



Executive of the Canadian Order of Forester Convention in Vancouver, B.C., 1975.

BRIGHTSTAR 4-H CLUB 1960-1977

submitted by Helen Yokimas

In the spring of 1960, the Brightstar 4-H Garden Club, was organized. Our club started with six members: Doreen Bannish, Janie Bunio, Pat, Judy, and Geraldine Wasylik, and Brian Yokimas.

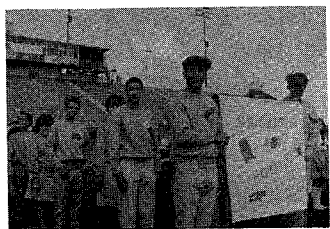
Over the years as our membership grew, so did our projects. We had garden, potato, auto, and handicrafts projects. We had up to nineteen members at a time, including juniors. The children were from the following families: Bannish, Bretchka, Bunio, Danis, Mamchur, Samagalski, B. Wasylik, M. Wasylik, Worona, Yokimas, Zalusky, and Zarvie. Our club took part in marching, public speaking, projects, curling, and trips to the University of Manitoba and river cruises on the Kenora. Also outings to the Whiteshell and Patricia Beach. Each



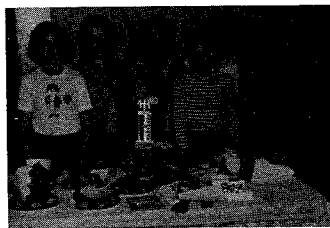
Brian Yokimas, Judy Wasylik, Doreen Bannish, Geraldine and Pat Wasylik, Helen Yokimas (Leader) and Janie Bunio. 4-H Display and Project 1961.



Brian Yokimas, Judy Wasylik, Janie Bunio, Pat Wasylik, Geraldine Wasylik, and Doreen Bannish.



Red River Exhibition, 1967.



Achievement Day, 1977.

club year ended with a fun filled wiener roast. Most of our members also spent a summer vacation at Gimli Camp. Our members won many awards and exchange trips. Several from our membership received special 8 year Certificates for being with 4-H for 8 years. Helen Yokimas was the 4-H leader in this area for fifteen years.

By 1977, most of the members had grown up and left the area. There was not enough children left to form a club, so it was disbanded. To all members and parents "Thank You" for your co-operation throughout the years.

THE EAST SELKIRK 4-H POTATO CLUB

submitted by Adeline Chorney

The East Selkirk 4-H Potato Club was organized March 2, 1956, 17 members enrolled. Club leaders were: Anton and Adeline Chorney. Our first meeting was held at the Happy Thought School. Mr. Bert SandercocK chaired the meeting and explained to us the 4-H program.

The 4-H Motto is "Learn to do by doing". Our club members did their project work and took part in many other activities and projects in the community. As a result of their efforts our Club won the A.A. Kroeker Trophy for the top scoring 4-H Potato Club in the Province in 1958, 1959, and 1961.

We held our monthly 4-H meetings at the home of a 4-H family. After the meeting the family joined us in the social hour which we all enjoyed.

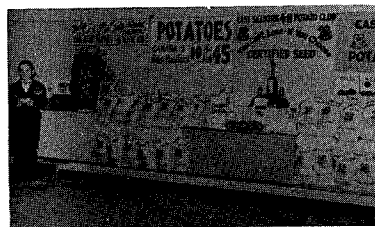
We decorated 4-H floats for the Selkirk Fair Parade and placed first in 1958, 1959, and 1967.

At the Red River Exhibition 4-H Rally, our club placed second in the Red Ribbon group in the parade of 4-H Clubs. Also, Gladys Chorney and Audrey Waytuik topped the judging of Senior demonstrations. Their demonstration was "Growing Certified Seed Potatoes".

At the 1963 district 4-H Rally at Teulon, Gladys Chorney and Audrey Waytuik presented a demonstration on "How to Select and Prepare Potatoes for Exhibit" and were judged Champion of the Senior Agricultural demonstrations. The same day Gladys was the recipient of the Eaton's Gold Watch Award, presented to the top Agricultural Club member. Many of our club members attended 4-H Camp.

