

Alex McFadyen Trophies

from the Community of Glenarm

Baseball has long held a special place in the hearts of Glenarm residents, serving as both a pastime and a point of local pride. The village's love for the game dates back to 1881, when a team known as the Scrabble Regulars first took the field. That year, the club secured four acres from the northwest corner of A. McNabb's farm (Lot 20, Concession 2, Fenelon Township), promising to have the land fenced and ready for play by May 1.

Through the years, Glenarm became a hub for spirited baseball tournaments, with local teams competing for coveted trophies and cash prizes. Among the most sought-after awards were the Roth-Eaton Trophy, the Alex McFadyen Cup, and the Carew-Stinson Cup.



Two of the three Alexander McFadyen Trophies, part of the Kawartha Lakes artifact collection C2001.015.003 and C2026.001.001

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A driving force behind Glenarm baseball was Alex McFadyen, a former player (backstop) and District Representative from Cameron for the Great West Life Assurance Company. A lifelong supporter of the sport, McFadyen ensured McKay's field was kept in top condition for highly anticipated matchups, particularly the Glenarm vs. Cambray games.

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McFadyen's generosity extended to the creation of trophies for Dominion Day competitions. In 1929, he presented a large cup inscribed: "Presented to Knox Church, Glenarm by Alex McFadyen for Baseball Championship, Victoria County for Annual Competition." That year, the Kirkfield Baseball Club claimed the cup. Two years later, a second, smaller cup was donated for the men's hardball tournament during the 109th Reunion in May 1931, which was awarded to the Cambray Baseball Club.

In 1932, Glenarm captured the second McFadyen Cup, which McFadyen personally handed to the winning team's captain. After a misunderstanding over trophy ownership, he commissioned a third, and largest, cup in 1934. Inscribed: "Presented by Alex McFadyen to Knox Church of Glenarm for Annual Hard Ball Competition - 1934," this trophy went on to be awarded seventeen times, with each champion's name proudly displayed on its engraved shields.

More than a game, baseball in Glenarm reflected the village's community spirit. From organized tournaments to lively Dominion Day celebrations, and through the generosity of supporters like McFadyen, the sport became a unifying force, bringing neighboring towns together year after year. The story of baseball in Glenarm reflects more than friendly rivalry and athletic competition; it reveals the spirit of community that defined the village for generations. Through organized tournaments, spirited Dominion Day celebrations, and the generosity of supporters like Alex McFadyen, baseball became a unifying force that brought neighbouring towns together year after year.

We would love to learn more about Alex McFadyen and his life, if you are a relation, please reach out to llove@kawarthalakes.ca