



MANITOBA HOCKEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, 2007



Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

Date: October 6, 2007
Location: Canad Inns Polo Park
Winnipeg

Tickets: \$85 with a \$50 charitable
tax receipt

Contact dinner chair Jerry Kruk at (204)
668-0900 or at jerrykruk@shaw.ca.

Tickets can be ordered by mail from:
The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame
c/o 987 Arena Road
Winnipeg R3C 2Z3

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame Will Welcome 14 Individuals and Two Teams in October 2007

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame and Museum will induct eight players, four builders, one official and one member of the media on Oct. 6. Two teams also will enter the Hall of Fame at an induction dinner at the Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg.

Reggie Abbott, Dan Bonar, Perry Miller, James Patrick and Gord Stratton will enter the HOF in the regular players category along with Danny Johnson and Tom Rendall, who will be inducted post-humously. The late Bill Kendall will be inducted as a veteran player.

Two teams will be saluted at the dinner. The 1948-49 Brandon Wheat Kings won the Western Canada junior title, but lost to Montreal Royals in the only eight-game Memorial Cup final. The University of Manitoba Bisons captured the Canadian Inter-collegiate Athletic Union championship in 1964-65, the only Bison team to do so. (Continued on page 3)

Membership Renewals

Foundation members are reminded that their 2007 membership was due for renewal April 1. The annual fee is \$15.00. If you haven't paid, please forward a cheque for \$15.00 made payable to the Manitoba Hockey Foundation Inc., 13-677 St. Anne's Road, Winnipeg R2N 4C4. A life-time membership can be purchased for a one-time fee of \$100.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in promoting the aims and objectives of the Foundation. New members are needed so president Gary Cribbs encourages each member to try to recruit at least one person from their vast hockey network during our 40th anniversary year.



Bisons Kenny Plews, Bill Podolsky, John Trojack and Chuck Meighen learn that the 1964-65 team will enter the Hockey Hall of Fame. At right back, Gavin Speirs and Edgar Rivalin pay attention for once to assistant coach Gibb Pritchard.



Manitoba Hockey Foundation Inc.
13-677 St. Anne's Rd, Winnipeg, MB
R2N 4C4
www.mbhockeyhalloffame.ca

Mission Statement

The Manitoba Hockey Foundation is an incorporated, non-profit organization dedicated to Manitoba's hockey heritage, past, present and future,

Board of Directors

President: Gary Cribbs
Vice-President: Jerry Kruk
Secretary: Pat McKinnon
Past President: George Depres

Directors:

Alan Baty, Ralph Borger, Rick Brownlee, Bob Chrystal, Bryan Derrett, Al Dyker, R.A. (Sam) Fabro, Jeff Hnatiuk, Ted Holland, Don Kuryk, Laurie Langrell, Frank McKinnon, Kent Morgan, Len Morrow, Walter Mueller, Don Raleigh, Ed Sweeney, G.R. (Jeep) Woolley

Associate Directors

Larry Evans—Neepawa
Wayne Hawrysh—The Pas
Gerry Liske—Beausejour
Keith McCallum—Brandon
Grant Moffat—Carroll
Morris Mott—Brandon
Rick Olsen—Selkirk
Red Sangster—Thompson

This newsletter is published by the Manitoba Hockey Foundation Inc.

Editors: Ted (Dutch) Holland
T. Kent Morgan

Contributors: Ed Sweeney, Laurie Langrell

Photos: Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame, Society for International Hockey Research, Ted Holland Collection, Mike MacKay, Ed Sweeney

Printed by: Docuprint

Submissions should be sent via e-mail to tkmorgan@shaw.ca, by fax to (204) 489-6641 or mailed to the above address.
Office Telephone: (204) 837-4159.

Foundation 40th Anniversary Activities

On May 1 during the Hockey Hall of Fame media conference, Cameron Caners received the Ken (Friar) Nicolson Award that is presented annually by the Foundation to the outstanding high school player in the province. Caners is the captain of the St. Paul's High School team that won the City of Winnipeg and provincial championships. The award is worth \$1,000.



**Laurie Langrell presents
Nicolson Award to Cameron
Caners**

U of M Bisons men's coach Don MacGillivray and women's coach Jon Rempel accepted the R.A. (Sam) Fabro Scholarships on behalf of their student-athletes. Justin Harris, Stewart Thiessen, Calin Wild and Kip Workman will share one \$1,000 scholarship while Shannon Hoogsteen, Brenna Leary and Katherine O'Rourke will share another. The Foundation also supplied plaques to Hockey Manitoba to honour the top referees in the province. Three officials in each of 10 zones received the plaques at a windup in Winnipeg May 6.