The Science Winter Fair at the University of Manitoba was always a highlight during the winter months and tours to the Parliament Buildings, C.B.C., Free Press, Christie Biscuits and Old Dutch Foods. Bowling and Curling were always enjoyed. Each year we raised money for crippled children, we held raffles and had car washes.

Club members did volunteer work at the Selkirk General Hospital Canteen.



Johnnie Kuzminski Jr. Contest - How many potatoes are in the bag?



Back Row, Left to Right: Adeline Chorney, Ruth Beck, Carole Waytiuk, Gladys Chorney and Doreen Gusta. Front Row: Johnnie Kuzminski Jr., and Audrey Waytiuk.

Margaret Waytuik and Gladys Chorney hosted two 4-H girls from Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Anton and Adeline Chorney were hosts to Mrs. Bresley, 4-H leader from Nebraska, and Mr. and Mrs. Yurkiw and family hosted a 4-H boy from Nebraska.

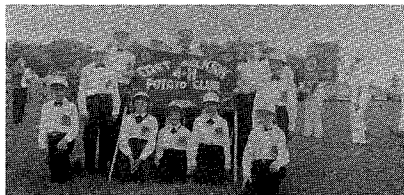
In 1962, Russel Kossack attended a short course in Brandon and Gladys Chorney went on an exchange trip to Nebraska, sponsored by the 4-H Council.

Club members painted Litter Barrels and set them up at places of business in East Selkirk. Ken Harrison was chairman of this project.

Club members held a field day at our variety test plot, for the farmers in the area. Jim Campbell from the Dept. of Agriculture was the speaker. Later, everybody was invited to a weiner and corn roast in Chorney's backyard.

Talent night was an annual event and was enjoyed by everyone, also the 4-H Jamboree where all 4-H families got together for a night of square dancing. Visiting families at Christmastime singing Christmas Carols was always a happy time.

Leonard Yurkiw went to camp as a Junior Councillor and in 1959 Gladys Chorney attended Gimli Camp as a Junior Leader. In 1964 Gladys Chorney was chosen to



1956



1959

attend the 4-H Conference in Ottawa and Toronto.

The 4-H Pledge is "I Pledge;
My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living for
My Club, my Community and my Country."

Each meeting was opened with the 4-H Pledge. We have many fond memories of 4-H. We had a very good relationship with neighbors and the community and had excellent support.

The East Selkirk 4-H Potato Club was in existence for about 16 years and during this time the surrounding community encouraged, supported, contributed and volunteered their time, resources and energy to the youth as well as the concept of 4-H.

EAST SELKIRK BUSY FINGERS 4-H SEWING CLUB

submitted by Adeline Helwer

The East Selkirk Busy Fingers 4-H Sewing Club was founded in 1950. Some of the founding members were: June Zegil, Carole Smith, Cecilia Klisko, Katherine Chanas, Sharon Corby, Frances and Olive Andrayko, Agnes Kwiatkowski, and Cathy Bosko, to name a few.

The 1953-54 executive were: Leader: Mrs. Evelyn Wesley; President: Bernice Kianski; Vice-President: Mary Luzny; Secretary: Leona Nova; and Treasurer: Yvonne Klisko.

After each meeting a lunch was served. This club was very industrious, and some of their social activities were: Pastry Sales and Sales of Homemade Articles. One very successful sale was held at the Happy Thought School on Jan. 29, 1954 and a well attended Talent concert was held at the hall on April 9, 1954.

The club had their own uniform colours. The first uniforms were of lime green blouses and black gathered skirts.

In 1957, Dorreen McBeath became the Home Economist for the Busy Fingers 4-H Sewing Club. The club was very busy with 4-H projects of sewing. They also held many raffles, whist drives, and Sales of Work to raise money.

In 1959, Adeline Kisilewich was Secretary and Edna M. Craig became the Home Economist, for the Busy Fingers Sewing Club. In this year alone, the club held two raffles, a whist drive, sales of work and a draw. They also served at a Church Dinner. By this time, the Club decided to



Demonstration at the 4-H Rally at Portage la Prairie Provincial Exhibition and Fair. Left to Right: Carole and Audrey Waytiuk setting up the display.



