

## The History of Granville Park

*(Compiled by Dr. John Aveline)*

The Granville Park Bowls Club has undergone quite a few changes over its lengthy history, including name and location. The 'official' start date of the club can be set at October 20th, 1915 (at the Labor Temple at 411 Dunsmuir) when a number of the lawn bowlers of Vancouver gathered to discuss forming a bowls club on dedicated land. Prior to this, bowls had been mainly played on private 'estates' and this was becoming untenable. Many had been bowling on the 'old Arnold estate' on 25th Avenue near Granville, but as this estate was being wound up, an alternate place was required. At the above noted meeting (from which a number of bowlers are said to have left midway, suggesting that controversy has never been far away) a slate of officers was elected, of which F.C. Saunders was the President and the name of the new bowls club was decided - The City Lawn Bowling Club. The club bowled on the "Arnold property", which was owned by Canadian Pacific Railway on 25th Avenue near Granville Street and they paid an annual rent. Annual dues were set at \$5.00. The close connection which the club had with the C.P.R. can be seen in the fact that the honorary president of the club until 1924 was D.E. Brown, the General Superintendent of the C.P.R. It should be noted that, as was the norm at the time, the club was for men only. There was a separate Ladies Bowling Club for which there was no charge (the Ladies Club consisted of wives of male members). The account of the club's history now takes an annalistic form:

**1916** The club began with a full slate activities, although without the services of both the secretary and assistant secretary, both of whom had resigned. They began playing for the Barnard cup against the Victoria Bowls Club (4 rinks from each club) as well as responded to a challenge from the Vancouver City Lawn Bowling Club - better known now as Little Mountain (12 rink challenge). The club also held club Singles, Doubles and Novice Singles Competitions. The British Columbia Lawn Bowling Association was formed, and its first secretary was our president, F.C. Saunders. On the financial front, the men raised their dues from \$5.00 to \$7.50 and the Ladies Club initiated dues of \$1.25, \$1.00 of which went to the Men's Club. A green was prepared for the Ladies, since they were not permitted to play on the "present greens". (NB \$7.50 in 1916 is the equivalent of about \$320 in 2010 dollars)



**1917** The club, at the suggestion of the Vancouver City Bowling Club, changed its name to the Terminal City Lawn Bowling Club. The club turned over the Hudson Bay Cup to the Mainland League for competition (this became the Men's Fours trophy and this event is still being played today as the V&D Men's Fours). The club's difficulties with secretaries continued as J.F.

Hutchinson resigned and T. Hargreaves appointed in his place. The club matches against Kerrisdale, Stanley Park and Vancouver and B.C. Electric.

**1918** The club had great success. Terminal City teams won the B.C.L.B.A. Doubles as well as winning the Lower Mainland Rinks, Doubles and Singles. Of note is that no one who won any of these events were among the club champions.

- BCLBA Doubles: M. Stewart & McKay
- Lower Mainland (Birks) Singles: M. Henderson
- Lower Mainland Doubles: M. Stewart & Harris
- Lower Mainland (Hudson Bay) Rinks: Blair, Tasker, McKay, Swanson

For further results of Vancouver and District (formerly Lower Mainland events) go to the [V&D website](#). The record shows that there was a protest of a game (noted as "I protest game with friend"). The protest was not allowed. There was also a new secretary.