Sets of sweaters have been awarded to teams from the Red River Community Centre in north Winnipeg and South Indian Lake. The Foundation had agreed to present the Winnipeg set to a minor bantam team from Tyndall Park after receiving a letter from player Austin Hunter. Hunter, 13, said that several members of the team had played together since they were seven years old, but rarely won a game.

"I thought if we had matching socks and brand new jerseys it might make us feel better and play even harder," Hunter wrote. "But even if we don't get them, that's OK, as long as I can play hockey, I'm happy."

After speaking to Foundation director Jeep Woolley, who was in charge of the sweater project, Gordon Sinclair wrote a nice piece in his *Winnipeg Free Press* column about Hunter and his teammates. The team played out of the Red River club this past season and Hunter told Sinclair that they were doing "better." They hadn't won any of their 11 games to that point, but had three ties.

Hall of Fame official Don Kuryk was appointed to the board of directors earlier this year. He also served on the HOF selection committee that was chaired by Frank McKinnon.

The Manitoba Hockey Foundation is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2007. As part of a long-range planning process, the directors are reviewing past and present activities and considering new initiatives to determine the future direction of the Foundation.

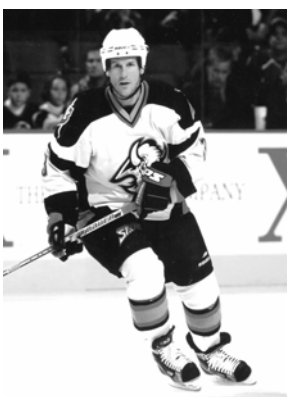
2007 Hall of Fame Inductees (continued)

The four builders are Don Baizley of Winnipeg, Elmer Hildebrand of Altona, Bill Maluta from Flin Flon and Dr. Morris Mott of Brandon. Baizley, a player agent for more than 30 years, is considered to be one of the 100 people of power and influence by *The Hockey News*. A long-time manager and president of the Altona Maroons, Hildebrand served as president of the South East Manitoba League for 20 years. Maluta won seven provincial championships during a 25-year minor hockey coaching career in Flin Flon. Mott coached at the U of M, in the C.A.S.H League and minor hockey in Brandon and has written about early hockey in the province.

MacGregor native Perry Allan will be inducted as an official. The former Hockey Manitoba referee-in-chief worked as high as international hockey and served on the Standing Rules Committee for Hockey Canada. Moe Cartman, who covered and supported hockey in Portage la Prairie for more than 35 years, will be the newest media member. Both will be inducted posthumously.

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame inducted its first members in 1985 and held annual induction ceremonies every year until 1993 with the exception of 1991. Since 1995, new members have been welcomed into the HOF every second year.

Mini-Bios of the 2007 Hall of Fame Players



James Patrick

Reggie Abbott, C: Brandon Wheat Kings 1949 Memorial Cup finalists; 1950 MJHL scoring champion and first all-star; 1951 Victoria Cougars PCHL champions; 1964 Winnipeg Maroons Allan Cup champs.

Dan Bonar, C: 1973 Portage Terriers Centennial Cup winners; 1977 Wheat Kings WCHL champions; 1978 IHL MVP, rookie of the year, first all-star; six years in AHL and three in NHL with LA Kings.

Danny Johnson, C: Five years in CHL, 1968 Tulsa Oilers league champions, CHL MVP in 1970; 121 NHL games; three seasons with WHA Winnipeg Jets and team's second captain.

Perry Miller, D-LW: 1973 to 1975 EHL Charlotte Checkers, 1974 second team all-star; three seasons with WHA Winnipeg Jets; 117 AHL games; 217 NHL games with Detroit Red Wings.

James Patrick, D: Prince Albert Raiders 1981 SJHL champions, Canadian junior A player of the year; 1982 and 1983 UND All America selection; 21 NHL seasons; represented Canada nine times in world international play.

Tom Rendall, C: Named one of top 21 players in NCAA tournament play history with U of Michigan; 1958 English League scoring champion and rookie of the year; 15 years of senior with Winnipeg Maroons, Saskatoon Quakers and Spokane Jets, two Allan Cup championships.

Gordon Stratton, RW: 1955 tied with brother Art for MJHL scoring championship; totalled 976 pts in pro career from 1955-56 to 1971-72 in WHL, AHL, IHL and EHL; Long Island Ducks 1965 EHL champions.

