	18.5	34	54
6	William W.	Robson	10.5	16	66
	(Beaches)		5.5	9	61
7	W. A.	Taylor	8	14	57
	Sydney E.	Gale	8	14	57
	(Beaches)		7	12	58
9	Hubert T.	Weston	7.5	11	68
	(Beaches)		2.5	5	50
10	Edward B.	Merrill	7	16	44
	(Beaches)		5	9	56
11	Fredrick J.	Adgey	6.5	9	72
	(Beaches)		2.5	4	63
12	Robert	Stewart	6	10	60
13	Albert E.	Forde	5.5	6	92
14	J. Stuart	Morrison	4	5	80
	(Beaches)		3	4	75
15	Hector H.	De Mers	3.5	4	88
	(Beaches)		2.5	3	83
	Arthur	Firth	3.5	12	29
17	J. P.	Selby	3	7	43
	(Beaches)		1	3	33
18	John C.	Sanderson	2	3	67
	H. A.	Meyers	2	4	50
	C. A.	Graham	2	4	50
	Louis H.	Graham	2	5	40
	B.	Hannon	2	10	20
23	H.	Atkins	1	1	100
	Tudor C.	James	1	1	100
	Archibald	Milton	1	2	50
	Archibald	De Frier	1	3	33
		Robinson	1	3	33
	Walter	Giddings	1	3	33
	William E.	Carswell	1	4	25
30	N.	Coran	0.5	1	50
		Featherston	0.5	1	50
32	H. A.	Bonibard	0	1	0
	W. C.	Coleman	0	1	0
	Peter K.	Goode	0	1	0
	T. H.	Myers	0	1	0
	J. F. H.	Wyse	0	1	0
37	Ernest G.	Snell	0	2	0

After this the Beaches Club split into two, one at St. Aidan's and the other at St. John's Norway, eventually reuniting at St. John's. In 1926 St. John's hosted a team from Police Station 10.

Beaches lacked depth behind veterans Crossley and Cawkell. Wilkes now played for the Toronto Chess Club. In the 1930s the team championships were won by new teams from Todmorden on Broadview, and Valleyview on Pape. The Beaches Chess Club was never strong enough to win again.

In 1945, J. S. Morrison on the left and J. T. Wilkes on the right:



Globe and Mail, November 26 1945

J. S. Morrison, Canadian chess champion for 12 years, participated with seven other Toronto players Saturday in telegraphic matches with Montreal players. Here, Mr. Morrison makes his move, while a referee, William Royer, centre, and a kibitzer, J. T. Wilkes, right, look on. The referee carries the moves to and from a morse wire.

The 1950s Beaches Chess Club President, Hugh Laborde, was a survivor of the World War I Halifax explosion. Art Worth was the Club Champion, and the Beaches team played in the B Section. In 1957, Doug Petrie printed club bulletins. The club moved around: Veteran's Hall on Kingston Road, Donlands

United Church, Bowmore Road Public School, Bellefair United Church, Kew Beach United Church, and ended in the 1970s at the Pape Recreation Centre on Gerrard Street. Then members transferred to the Scarborough Chess Club on Macey Avenue, northeast of Victoria Park and Danforth.

In 2004, the Scarborough Chess Club met in the legion on Kingston Road east of Woodbine. Today the Scarborough club is up on Ellesmere and thriving, with over 100 players each Thursday.

Recently, master Roger Langen taught at Malvern, and 1980s Toronto Champion Robert Morrison has been active in the area.



Daily Star April 7, 1927

Thanks to Andrew McMillan for research assistance, editor Jacqueline Dinsmore, and for help from Jack Ridout, De Mers family, Gene Domagala, Glenn Chadwick, Beach Metro News, Malvern Archives, Balmy Beach Club archives, Reference Library, and the Toronto Archives.

Erik Malmsten October 2018