

King's Colourful History

Cherry Park



There's no shortage of colourful characters in the history of King Township, and the name "Lorne Cherry" will be remembered fondly by older residents of Nobleton.

The Cherry name goes back four generations to Lorne's great-grandfather, James Cherry, born in Scotland in 1811, emigrated to Canada, and married Isabella, born in Ireland in 1809. They acquired 107 acres of land on the 10th Concession of King Township, and farmed there until he died in 1897. They were buried in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian pioneer cemetery.

Lorne and his family lived on the northeast corner of Highway 27 and King Road. Lorne's father, Walter Lorne Cherry, died in 1959 at the age of 91 and Lorne continued to live with his mother, Annie Maude Cherry (nee McLean) until she died in 1974.

In 1982 the house was destroyed by fire and Lorne was left homeless until the Boynton family, recognizing his distress, generously provided a home for him on their property south of Nobleton.

Lorne occupied his time with cleaning the arena building, snow clearing and lawn cutting for the residents of Nobleton. He was often seen pushing his lawn mower on Highway 27. Lorne had an amazing memory for obscure facts, but occasionally he would forget that he had cut a lawn in the morning and return in the afternoon to cut it again.

John Bradshaw, Nobleton pharmacist at the time, once described the game of "Pump Handle" which Lorne and his mother played. Annie would leave the house to run across King Road to Don Kaake's General Store, and passing the well, stopped to put the pump handle down. Lorne would come out later, stop, and put the pump handle up! This game would be repeated every time one of them passed the well.

Lorne died in 1993 at age 66 and is buried with his mother and father in the Anglican Church Cemetery in Nobleton. The property subsequently reverted to the Township and the Cherry family are remembered in the community by the little parkette named for them.

*Submitted by Bill Salter
King Township Historical Society*