

Bertha Temple

Bertha was born June 7, 1898 at 41 McNab Street N, Hamilton, Ontario. She was inducted into the OPTA Hall of Fame in 1983.

She began shooting with a shotgun in about 1916 at small game (ducks, rabbits, etc).

Cyril McKim invited Alex and Bertha to attend the annual Ladies Day at Hamilton Gun Club in 1928 where Bertha won first prize.

In 1927, Bertha was proposed for a membership in the Hamilton Gun Club and accepted, making her the first lady member. The late Nelson Wong was Bertha's coach and shot next to her in the squad named the Canadian Blackbirds. On his death, his sons carried on and later Ron Wong sold the business to Wilf Searle who operated under the name of Searle Industry Ltd., handling anything pertaining to trap, skeet and game shooting.



Bertha Temple, seated centre, with Al Hall seated left, John Benz, seated right, Frank Dainty, standing left, and Mike Boulet, standing right.



From left, Wilf Searle, Ted Harris, Bertha Temple and Roy Cole

The targets are manufactured by machine and are not handled by human hands until they come off the line and are wrapped and packaged and are shipped all over Canada.

In 1928, Bertha's husband passed away and she kept up the Hamilton Gun Club membership but did very little shooting for some years. She won the Ontario Provincial Ladies Championships in 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1957, 1958, 1963 and 1970, and the 18 yard handicap in 1964 (175 X 200) and 1970 (96 X 100).

In 1976, Bertha was given the second life membership badge at Hamilton Gun Club for 50 years of membership.

Bertha Temple, the roving reporter of the Hamilton Gun Club was seven times Ontario Provincial Lady Champion, Canadian Lady Champion, won at the CNE in 1924. She was affectionately known as the shooting grandmother, Bertha had three grandchildren of whom she was very proud.

She was a Life Member of the Hamilton Gun Club since 1952 and the only lady member of the club for many years.

Bertha belonged to four trap clubs, Hamilton Gun Club, Iagoo Gun Club, Peel Trap Club and Appleby Gun Club, a life member of all, and a life member of the Amateur Trapshooting Association.



From left, Bertha Temple, Ron and Pam McGarry 1978