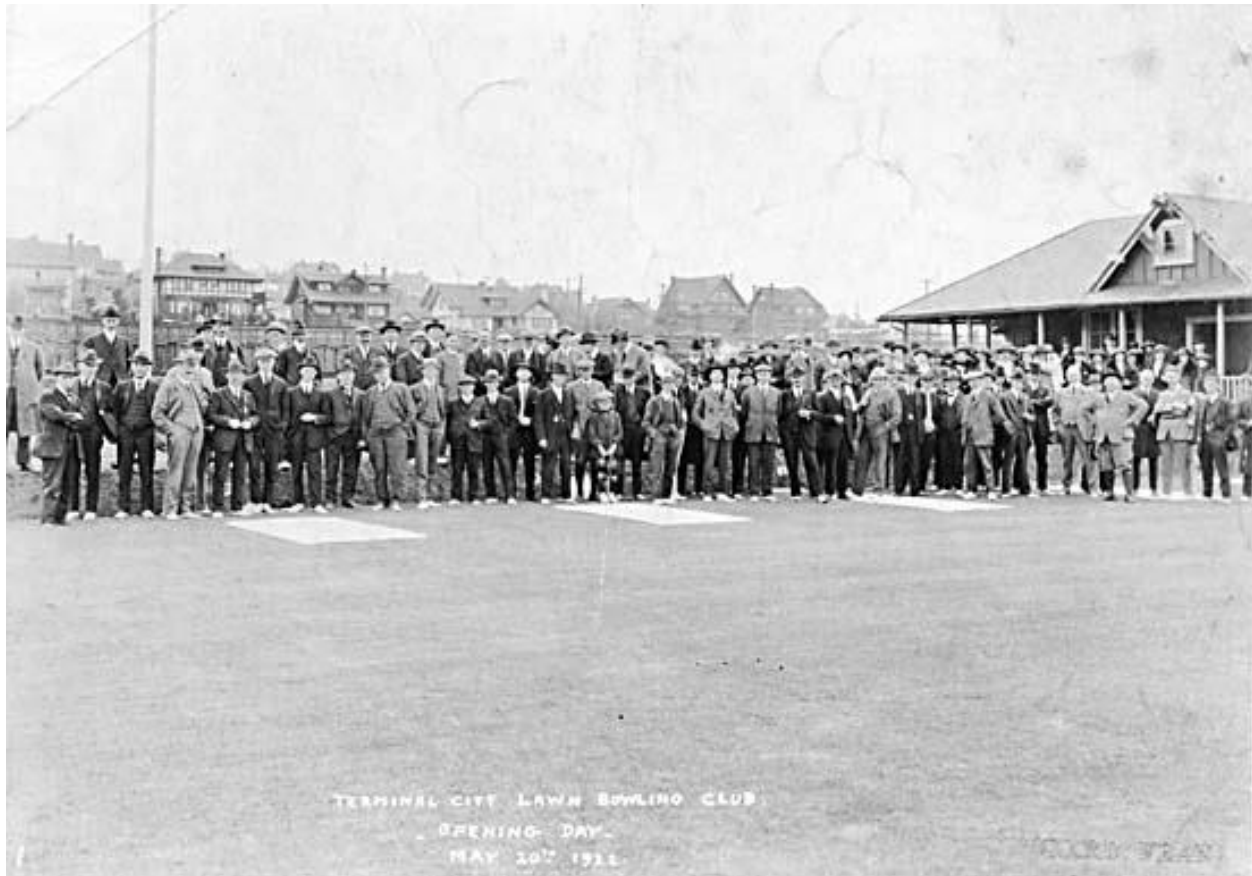
**1919** The C.P.R. wished to charge \$350.00 rent. An agreement was reached whereby the club paid \$100 and supplied the greenskeeper (but evidently not the equipment, materials, etc.). For the 5th time in 5 years there was a new secretary, but this individual, W.A. Warren did last a few (3) years. A club handicapped singles was established, called the President's Singles. Because the weather was unseasonably mild, some of the club members went out and bowled on Christmas Day this year. In this photo, you can see what the original greens on the Arnold property looked like.



1920 The club continued discussions with Vancouver Park Board and C.P.R. regarding new greens and, in preparation, created the Terminal City Lawn Bowling Company Inc. 300 shares at \$50.00 each were sold for a total capitalization of \$15,000. The Company then purchased 6 lots (an area of 150 x 270 feet) from C.P.R. situated between 14th and 15th Avenues facing Fir Street at a cost of \$8,400. The club raised its dues twice; from \$7.50 to \$10.00 and then from \$10.00 to \$15.00. The Terminal City Lawn Bowling Club was now the tenant of the Terminal City Lawn Bowling Company Inc. The total membership of the club was 93!

