FREE FAMILY 'SWIM UP'



Mary-Margaret and Sheila in the pool



Swimmers get ready for a winter dip

esidents in the community swapped their winter threads for their bathing suits as they joined Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon and School Trustee Shelia Cary-Meagher for a two-hour recreational swim at S.H. Armstrong Community Centre Pool. Community members of all ages came out to support Ward 32 pools and programs. Swimmers were ecstatic to ham it up in the water amongst friends and family, where several kids challenged each other to friendly relay races in the pool. S.H Armstrong is located at 56 Woodfield Ave.

Event by Alex Wright Event code: pecvqe



Sheila touches the finish line



Artwork designed by community kids to help



Lots of activity in the pool at S.H. Armstrong



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The Red Brick Road

Now Red Brick, once Cobblestone, this area of the Beach has seen and experienced so much. Pine Crescent and the Great Depression 1929-1939; where the Gross national product dropped 40% and unemployment was at a whopping 27% at the depth of the depression in 1933. The hoarding of money became the new prayerful solution to the expense and carefree spending of the roaring twenties. Unlike many other countries, Canada did not have one Bank failure during this stressful time in our history, mostly due to our conservative and stable banking practices. One in five Canadians during the depression years became dependent on government relief. Our proud great-grandparents and grandparents buckled down to endure the worst.

The cobblestones, according to my grandmother, helped the horses drawing carriages up and down the hill and surrounding hills of the park and ravine, to ensure their footing and enabled deliveries to all the families of the Pine Crescent/ Glen Manor areas. Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall the residents of an economically deprived Beach area still would watch and wait for scant deliveries to the homes of the few who had the financial reserves to ride out the storm.

The effects of the Great Depression were alleviated by the onset of World War II in 1939. The red cobblestones continued to provide reassured footing for horse and man as they made their way through one crisis and survived yet another. Surefooted and tenacious beast and man progressed and evolved to new sets of circumstance. The Depression had ade resources scarce through lack of finance, but the war presented an entirely learning curve.

"Your apron is your uniform and your wooden spoon your weapon." was the promotion of the war effort presented to housewives everywhere. Rations were introduced on a per weekly basis: sugar 8oz, tea 2oz, butter 8oz, coffee 8oz, meat 24-32oz!!!!

I remember my grandmother telling me these stories while sitting on her front porch at Pine Crescent, her reminiscing about snowy days and the horses finding their footings, she talked about the rationing and prided herself on the fact that in spite of rationing, she was able to feed her four children, herself and her husband and answer the door when a neighbor came to borrow some sugar, tea or coffee.

24-32oz of meat for a family of 6 equates to 4-5oz per person, per week!

In the essence of helping the war effort by having to adhere to rationing, people everywhere embraced the cobblestones of their past difficult times during the depression and surrounded themselves with the tenacity and evolution of "have not" to the growing idea of "there is not much, but if we share we will have a feast ".

Submitted by Jallinda Greene

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