1956



Adeline Kisilewich and Carole Waytiuk 4-H Rally Models, 1959.

change their uniform colors.

In 1959, the Busy Fingers 4-H Sewing Club uniform was red blouses and pleated skirts, with a white background with a red rose border design. Many of the club members put on demonstrations and made public speeches. The girls designed and sewed their own uniforms which were much admired and were gala in appearance.

In 1959, Adeline Kisilewich and Carole Waytiuk demonstrated at a Rally on "Figure Types". Adeline Helwer modelled her blouse and wool jumper, Carole Waytiuk modelled her dress she had made and Penny Kolodie modelled her dress design, at the largely attended Rally Dress Review. Penny Kolodie was chosen Queen and Carole Waytiuk was chosen as Princess at this large event. It was a proud day for the East Selkirk girls and the community applauded their efforts and accomplishments.

Achievements were held at the end of each 4-H year. Achievements were held to see how much the club members learned and to see how much they could do. As in the 4-H motto "Learn to do by doing", each club member learned to do some part of sewing and tried to show at the end of the year just exactly how much they did learn.

Apart from sewing, the members were involved in many healthy community projects that served to make them better prepared to accept their roles as helpful citizens within society. With the demonstrations, leadership duties, speech making and fund raising, each girl learned valuable experience that would serve them well in later years.

The Busy Fingers 4-H Sewing Club is fondly

remembered by all as a very worthwhile and beneficial organization that was well supported and subscribed to by the community at large.

Eventually the club disbanded as the girls and members channelled their energies elsewhere in the community.

GONOR SCHOOL 4-H CLUB

submitted by L. Natchuk

In about 1945 Mrs. C. Hollinger took the task upon herself to teach the girls 10-14 to sew and knit. The 4-H Sewing Club was formed. There were about 15 members and later this number increased.



Elaine Elmis and Darlene Clarke sewing on Club Machine. First year members, 1959.



Marching in the Bsjr. 4-H Rally, 1959.



Selkirk Parade, 1957.



Stonewall, 1958.



1958



Malvena and Adeline Kisilewich holding the banner.

We would work from 3:30 to 5:30 after school. There were first, second and third year students. We would advance each year and make samples plus an apron for the first year, a blouse or skirt for the second year and a dress for the third year.

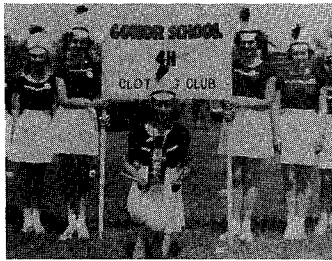
In the Spring an Achievement Day was held, work was judged and ribbons were awarded. The best items were sent to large exhibitions for more ribbons if entitled.

The best first year and second year members would be entitled to summer camp in Gimli. The best third year member went to Winnipeg spending a week in the St. Regis Hotel and toured the city.

During the summer we marched in the Beausejour and Selkirk Rallies. The girls won first prize in Stonewall in



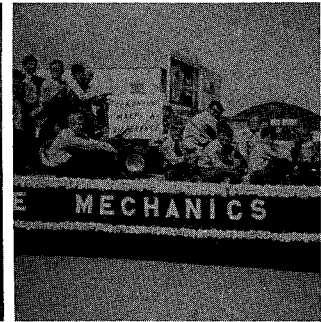
Bsjr. Rally, 1950.



1952



Harvey Chorney and Brian Horanski, Mayfield 4-H Demonstration, 1970.



Mayfield 4-H Float in the Selkirk Parade, 1972.

1955. The girls also participated in marching and Rallies at Selkirk, Red River Exhibition and Beausejour.

The girls enjoyed social events such as organizing bingos, weiner roasts, Christmas Parties, and many events. They raised money and bought a Singer Sewing Machine. They enjoyed learning to sew, knit, and public speaking.

In 1960, the Club was dissolved.

KIRKNESS 4-H POTATO CLUB



Kirkness Potato Club, 1955.



First 4-H Club in Narol, 1965.