1921 The new greens were constructed and seeded (and reseeded) but were not open for play until 1922. The cost of construction was \$2,525.81.

1922 The new greens were officially opened on May 20th, 1922. A new clubhouse was also built at a cost of \$1,261.12. The first greenskeeper, E. Semple was fired and replaced by George Palmer who served in this job for many years. He started at a wage of \$80.00 per month. The club dues were maintained at \$15.00. Malby Stewart dominated singles play this year winning the Club Singles, President's Singles and B.C.L.B.A. Singles.



1923 The club became incorporated under the Benevolent Societies Act on March 31, 1923 (technically the existing club was dissolved and all its assets were transferred to the new society). The club resolved that the Ladies Club pay \$5.00 per member and that members be limited to the wives and families of members. The South were lighted by August. Total membership (men) was 95.

1924 The North Greens got lights by March of this year. The club was growing and now had 122 male members. Its list of club competitions now included Club Singles and Doubles, President's Singles, Novice Singles and the Matthews Cup (Rinks). Terminal City also sent 7 rinks to Victoria on August 16.

1925 The club was so successful that it set a membership quota of 160, beyond which new members would only be considered when a vacancy arose. This year the club's membership reached 142. It was at the this time that a pavillion was first proposed. The club extremely successful this year. Its record in Inter-Club was games 13-1. In major events McQueen won the B.C.L.B.A. Singles, Wilson Bell won the Lower Mainland Novice Singles and in Dominion of Canada competitions Terminal teams won the Rinks (Jack, Patrick, Strachan, Tasker) and Doubles (McQueen, Trousdale). That's quite a year for McQueen who also swept the two club singles events. On the financial front, the secretary received a \$75.00

honorarium (his assistant received \$25.00). The club informed the 'Holding Company' that it could pay a maximum rent of \$1,250.

1926 The club continued its success, although its membership slipped to 133. It paid a total of \$1,000 to its Holding Company and raised the greenskeeper's salary to \$125.00 per month for 8 months (that's the equivalent of about \$20,000/year in 2010). The club brought home the Lower Mainland Novice Singles for a second time as well as taking 1st (Wm. McQueen) and 2nd (L.R. Wood) in the BCLBA Singles. It was also moved that to be proposed as a lady member a woman had to be a wife, daughter, mother or sister. The honorary president was now J.A. Harvey, K.C., who practiced law in Vancouver and had appeared before the Supreme Court.

1927 Wm. McQueen won the B.C.L.B.A. Singles for the 3rd year in a row. A group of British bowlers visited the club this year and the club raised money to serve as hosts. Membership fees were raised to \$20.00 (still \$5.00 for the Ladies).

1928 The club's membership had slipped to 114, but 70 of those members entered the club singles!! The Terminal City Ladies entertained a group of New Zealand ladies on our greens. As a matter of interest, B.C.L.B.A. imposed a special levy of 25¢ on every member of every club.

1929 George Strachan was appointed Honourary President. On the administrative front the club set up a special committee to examine applicants from other clubs. Also, the rent to be paid to the "Holding Company" was raised to \$1,300.00.

1930 George Palmer, the greenskeeper, applied for a licence to sell candy, tobacco and soft drinks. 7 rinks (5 mens and 2 womens) travelled to Bellingham (back when Bellingham had greens). The major item in the records is that the club held a special meeting to begin an investigation on selling the present greens and moving to another location.

1931 Annual dues were kept at \$20.00 for men but raised to \$6.00 for women. The President's Cup was discontinued (no reason given). The 'urgency' to move had passed and so C.P.R.'s offer of a site at 16th and Yew was declined. The club also 'generously' allowed widows of deceased members to retain their memberships.

1932 The V&D came into existence and past Terminal City president John Jenkinson was made honorary president. The club's membership had slipped to 95 and they informed the "Holding Company" that they could pay no more than \$1,000 in rent.