Bill Kendall, RW: NHL with Chicago Black Hawks 1934 Stanley Cup champions and Toronto; three American Hockey Association titles with St. Louis Flyers and one of the AHA top all-time scorers.



Bill Kendall

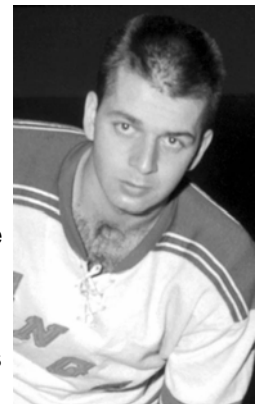
Name-Dropping by Toast and Coffee

Editors Ted and Kent were labelled Toast and Coffee when they wrote a sports column under that title for the *Winnipeg Sun* from 1997—2001. They now write the bi-weekly “The Sporting Life” column for *The Prime Times* newspaper.

Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame dinner chairman **Jerry Kruk**, a member of the 1958-59 Memorial Cup champion Winnipeg Braves, was back on the ice on April 13 at the MTS Centre. He was one of about 30 participants shooting a puck in an attempt to win a 2007 Toyota truck at a Manitoba Moose-Toronto Marlies game. A group of CAA Manitoba employees and their families, in total 133, cheered wildly from the balcony as Kruk took his turn trying to be closest to a pole. The retired CAA head honcho had the perfect weight but alas, his shot veered off to one side and there was no truck for Kruk. He was forced to find other transportation home...The next night, Kruk and fellow members of the 1959 Braves got together for a special reason, which was to help manager **Bill Addison** celebrate his 99th birthday. Dressing for the occasion, some in their Braves blazers, were **Pat Angers, Al Baty, Laurie Langrell, Al LeBlanc, Doug Munro, Lew Mueller, Scotty Wales** and **Wayne Winstone**. Trainer **Jim Drury** and **John Perrin III and IV**, the son and grandson of owner **Jack Perrin**, also were in attendance...Langrell says the Stonewall Old Buffalos raised \$525 in memory of the two firefighters who died in a Winnipeg house fire and also to aid the two who are recovering from burns. Two Stonewall players, **Jim Campbell** and **John Perreault**, are fire paramedics...Did anyone spot the colour photo of **Murray Wilkie** in the *Winnipeg Free Press* birthday notices on Jan. 6? The message from his Neepawa friends read, “Happy 75th Muzz, 68 consecutive years of playing hockey, What a Record.” Wilkie also plays for Stonewall...*Inside College Hockey* selected **Drew Bagnall** from Oakbank for its NCAA defenceman of the year award. Bagnall, who played for St. Lawrence University Saints in New York State, also made the first All-America team. UND star **Jonathan Toews** of Winnipeg made the second team...During the SJHL all-star game festivities in Flin Flon, Jan. 18-20, **Bobby Clarke** spoke at a banquet honouring the 1957 Memorial Cup champion Bombers team that he admired growing up. A street beside Whitney Forum was renamed 57 Memorial Cup Drive. Just as a point of interest, the 1957 team never played in the Whitney Forum. Local boys and future pros **Duane Rupp, Ken Willey, Mel Pearson, Ron Hutchinson, Carl Forster**, 1957 SJHL most valuable player **George Konik** and captain **Ted Hampson** grew up as “rink rats” in the facility known as the Flin Flon Arena. The rink was refurbished several years later and named Whitney Forum after HBM&S founder **Cornelius Vanderbilt (Sonny) Whitney**...HOF member Hampson, now the chief scout for the Colorado Avalanche, and Bomber alumnus **Bill Dobbyn** were the honorary coaches for the United States Hockey League 2007 Prospects/All-Star Game in late January in Waterloo, Iowa. A defenceman who was born in Basswood, Dobbyn had his hopes of a NHL career with the New York Rangers end when he lost an eye in an AHL game between his Buffalo Bisons and Hershey Bears on Dec. 27, 1958. He returned to hockey in 1965 as a player and coach and eventually settled in Waterloo where he helped the Black Hawks win four straight USHL championships...Ex-Monarch defenceman **Bob Currie** came in from the Twin Cities for the Lacrosse Alumni Association’s 31st annual reunion on April 29...No matter where you stand on the issue of large regional complexes vs small community centres, it’s too bad that Kelvin C.C. on Henderson Hwy in Winnipeg had to shut down. The club had a long hockey history and won three city and provincial juvenile championships between 1961-62 and 1964-65 beating Flin Flon Bombers twice in the Manitoba final. **Al Tresoor** coached the juveniles and ex-Jet **Duke Asmundson**, former MTS president **Bill Fraser, Ron Hopkinson, Bill Kops, Charlie Kurtz, John Schillinger, Don Smith, George Sykes, Dr. Ross Taylor** and **Jack Tye** wore Kelvin colours during the successful run. Tresoor rated goalie **George Surmay** as the best Winnipeg goalie since **Terry Sawchuk**. High praise when Henderson Hwy rival Bronx Park with **Joe Daley** in goal eliminated Kelvin the year before the team won its first juvenile championship...