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A 4-H CLUB THE RED RIVER SQUATTERS 4-H CLUB

submitted by Helen Skrypnyk

In looking back, I see 4-H as a two-way street. Certainly it meant many a fast meal and there were times when we would much rather have done something else; but it has taught us how to work and enjoy our children and the neighbourhood children. Working with 4-H has brought its own rewards.

It started about 7 years ago, when we were searching for a Club for our children, and I thought: "Why not start a 4-H Club in our District?". After discussing the idea with Betty Kiyan, we sought out leaders willing to share their energies and talents. An information meeting was organized, and snowballed. Parents, Children, and Betty - at that time our 4-H aide -, scattered everywhere within our small home to exchange ideas; a club was in the making.

We weren't sure whether we should first ask the

MAYFIELD 4-H CLUB



Mayfield 4-H Display in the Poplar Park Mall, Wpg.

children about the projects they were interested in and then look for a leader, or whether we should find leaders first. However we settled on four different projects: Mechanics, Conservation, Foods, and Leathercraft; and began with 7 leaders and 31 members.

We had difficulty that first year convincing some parents that they were not doing us a favor by letting their children join the Club; that we needed their help; and that the members should be allowed to run the business meeting, however imperfectly, in keeping with the 4-H motto which is: "Learn to do by doing."

Our bouquets go out to our leaders for their endless time, patience, and the, sometimes use, of their homes. And how did our leaders volunteer? Often-times it was a draft; for example: 5 little girls wanted a food project; we considered the good cooks in the district, and chose Verna ... "Verna, you're our new leader"; Verna accepted our draft, and carried the project off well.

My husband Walter, Dave Enns, and Paul Schwede shouldered the responsibility of the Mechanics course; and Kurt Pampel took on the Conservation project. Of course there were problems; a lack of a heated garage hampered the Mechanics course and limited repairs to individual small engines rather than the machine as a whole, and the Conservation project was found to be a summertime project, although the children did learn the basics of hunter safety.

Gertrude Pampel and Nellie Schwede did a most effective job with Leathercraft, and were always willing to help with the other aspects of the Club, whether it was a project, a ride, making calls and so on.

When it came time to think about the 4-H float for the parade, we received neighbourhood antiques (butter churn, wool carding and spinning wheel, trunks, harnesses, dinner bell, and even a pair of original long johns) to spruce up our entry. And spruce it up we did, thereby receiving a first prize for the best 4-H float, and a first prize for the most original. It was delightful to hear one old gentleman proudly exclaim: "That's our Float!", although it was a prized article of his that adorned the float rather than his child.

A leader who added much to our club and later was our head leader, and Secretary to the Selkirk District Council, was Angie Johnson. Angie had previously lived in our area but had moved to town. Indeed, I had her interests in mind when I asked her to participate, for I felt she needed to work with children. Angie is a registered nurse, and when 4 of our senior girls asked for a Home Nursing project, she saw the need and would not say no. The girls adored her, and enjoyed and benefited from their project; one member of the Home Nursing project is studying nursing and is reaching out towards her career goal - identified through her 4-H project. Three of the girls, Gail Enns, Cindy Skrypnik, and Patti McIvor did a 4-H demonstration on C.P.R., (Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) learned in their project; Angie's reward for the many hours and evenings spent preparing for the demonstration was when the girls received the Reserved Champion in the district level. Angie remarked with pleasure: "I haven't been this excited since I graduated from nursing myself."

Gail Enns and Cindy Skrypnik were responsible for

the formation of the Mini Squatters when they took on a Self Determined project which involved working with children under the 4-H age of nine. 12 little Mini Squatters, ranging in age from 3 to 8 years, demonstrated at our Achievement on "How to run a Business Meeting"; and as one mother put it: "They sure taught me a few things on meeting management.". The mini group continues today, nine members strong.

In the following years, the Club became involved with Public Speaking competitions, and we were thrilled when Cathy McIvor was chosen Reserve Champion at district level with Sigrid and Susan Weins as close seconds; we added a Dog Project conducted by Nia Massey; and a Self Determined drawing project under the guidance of Ralph Massey; Ann Johnson shared her talents in Home Design.