1933 The club began working on building a new clubhouse due to the repairs needed to the current clubhouse's foundation. Land was procured from the Park Board and drawings for

the new clubhouse were made. The cost of construction was estimated at \$1,000 - \$1,200. Here is a picture from 1933. Notice that all the bowlers are men; they are all wearing hats and most are wearing vests and suit jackets (no one is dressed as an athlete); there are no back-boards, the back of the ditch is a slope of grass ("the bank"); there are also no benches - the guys are just sitting on the bank.



1934 The clubhouse was built under the revised budget of \$3,500 (the extra money in order to build a larger clubhouse. Extra shares were sold in the "Holding Company" and the club paid an extra \$300 rent to the "Holding Company". It is this clubhouse which is still in use and which has a heritage designation. George Palmer was still the greenskeeper at the increased wage of \$125 per month for 7 months.

1935 The club put forward a motion to B.C.L.B.A. that teams be allowed to re-arrange their players during a tournament (but not during a game). This motion was later defeated. At home the club bought 100 chairs, paid for by the Ladies Club by holding a number of bridge parties.

1936 The club replaced the light poles along Fir St (which were condemned) with 14 cedar poles at a cost of \$253. The payment was actually made by the "Holding Company" who then recovered the costs through the rent.

1937 The club ran at a deficit of \$166 and it was noted that the Ladies Club membership was declining. In response, 'unattached' ladies were allowed to join. Another strategy to combat the deficit was to reduce membership fees to \$15 for men. This seems to have worked as membership numbers went up consistently and reached record levels in two short

years. This season South African bowlers were entertained by Terminal City, West Point Grey and Hastings clubs. The V&D decided that the top teams from the Hudson Bay Men's Fours would play the South Africans in a test match.

1938 The club sponsored a trophy in honour of J.J. Jenkinson. The trophy was awarded to the "B" Flight winner from the Bowser (rinks) event of the B.C. Week.

1939 The greens were in such poor condition that a Greens Advisory Committee was established. Another problem was that so many members went down to San Francisco (presumably to bowl) that a number of events could not be completed.

1940 The club's membership hit an all-time high of 148 men. A life membership was awarded to the widow of the recently deceased L.C. Jack. She had also been president of the Ladies Club in 1937 and would hold that position again in 1942. The club was also granted 15 feet of Granville Park to the west of the club property.

1941 The club raised \$364 for Save the Children Fund. Compared to the club's annual dues, that is the equivalent of \$4,200 in 2010 dollars. After acting as host to B.C. Week, the club voted not to serve as host in the up-coming year (1942). There was an off-and-on 'hat draw' which was run as an aggregate. The results from the draw games on Mondays and Wednesdays were compiled and the top players won hats.

1942 It was decided to have coffee be the prize for draw games. This may have had some connection to the war and rationing, but it also reflects the fact that cash could not be won as a prize since that would have made the winners professionals - the definition was extremely strict in those days.

1943 The club was sufficiently flush with funds in these days that they were able to buy back shares from the holding company (10 shares @ \$50) as well as buy Victory Bonds (\$600 to go along with the \$300 worth they bought the previous year).

1944 The wheels were put in motion regarding the purchase of the Holding Club by the Playing Club. It seems that the owners of the Holding Club had grown steadily distant from the Playing Club as the Playing Club's membership changed (despite the fact that the Playing Club had bought 10 shares from the Holding Company). The Holding Club refused to lease the property but offered to sell it for \$18,000. At this point the club was entertaining a number of options which included purchase of the property and relocating.

1945 A special committee formally suggested that the Playing Club purchase the property from the Holding Company for \$17,500 and then turn the property over to the Vancouver Parks Board. To raise funds the club issued 160 \$100 debentures at 4% to mature in

1960. The club had the right to redeem any debentures which would be drawn randomly. As it turned out, 10-11 debentures were drawn for retirement in the following years. The club also had a membership of 167, a record.

1947 No, this isn't an accident, just nothing remarkable recorded for '46. In this year, the hat draw was continued. To quote; "The increased attendance more than makes up for the cost of 8 hats". The hat draw was then discontinued in '48.

