

The Kilgour Cup

The oldest trophy in the Norm Morin Trophy Case is the Kilgour Cup donated by A.H. Kilgour. This trophy was never presented at the current North Bay Granite Club facility. But for good fortune, the Kilgour Cup made the trip from the North Bay Curling Club and now adorns our trophy case.

This trophy was first awarded in 1942 at what was dubbed the “Patriotic Bonspiel” conducted by the Associated Canadian Travellers held at the then North Bay Curling Club rink. There were three trophies up for grabs that year, the Kilgour, the McKee and the Harvey Cups. 19 teams competed, 14 from North Bay and teams from Temagami (1), Sundridge (2) and South River (2).

Despite the number of nameplates affixed to the trophy, just three, research shows that the Kilgour Cup was one of the North Bay Curling Club’s most coveted trophies, presented at the Associated Canadian Travellers as recently as 1950. By 1945 this ACT bonspiel became the first bonspiel of the North Bay Curling Cup season typically played in late December as there was no artificial ice in North Bay until 1948 at the Kings Street Arena (and then with construction of the North Bay Granite Club). Of interest, Art Randle (see the trophy’s 1948 winners name plate) would, two years later, help pour the foundation for this very building. Also Art Randle was the first President of the North Bay Granite Club.

A bit about A.H. Kilgour: He was the Divisional Manager for Confederation Life Association in North Bay, Ontario. Among other interests, “A.H.” as he was called, served as Councillor (Alderman) for the City and was one of the founders of the North Bay Lions Club. Kilgour died in 1950, perhaps explaining why the trophy was not presented after 1949.