Carolling began after an unintended solo of 'O Canada' took place at our first Christmas party; this was not the way it was supposed to be, and so we took steps to rectify the situation using whatever persuasion was necessary. We ended with a carolling group consisting of Susan and Sigrid Weins, Susan Schwede, Jason Johnson, Cathy McIvor, and my staunch supporter Angie. The reception to the group was overwhelming and we did not visit as many of the elderly and infirm as we had intended. In later years we had the assistance of three masters from the St. John's Boys' School and they were terrific; if our ethnic songs lacked anything in proper pronunciation, it was made up in harmony and enthusiasm, and at each house we left wreaths crocheted by the girls.

The older girls are now in High School and are exposed to many different opportunities. To keep them interested we have tried a short course in Easter Egg decorating, working in the Ukrainian tradition with raw eggs, which, as Joy Samborshki will testify, are very breakable.

Although the boys had dropped Mechanics, Glen Fey responded to their pleas to keep the club open by teaching a course in woodworking; this year they've each built something to keep, (Gregg built a desk, and Keith, a bench).

4-H is a very flexible program. Debbie Reid, Joy Samborski, Rhonda Semenکو and Angie Skrypnik are working on the project of "On Your Own"; and Angie with the help of one of the girls is also responsible for the nine mini squatters - varying their activities from handicrafts to speeches to outdoor fun. 3 of the mini squatters are the children of our new head leader and former 4-H'er, Helen Corkett.

Our own children varied in the length of time they belonged to 4-H. Our boys enjoyed two years; Cindy, our oldest daughter, got her five year certificate and is just now, when she is applying for Nursing, appreciating the help her 4-H background will give her; Angie, our youngest has been involved with the Club an official 6 years, and an additional, unofficial 3.

I do not know where we will go from here. Certainly we will emphasize carolling and mini squatters, but with our membership up-and-downs we must remain flexible and determined, and just continue to plug along focusing on quality and satisfaction.

Come September, two things start: School and, 4-H.

The East Selkirk Recreational Association

In the years before 1972 there appears to have been some recreational organizations, especially in the area of Baseball and Hockey. One of the most ardent workers for recreation was Rusty Anderson, who now lives in Portage La Prairie and owns a sporting goods store there. Several times his name has been mentioned as a person who tried to get something organized for recreation. Finally his efforts, and I'm sure a lot of other people included, were rewarded when on November 1, 1972 the first meeting, with recorded minutes, of the East Selkirk Recreation Council took place at Happy Thought School. At this meeting the election of offices took place with the following results:-

President	Wayne Boch	Treasurer	Lawrence Kubas
First Vice President	Stan Kwiatkoski	Secretary	Bernice Perrin
2nd. Vice President	Lawrence Lecoy	Program Dir.	Elmer Keryluk

The Directors of the Council were: James Sternat, Joe Smolinski, Steve Bileski, M. Youzwa, Miss L. Ogonowski, Peter Tomko and Joe Lesko.

Although Rusty did not take an executive position, he still remained actively involved with sports. From here on in, this organization has grown by leaps and bounds to its present day status of what we know to be the East Selkirk Recreation Association located at the new building commonly known as the "Rec Centre" on Strathcona Road East.

At a regular meeting on November 7, 1972 a discussion was held on drawing up a constitution. Mr. Keryluk offered to do this, but according to the records, no official constitution appeared until June 28, 1977. On January 12, 1978, a letter was received from Mr. D.F. Williams, informing the East Selkirk Recreation Association that this organization was now officially called the "East Selkirk Recreation Association Incorporated" as at this time the organization officially became incorporated with the signing authorities as follows:

President:	J.F. Smolinski	Vice President:	Ken Waytiuk
Treasurer:	Edward Skrupski	Secretary:	Shirley Herda
Directors:	Ralph Rutledge, Leslie Mazur and Fred Hartenberger		

