



Gutter News

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Just for laughs.

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DID YOU KNOW?

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Author: Kelley Teahan

In the southern U.S., it's known as "Canadian Bowling." To many Canadians, it's just "bowling". Many Canadian inventions, whether in or out of sports, are proudly known by most as being home-grown. But five-pin bowling, with its smaller ball, rather than the usual 10 pins set in triangular formation, struck down by a larger ball with grip-assisting holes drilled in it—is something you rarely find outside Canada, and few Canadians realize it was invented here.

The Torontoist, 2012 published a terrific article about the inventor of the five-pin bowling game, Tommy Ryan. In 1905, Ryan opened a 10-pin bowling alley in downtown Toronto, which was set up as a "private club" with perks like a cafeteria, a piano, music from a live string orchestra, and surroundings decorated with lush tropical plants.

The club proved popular with downtown business elites and lawyers, who rushed over for lunchtime games.

Ryan soon noticed grumbling among his clientele.



Regulars hated lugging around 16-pound bowling balls, which left them sweaty and fatigued by the time they returned to their offices. The game moved too slowly for them to fit a full match in before their half-hour lunch breaks were over.

Ryan tinkered away in the hopes of inventing a game that was speedier and less stressful, but elegant enough to appeal to upper-crust customers.

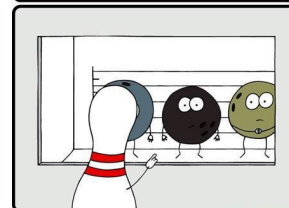
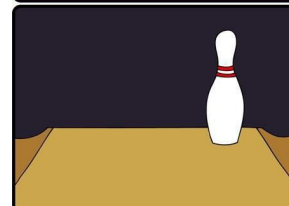
Ultimately, he reduced the pin count down to five, shaved the pins, and shrank the balls down to a compact three-and-a-half-pound size. While testing his new form of bowling, Ryan discovered the lighter pins flew everywhere, including out the window. To prevent potential casualties, he placed rubber bands around the middle of each pin for stability.

He introduced his five-pin game in 1909 and it was a hit with his club members; it soon through Toronto, where it became more popular than 10 pin, and then spread through Canada.

Today, the adjective "elegant" is not the first one that pops to mind when I think of five-pin bowling. To up the party quotient, places add lasers, light shows, loud music, all manner of embellishments. In Toronto, many alleys now offer a split between five-pin and 10-pin lanes, with some lanes embedded in bars or other venues with a mix of entertainment offerings.

But some things don't change. The shoe rentals. The so-bad-it's-good food. And the thrill of knocking down all the pins (five in Canada) — or the agony of gutter defeat.

Just for laughs!



ON THE LANES: October Birthdays

Ryan Curzon
Rob Gearing
Dean Gray
Stephen Park
Don Pfeil
Jude Power
Mike Rog

Tink Tip Bowling the 7-10 Split

- *Right-handed bowlers:*
 - Move left to board 38.
 - Aim at the 10 pin.
- *Left-handed bowlers:*
 - Move right to board 22
 - Aim at the 7 pin.
- Aim for the center arrow.
- Bowl hard.
- Spin the ball.



If that doesn't work, flutter your wings and look pretty.



GET INVOLVED:

Euchre Tourney:

- Sat October 21st @ 1:00 pm
- at The Blake House.

In-House Tournaments:

- Tues October 24th, 27th & 29th

Annual General Members (AGM) Meeting:

- Mon October 23rd @ 7:00 pm
- at The Blake House.

Subway Closures:

Line 1:

- Davisville to Lawrence. October 14 & 15
- Sheppard West to Wilson. October 21 & 22.
- Davisville to Lawrence. October 28 & 29.