Bill Dobbyn



Ron Hutchinson

Name-Dropping by Toast and Coffee (continued)

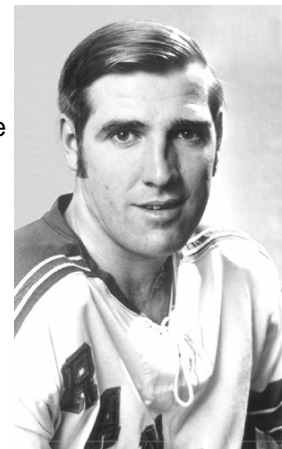


Gord Stratton

2007 HOF inductee **Gord Stratton** had the honour of dropping the puck during the pre-game ceremonies of a Keystone Junior Hockey League game in Arborg Jan. 6. According to **John Coward** in the *Interlake Spectator*, the Arborg Ice Dawgs want to honour hockey heroes from the region that have come before them. Stratton's family farmed in the Arborg area and he moved to Gimli after he retired from pro hockey ...2007 inductee **Elmer Hildebrand** will be presented with the Order of Manitoba on July 12...In March, T&C ran into former Boston Bruins defenceman **Don Awrey** and Nashville Predators scout **Shawn Dineen** before an ECHL game in Estero, FL. Awrey had coached at Florida Gulf Coast University and now is an off-ice official for the ECHL. Dineen said he played with Manitobans **Mark Davidson**, **Barry Hudson** and **Brad Purpur** at the University of Denver...**Andy Bathgate** was selected in the third round of the 2007 OHL priority draft by the Belleville Bulls. No, the West Kildonan Hall-of-Famer didn't find a way to turn back the clock. This Andy is his grandson...Hockey players **Bill Fairbairn** and **Dallas Smith** were two of seven athletes from Westman inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame at its first regional induction ceremony in Brandon

on April 21. The 1978-79 WHL champion Wheat Kings were inducted in the team category. The word on the street is that Smith pretty well covered his entire hockey career and more during his overlong acceptance speech. Note from Coffee: Ted aka Toast would have loved it as his favourite all-time response came from Montreal Canadiens star **Ken Reardon** when he was inducted into the provincial HOF in 1996. Reardon took the audience on a train trip from Edmonton to training camp in Montreal that included stops in Nokomis, Sask. to pick up **Elmer Lach** and Sudbury for **Toe Blake**. Toast was disappointed when the Winnipeg-born defenceman didn't talk about winning two playground championships with Clifton Community Club in 1931 and 1932...Why you have to ask would the Phoenix Coyotes say sayonara to broadcaster **Curt (Sod) Keilback** after 27 years with the Jets and Coyotes. Surely, his broadcasting didn't have any impact to the team's dismal performance on the ice. Someone with Sod's pipes and experience should be able to find another NHL job. When Winnipeg's

Paul Edmunds got his first hockey play-by-play job in the States, Keilback's advice was to never cater to the neophyte hockey crowd in the US because they won't be listening to the broadcasts anyway. Media relations V-P **Richard Nairn** from Winnipeg also was let go by the Coyotes...Former Jets **Ab McDonald** and **Mike Ford** attended a power wheelchair hockey game at the St. James Civic Centre in January to sign autographs for the players...If **Sami-Jo Small's** international hockey career is at an end and she decides it's time for a job change, she shouldn't have any problem finding work. The goalie graduated from Stanford, one of the US's most prestigious universities, with an engineering degree. Her minor – French literature...East Kildonan resident **Ed Hay** owns an unusual table-top hockey game. For 15 years, Hay has wandered around with his game and asked hockey personalities and other sports figures along with politicians and celebrities from all walks of life to sign his table. The table with about 350 autographs was on display at the Graffiti Art Gallery as part of a winter show titled Good Ol' Hockey Game: How Canada Handles Winter. **Jaromir Jagr**, **Alexander Mogilny**, **Grant Fuhr**, **Mike Modano**, **Chuck Rayner**, **Bill Mosienko**, **Jean Beliveau** and **Wayne Gretzky** all signed along with **Bill Juzda**, whose signature was the very first...If you are travelling Eveleth, