

A Walk to Remember...

Carnduff Swimming Pool & Memorial Park



The parcel of land to the east of the creamery and north of the railway tracks remained vacant for many years as the settlement of Carnduff grew. Thanks in large part to the efforts of councillor John Griffin, a motion passed in 1912 to set aside 4 acres of land for a community park. Circumstances including the First World War resulted in delays in the development of the park, but Mr. Griffin remained persistent. He continued to serve on council and as mayor during the final two years of the war and greeted many of the returning soldiers from overseas. He also experienced the tragedy of receiving incorrect

notification that his own son had been killed in action while serving.

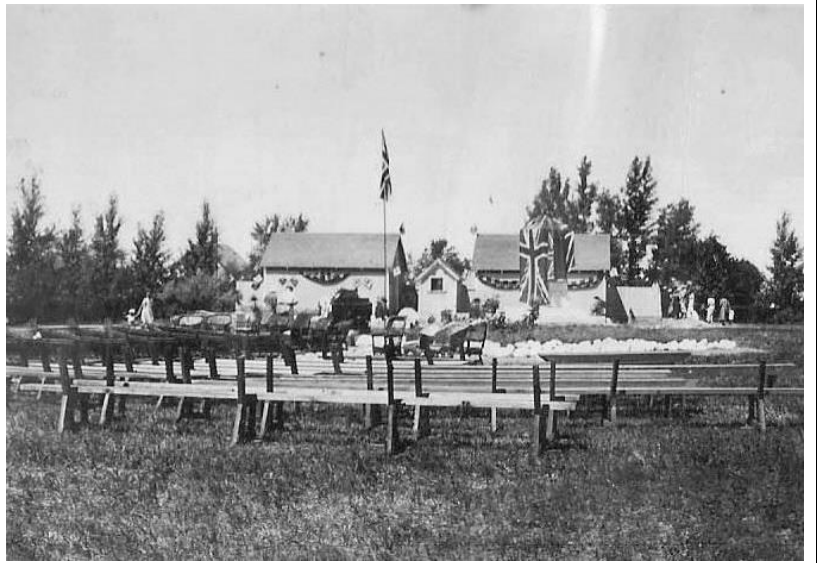
With the war over and his own son returned to him, Griffin continued with his goal of seeing the park established. He planted many of the hedges around the park himself. Gradually by 1926 with land levelling and tree planting, the park affectionately being tagged 'John Griffin's Park' was reaching fruition.

Two years later his dream received a major boost from a likely but unexpected source. The Ladies Patriotic Society was an organization of local women established during World War I to support our troops. In addition to sending personal notes to all the boys heading overseas, they took care to ensure they were supplied with packages from home including

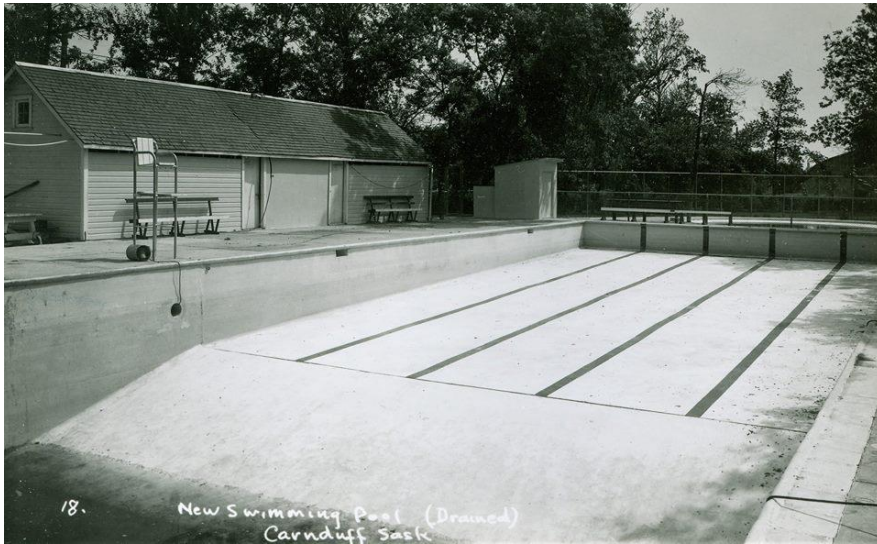


knitted socks, garments and food parcels while serving. With the war ending, the Ladies Patriotic Society became inactive.

They continued to have a reserve of \$2,000 from fundraising efforts during the war. In 1928, they reconvened and approved a motion to donate the \$2,000 toward a swimming pool and a monument to recognize our sons from the war who made the ultimate sacrifice. John Griffin proudly served as mayor again in 1929 as the project progressed. He passed away before July 16th, 1933 when over 1,000 people gathered at the new tyndal stone monument recognizing our 27 fallen. The following day was declared a holiday by mayor James Partridge for a Sports Day, celebration and official opening of Carnduff Swimming Pool.



The pool had been excavated by horse and scraper and built of concrete included a wading pool and separate swimming section with depths from 2 to 7 feet. A board sidewalk ran the perimeter of the pool and it was surrounded by wire and board fencing. Separate change rooms for men and women completed the facility. While rustic by today's standards it was a vast improvement over the popular swimming hole on the banks of the Antler Creek northwest of the community which had been serving the town.



Carnduff Memorial Park including the park, memorial, and swimming pool has seen many changes and upgrades since the park was originally conceived back in 1912. The establishment of our local branch of the

Royal Canadian Legion has played a big role as they have contributed to memorial updates including the addition of names to our fallen and a walkway up to the memorial. They were original donors to a special fund established for rebuilding the swimming pool in 1963.

Playground equipment was first added to the park in 1955 by the Carnduff Skating Club. Since then the Jubilee red barn project, cement shuffleboard, pool upgrade from 2008-2013, new playpark by the Carnduff Lions in 2017 and ongoing updates and upgrading continue to make Carnduff Memorial Park a place of pride and honour within our community.