It was back in November of 1972 that the first Winter Carnival was organized with many events such as: Broomball for the adults, a Snowmobile Poker Derby, and Novelty Events, as well as Hockey Tournaments for the 9 and 10 year olds, all held at the Happy Thought School. As well, it was decided to have a "Snow Queen" Contest with the result that the first Queen was Kathy Mikolosh, 1974 was Joanne Zarichney, 1975 was Lori Hoydalo, 1976 was Cindy Bileski, 1977 was Kim Recunyk. Then at the Carnival Social in 1978, all the past Queens were invited back to take part in the ceremonies. The Queen for 1978 was Cindy Haines, and in the year 1979 there was no contest. In 1980 the Queen was Deneene Hartenberger, 1981 was Debbie Groot, and the 1982 winner was Tanis Bates. This contest is carried on to this day, with the Queen for 1983 being Sabrina Smith. It has been a most popular event and has given some of the young ladies of this area a taste of what it might be like to be chosen Miss Canada. All the girls have felt it was a fun experience as well as being a very profitable way of raising money for the new recreational building.

When the ESRA began, it was only involved in winter programs. The summer programs that existed then, were run by the school. Gradually, this changed over the years and in 1977, the year the E.S.R.A. was incorporated, many new programs began to appear. Baseball and Soccer were taken over by the E.S.R.A. The membership was growing and there was serious talk of building an arena. Plans were drawn up and grants were applied for and the Council of the R.M. of St. Clements were approached. The Council seemed to be in favour and six acres of land adjacent to the school and Municipal Building was purchased by the municipality. A Debenture By-law to borrow \$470,000.00 was set in motion by the Council of the Municipality. A grant for \$100,000.00 from the Lotteries was approved. The debenture By-law passed its first reading on March 30, 1978 and the Province subsequently approved the project. However, a group of people had the by-law quashed on a small technicality. When it went back for final reading, it was a tie vote of Council and the Reeve, Max Dubas, broke the tie by casting his vote as "not in favor of the by-law" As a result, the arena issue died and at the same time the E.S.R.A. and the municipality lost the last big grant of \$100,000.00 to be given out by the province for recreation. The government had put aside this amount in the hope differences could be resolved and the by-law would be approved by the municipal authorities. The Council had held a "Consensus of Opinion Poll" and it was this poll that had affected the decision of Council and Max Dubas to cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of defeating the debenture by-law. The reason that the provincial government had set the monies aside was that the Municipal Board had ruled in favor of the "Arena Project" during their Board Hearings. The message had been loud and clear that there was a need for the facility. This all happened in 1977 and 1978. By 1980 the E.S.R.A. had rallied around and were again talking about building a facility of some kind perhaps on a smaller scale. Soon, Peter Langes was hired as an Architect, plans were drawn up and approved. After much discussion and changes, Fargo Enterprises were hired as the Contractor and the shell of the Community Club Building was constructed. By 1981 the Community Club Building was sitting on the six acre site located to the east of the Municipal Building. And today you will see there a beautiful cement block building with an outdoor rink to the east side. This was the result of much hard work and keen determination by a small group of people who would not be beaten by one setback but instead went ahead to prove what can be accomplished by a few with sheer guts and determination to say nothing of all the hours of volunteer labour that went into that building and at the same time providing good recreation programs for the people, especially children of the East Selkirk and the Happy Thought School Catchement Area.

At the time of writing the E.S.R.A. has now grown into a full fledged Recreation Centre. Their programs and activities include: Hockey, Figure Skating, Baseball, Soccer, Ballet, Gymnastics, Bingo, Teen Groups, Senior Citizen Groups, Social Events such as Fowl Suppers, New Years Eve Banquet and Dance, Carnival Queen Contests, Whist Drives, Cribbage and Hockey Tournaments, Penny Bingo, Novelty Events for children for a three-day weekend of fun in mid-February, concluding the year with a two-day event called "Family Fun Days" in June.

This event commences with a parade, pancake breakfast, carnival rides, amateur show, tractor pull, dancing and many others. July and August are holiday months with very little activities planned, but once September arrives, the Rec. Centre becomes a beehive of activity once again.

The many committee volunteers were very busy fund-raising and managed to complete Phase Two of the Recreational Centre project, which was to complete and finish the interior of their Community Club Building. The official opening of the Community Club Building was held on September 18, 1982. Since that time it has been "Full Steam Ahead!"