1949 The greenskeeper was paid a total of \$1,350 for his services. The AGM was held at DeGraafs Studio Hall (South Granville). This is noted because over the years the club's AGMs were held in a number of locations, but rarely at the club. Some of the venues of the club's AGM were the Labor Temple, the Sports Room of the Hotel Vancouver, the clubhouse, the Province Sports Room, the Metropolitan Building (833 Hastings), White Rose Ballroom (West Broadway and Granville), and Harmony Hall (1655 West Broadway).

1950 By this time the club had 7 men's club competitions: singles, doubles, triples, the Oakland doubles, the Cullin triples, the Nelson Cup rinks and the novice singles. In this year (as in many others) the winners and runners-up of the club competitions were recorded in the minutes. From 1938 to this year the club's male membership never went below 120 (over most of this time the membership was above 145).

1953 George Palmer was still the greenskeeper, now at a wage of \$1,450 a year (as noted above, he had started in 1922). He would eventually retire in 1960 after 38 years as greenskeeper.

1954 It was recorded in the previous year's minutes that preparations were to be made for overseas competitors who would be in Vancouver for the British Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games). However, nothing has been preserved which mentions what has been noted that arrangements were made to acquire 12 steel poles from the old Granville Street Bridge. These poles were in use until 2008. This was the first year that the clubhouse was used for off-season (winter) activities.

1998 The finals of the V&D Men's Fours was between two Granville Park teams. As a result, the final was played at Granville Park (rather than at the host club Stanley Park).

1999 Granville Park had both the Men's Fours (Chris Grahame, Danny Ho, John Aveline, Alan Webster) and Men's Singles (Tom Rozario) Canadian Champions. In September Alan Webster capped the club's honours by winning the Asia Pacific Men's Singles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This was the first Singles Gold Medal ever won by a Canadian bowler in a major international competition.



**2003** The club played host to the North American Challenge. The Canadian squad swept all seven trophies.

**2004** The club played co-host (with the Stanley Park Bowls Club) to the Canadian Championships.

**2006** Granville Park's own Shirley Lai became the **first** Canadian to win a World Championship by taking Gold at the World Cup, World Indoor Singles Championships in Warilla, Australia. Unlike many other Granville champions who had transferred to our club, Shirley was 'born and bred' at Granville starting in 1996.

#### Life Members

Year awarded	Honouree
1921	Mr. H.M. Robson
1940	Mrs. L.C. Jack
1949	W. Murison
1949	R.C. Sparling
1950	W.R. Jones
1950	W.W. Thomson
1969	J.S. Bramham
1969	F. Colbourne
1970	J.V. Scrivener
1971	Mrs. T.F. Teevan
1972	Dr. Murray Blair
1972	G.M. Payton
1981	J. Gilchrist
1981	W.J. Love
1986	Dorothy Foreman
1988	John Bell
1988	Doug Bergey
1988	Ian Henning
1988	Lynn Lennox
1988	Bob Sillars
1988	Brian Taylor

1996	<a href="#">Tony Boucher</a>
1996	Kay Jackson
2003	Norma Bourne
2007	<a href="#">Shirley King</a>
2012	Ruth Powers
2014	Ian Webber

#### Past Presidents of the Ladies Club

1916-17	W.S. Thomson
1918	J.J. McKay
1919	J.J. Walker
1920-22	H.M. Robson
1923-24	J.J. McKay
1925-26	D. Hicks
1927	S.S. Crowe
1928	E. Caspell
1929	H.M. Robson
1930	W.W. Bird
1931	E. Webster
1932-33	R.E. James
1934	M. Jones
1935	T.F. Teevan
1936	R.C. McGugan
1937	L.C. Jack
1938-39	G.A. Cavan
1940	W. Creelman
1941	Miss W.W. Millar
1942	L.C. Jack
1943	F. Shaw

