

HISTORY OF THE O.B.A. TOURNAMENT

[O.B.A. Past Singles Winners](#)

In 1886, 132 years ago, eight men's fours teams traveled from as far away as Toronto to participate in a tournament held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The N.O.T.L. LBC had been founded nine years earlier in 1877 and remains one of the oldest clubs in Canada. Ten teams participated in 1887, and twelve teams were gathered for the 1888 event.

It was at this time the assembled teams decided they should form an association which they named the Ontario Bowls Association and decided to designate their tournament the O.B.A. Tournament in 1889.

The tournament moved around over the years and settled in Hamilton Roselawn in or around 1925. This was the year that the Roselawn Club of Hamilton was built, boasting two full-sized greens (The first official-sized greens in Canada).

Just five years later, the 1st ever British Empire Games were staged in Hamilton, and the lawn bowling event was hosted by the Roselawn Club in 1930.

The O.B.A. Tournament may, indeed, be the oldest continuously run lawn bowls tournament in the World.

Keep in mind that the first Scottish Championships were not held until 1894, and the first English Championships not until 1905.

In recent years the tournament had mainly been a ladies/mixed pairs affair held at Roselawn. The Open Singles began again in 2004 and was held at Churchill Fields from 2004 to 2007 until the club's closing. This left the Burlington Lawn Bowling Club and VSM Abrasives to carry the gauntlet forward, and put the O.B.A. OPEN SINGLES back in the limelight. After 10 years of George Wilson acting as the major sponsor, Colby Trust has now taken the helm as our prime backer for the 131st, Annual OBA Open Singles.

"Good bowling, and may lady luck smile upon you!" Dave Burrows, Burlington LBC.



First Commonwealth Games played at Roselawn LBC, Hamilton, 1930.

O.B.A. Past Singles Winners

1929 Dr. A.E. Walkey, Hamilton Argyle
Ashplant Trophy

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1938 R. Bunton, Hamilton Roselawn

1939 - 1948 No reports

1949 H. Tufford, Beamsville

1950 J. Hannah, Hamilton Fernleigh

1951 W.H. Collins, Hamilton Argyle

1952 R. Schmidt, Hamilton Calvary

1953 F. J. McQueen, Hamilton Fernleigh

1954 Dr. A.E. Walkey, Hamilton Argyle

1955 Neil Salkeld, Caledonia

1956 D. Witmar, Hamilton Victoria

1957 Jack Livingstone, Aldershot

1958 W. McQueen, Hamilton Fernleigh

1959 John Jones, Hamilton Roselawn

1960 Norm Pomfret, Ontario Hospital

1961 J. C. McArthur, Oakville

1962- 2003 Not Held

2004 Lock Morgan, Ancaster

2005 Peter Clarke, Hamilton Churchill Fields

2006 Lock Morgan, Ancaster

2007 Charlie Lyle, Mount Hamilton

2008 Not held

2009 Steve McKerihen, Etobicoke

2010 Frank Dinardo, Brampton

2011 Bob Bester, Hanover

2012 Kevin Jones, London Elmwood

2013 Greg Wilson, Burlington

2014 David Llewellyn, Markham.

2015 Jeff Harding, Etobicoke.

2016 Shirley Ko, Agincourt (first female winner).

2017 Ryan Stadnyk, Niagara Falls.

2018 Glen Patton, Brampton.



Lawn Bowling at the Brant House, Burlington, Ontario, 1912.