During the years from 1972 to 1982, before the opening of the Community Club Building, the Happy Thought School served as the main centre of recreational activities. The Staff of the school and the Lord Selkirk School Division were most cooperative in helping the E.S.R.A. run their programs. The classrooms were used for many meetings, school equipment was used, gymnasium was in constant use many nights per week as well as for teas, socials and teen dances, winter carnivals and various windups. Now that the E.S.R.A. have their own building, most all of the activities have moved out of the school, with the exception of some of the night programs of instruction.

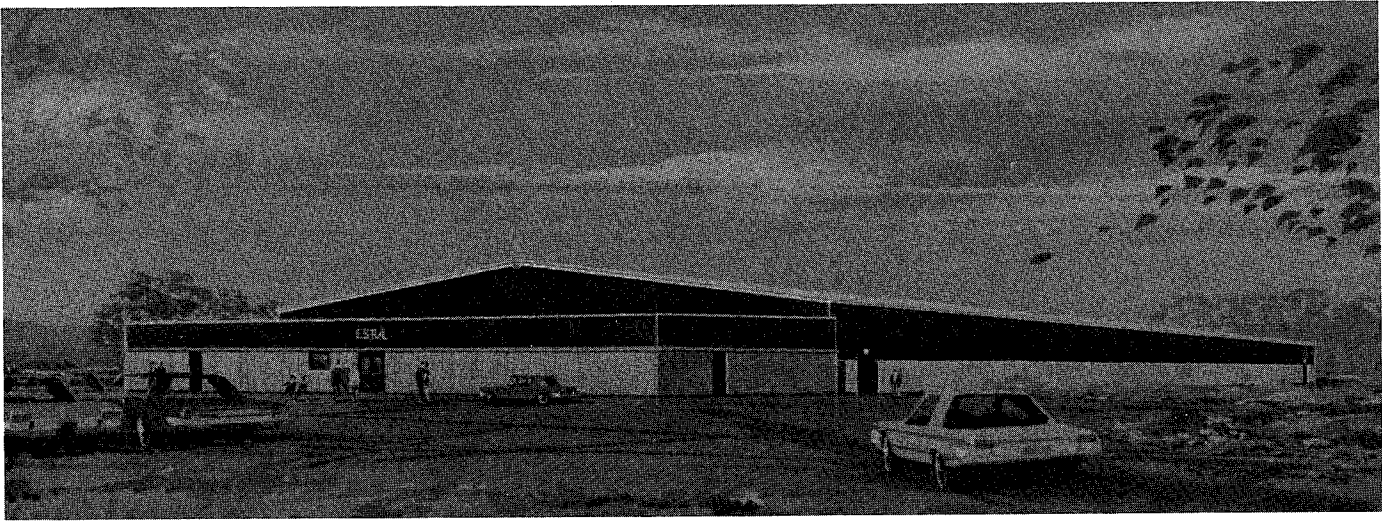
The old skating rink built in 1970 was used for Hockey, Figure Skating and Broom Ball etc. until the new E.S.R.A. rink was erected at the "Rec Centre" in the fall of 1982 and was officially opened at the Winter Carnival on Sunday, February 13th. 1983. The new rink is now being used by the children of the Happy Thought School for physical education programs and pleasure.

During the winter of 1983/84, the E.S.R.A. hired the Architectural firm of Plumton and Associates to complete the design for Phase Three, that being the Rink Enclosure portion of the recreational complex. This was completed and tenders were advertised with the contract being awarded to Teknol Construction Ltd. of Winnipeg. This building is well on its way to completion, and we share a photo of the completed building for your interest. Phase Four and Phase Five calls for the installation of the artificial ice facility and the inclusion of a family curling rink utility.