1944	W Clarkson
1945	G.S. Hockley
1946-47	E.M. Sleight
1948	M. Hunt
1949	Mabell
1950-51	A. Shrapnel
1952	J. Friend
1953-54	G.W. Wylie
1955	R. Consterdine
1956	J.C. Bird
1957	F. Overland
1958	W.J. Friend
1959	G.W. Wylie
1960	A. Shrapnel
1961	W.A. Bickle
1962	C.E. Gibbs
1963-64	L.M. Nowlan
1965-66	E. McKnight
1967-68	T.S. Lindsay
1969	W. Hughes
1970	E. Townley
1971	R. Carter
1972	E. Townley
1973	E. Ashley
1974	S. Lindsay
1975-76	R. Postle
1977-78	A. Henderson
1979-80	Ethel Jones
1981	M. Knight
1982-83	M. Marthieson
1984-85	Evelyn Bell

1986	L. Hinton
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Unless specifically stated, all the above are 'Mrs.', usually with their husband's initials.

#### The Past Presidents of Granville Park

Right from the very beginning and carrying on for many decades, the club had an honorary president AND honorary vice-president. The first honorary president was the General Superintendent, of the C.P.R., D.E. Brown, an honour he enjoyed for 10 years. During that same time (plus one year) the honorary vice-president was charter member [Henry Thomas Lockyer](#), about whom there is a considerable amount of information. Lockyer was a keen sportsman in Vancouver, being honorary president of the Wednesday Cricket League as well as a member of the Shaughnessy and Jericho Golf Clubs. Lockyer emigrated to Vancouver from England in 1890 and got a job as bookkeeper for the B.C. Sugar Refining Co. He became a local manager with the Hudson Bay Co. and eventually became manager for all of B.C. He served as president of the Vancouver Board of Trade in 1903. After this, honorary presidents and vice-presidents were chosen from among the membership to recognize their contributions to the club. Up until 1942 there were usually 3 honorary vice-presidents. After this time, the rotation of these honorary positions was similar to the regular presidents and vice-presidents with the honorary vice-president of one year normally becoming the honorary president of the following year. The year 1959 stands out. Not only was there an honorary president (Dr. B.F. Keillor) and honorary vice-president (F.A. Tasker), there was also an honorary chaplain (Rev. J.W. Melvin, D.D.).

1916	F.C. Saunders
1917	J.A. Walker
1918	S.J. Crowe (L.J. Crowe) (Vancouver councillor 1909-1915, Liberal-Unionist MP 1917-1921, senator 1921-1931)
1919	P.W. Trousdale
1920	Fred A. Tasker
1921	J.J. MacKay
1922	L.C. Jack (oversaw the opening of the new greens; served as Captain of the Canadian contingent in a three country event in California among Canada, U.S.A. and England)
1923	George Strachan
1924	Dan Hicks
1925	John Jenkinson

1926	H.L.M. Stewart
1927	George C. Derby O.B.E. (worked in Dept of Veteran Affairs, Director of BC Children's and Grace Hospital, President of the BC Red Cross in 1940; 37 years old when he was president of Terminal City)
1928	W.W. Thomson
1929	S.S. Crowe (also served as president of the Vancouver Curling Club)
1930	G.M. Williamson
1931	T.F. Teevan
1932	A.M. Sharpe
1933	H.C. Wade
1934	J.F. Richmond
1935	John Ross
1936	H.A. Urquhart
1937	R.C. McGugan
1938	W.W. Creelman
1939	J.J. McRae
1940	Andrew Ogilvie
1941	R.C. Sparling
1942	Dr. B.F. Keillor
1943	Walker Harris
1944	Chas J. White
1945	Wm. Murison
1946	Mark DeCew
1947	John Buchanan
1948-49	W.C. Ferguson (R. Armstrong for part of 1949)
1950	W.P. Watson
1951	Matt Sutton
1952	C.B. Brydon-Jack (barrister and manager of the Vancouver office of Dominion Trust, a company founded in 1903 by his uncle, A.C. Brydon-Jack). He had previously served as secretary for an 8 year stint, 1941-49. He was also chair of the Lawn Bowls portion of the British Empire Games (Commonwealth Games) in 1954.
1953	G.M. Dewar

