

Kincardine Pavilion

Kincardine has always been a place for creating memories whether vacations, sunsets or beach time, but one of the most enduring memories is that of the Kincardine Pavilion, remembered by thousands who attended dances, weddings, reunions, meetings and many other local events.

[thinking of doing these as pictures – Guy Lombardo, Mart Kenney , Don Messer, Lionel Thorton, John Brenan, Ozzie Willians, Tiffins, Giles Merry makers, CKNX Barn Dance Gang, Boyds, among other local bands]

In 1922 George Conley, local stone mason, bricklayer and contractor designed, constructed and partially funded this unique “Arts and Crafts” style dance hall for Reuben Wittig and Tony Campbell. The Dance Hall’s design promoted the function and character as well as incorporating the natural environment surrounding the structure. The building sits on land acquired by the Town of Kincardine from Levi and Isabella Rightmeyer in 1882. Pavilion owners have all leased this land from the town.

The official opening was held July 16, 1923 at the Old Boys and Girls Reunion.

The dance floor was constructed of three layers of wood, the top layer being a high quality hardwood strip which gave a nice spring for dancing. The floor was kept in good shape by applying a mixture of cornmeal and paraffin wax. Two balconies were originally built for bands but orchestras became too large so a stage was constructed on the south end. The shutters could be opened for air movement allowing the music to drift along the beach.

There was a cost of 15 cents to enter the building and 5 cents to go onto the dance floor. During the 1920’s, dances were held as often as four times a week during the summer months.

If young ladies had spent the day at the beach there was a booth where they could “rent” a paper dress as shorts were not allowed on the dance floor.

Today the Kincardine Pavilion has been restored to its former grandeur commencing in 2000 when the “Friends of the Pavilion” began restoration of the building. The official re-opening was held in April 2008. The patio was completed July 2010.

The Kincardine Pavilion remains as a cherished historic venue and is one of the last of its kind on the Lake Huron shoreline.

[picture or pictures of the pavilion]