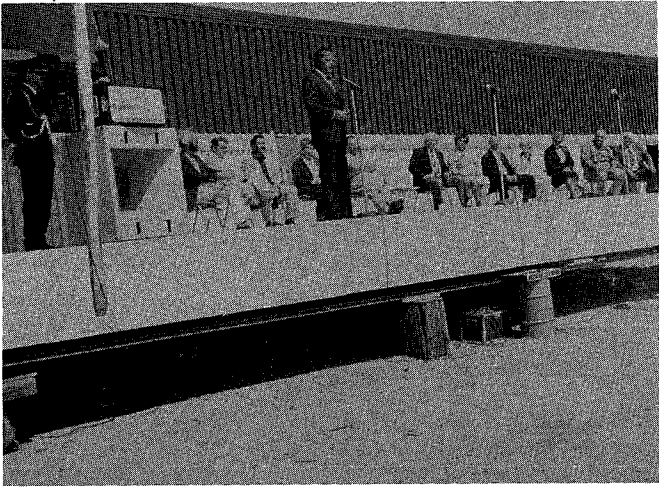
In reviewing the history of the E.S.R.A. it can be noted that in 1972 several members names were in the minute books and on the executive at that time. Several of these people are still actively involved, and are again on the executive. They are Joe Smolinski, Jim Sternat, Leon Dudeck and Marlene Burnett. All have received a plaque in recognition of the ten years of dedicated service to this organization.

At the 1983 Annual Meeting the following Executive were elected for the 1983/84 term of office:

President	Ken Bumstead	Directors:
Vice "	Reid Price	Mary Klippenstein, Leon Dudeck,
Secretary	Sharon Smith	Marlene Burnett, Danny Hrymak
Treasurer	Stella Kubic	and Gina Joseph



East Selkirk Recreation Association Community Club Building and Rink Enclosure, 1984.



Governor General Edward Schreyer speaking at the East Selkirk Family Fun Days, June 21, 1981.



June 21, 1981.



Reeve Victor Watko and Ann with the Governor General Edward Schreyer, ESRA Family Fun Days.



East Selkirk Family Fun Days Parade, June 1981.

MUSICIANS

OUR FIRST BANDMASTER

submitted by slh

One of the earlier Bandmasters of any repute, was Claude R. Macfie who lived on the east side of the Red River. He started forming his Band in the late 1870's and early 1880's and by 1883 was playing to large crowds on both sides of the Red River. His group was basically a Brass Band.

The practices were held in the Macfie homestead on the east side and people used to walk all the way from Selkirk to join him. In winter they followed the river trail down and in summer they took the ferry across.

Some of the members of the first orchestra were: R.H. Gilhuly, Edward Macfie, Magnus Spence, John P. Pruden, Robert Begg and Crest Holly, to name only a few.

By 1883 and 1884 they were playing to packed crowds in the surrounding area: Skating Carnivals, Costume Balls and other festive occasions. In 1883/84 he played a lot in the Town of Selkirk at the Colcleugh Block, picnics, races, sporting events, skating parties and cricket matches.

His band was basically a Brass Band and he could lead a large variety of selections which were crowd pleasers such as: Quadrilles, Polkas, Red River Jig, Waltzes, and Schottisches.

Claude was one of the early Councillors on the Council of the Municipality of St. Clements and very interested in the education of the young people on the east side. He was a great friend of the Alexander Butler Rowley family once they moved to the area. The Rowley family were very musical as well.

After Macfie's Band was active for quite a few years, a gentleman by the name of Mr. Deeks, a Tailor, in the town of Selkirk, formed another Band in about 1895/96 and it was this group, I believe, that became the Selkirk Brass Band, eventually.

There are still two Macfies living on the old homestead, Edward and Arthur, the sons of Claude R.



Left to Right: John Karanko, Peter Karandiuk, Mike Sawchuk, Joe Hornetzki, Fred Kordalchuk, Cliff Sawchuk, and Mr. Kunitz, in front is Fred Karanko, 1920.



Back Row: Nick and Frank, in front is John, The Smorang's, in their home. The Libau Band.

George Koterla



Bill Dubowich, Paul Paraynik and Birney Evaskovich playing at Bill Hotcholak's wedding.



Left to Right, Standing: Nick Pich (Guitar), Mike Kuzminski (Violin), Mike Byrko (Guitar). Sitting: Mike Stelmach, Metro Stelmach, Mary Byrko. 1940's.