1954	W.F. Friend
1955	W.J. Routcliffe
1956	A.R. Dingman (previously the assistant secretary 1952-54)
1957	Gordon A. Flavelle
1958	J.J. Norton
1959	Matthew Henry
1960	Dr. E. Murray Blair (President of the BC CMA in 1940)
1961	R.G. Consterdine
1962	J. Leitch
1963	V. Kiltz
1964	D. Webster
1965-68	K. Brown
1969	A.E. Burkholder
1970-71	J. Howat
1972	Doug Bergey (also known as Mr. Granville Park)
1973	G. Foster
1974	A.G. McNeil
1975	R. Chatwin
1976	Doug Bergey
1977-78	C.H. McFarlane
1979-81	Tony Boucher
1982	Bob MacQuillan Sr.
1983-85	John Bell
1986	Bill Meaney
1987	Bob Sillars
1988	Edna Barber
1989	Bill Novakowski
1990	Bob Sillars
1991-96	Tony Boucher
1997-98	Ian Webber
1999-2002	Shirley King

2003-04	Francis Yau
2005-06	Tony Boucher
2007-08	Alan Webster
2009-10	Tony Boucher (Tony has been president of the club in 5 different decades)
2011	Alan Webster
2012-present	Juanita Tucker

#### Past Secretaries of Granville Park

The club has been served by a succession of very hard-working secretaries who have often been the glue that holds the club together. The job has changed over the years. In the early days of the club, the secretary had an assistant secretary. In 1934 the secretary also took on the role of treasurer (secretary-treasurer). The assistant secretary must have been invaluable then! This arrangement lasted until at least 1960. For the past 20+ years the secretary and treasurer have been separate roles and the assistant secretary position has disappeared. W.W. Bird has been the longest serving person in this role. He was the secretary for less than 2 years (Oct, 1922 - Mar 1924), but he had been the assistant secretary from 1920-1922. In 1928 he again was serving as assistant secretary, which he did until 1945. That is almost 25 years straight! A big thank you to all of the past secretaries of Granville Park, whose dedicated recording of the club's activities have been the basis of the club's history and allowed current members to visit our old club, when it wasn't quite so old, if only for a brief time.

Tenure	Secretary
Oct 16, 1915 - Oct 30, 1916	J.H. Harris
Oct 30, 1916 - Oct 29, 1917	J.F. Hutchinson
Oct 29, 1917 - Dec 11, 1918	T. Hargreaves
Dec 11, 1918 - Dec 12, 1919	W. Thomson
Dec 12, 1919 - Oct 9, 1920	W.A. Warren
Oct 9, 1920 - Mar 8, 1922	W.W. Bird
Mar 8, 1922 - Mar 10, 1924	T.F. Teevan
Mar 10, 1924 - Jan 20, 1934	L.R. Wood (4) 9 years, 10 months
Jan 20, 1934 - Feb 6, 1937	T.F. Teevan
Feb 6, 1937 - Dec 2, 1939	Dick Adams

Dec 2, 1939 - Nov 30, 1940	A.J. Stoddart
Nov 30, 1940 - Dec 6, 1941	A.S. McAllister
Dec 6, 1941 - Dec 12, 1949	C.P. Brydone-Jack (5) 8 years
Dec 12, 1949 - Dec 4, 1950	T.F. Teevan (3 terms; 6 years total)
Dec 4, 1950 - Nov 28, 1960	H.C.L. Gregg (3) 10 years
Nov 1987+? - Nov 6, 1988	Mary Hughes
Nov 6, 1988 - Nov 5, 1989	Lorna Kerr
Nov 5, 1989 - Oct 21, 1990	Mary Hughes
Oct 21 1990 - Oct 31, 1991	Lorna Kerr
Oct 31, 1991 - Nov 3 2002	Norma Bourne (2) 11 years
Nov 3, 2002 - Oct 26, 2003	Tony Boucher (interim)
Oct 26, 2003 - present (May 2015)	Cathie Cleveland (1) 11 years, 7 months

There is a gap in the record from 1960 to 1987. It is presumed that the tenure of Gregg coincided with the excellent record-keeping and that it's end signals the end of his secretariat.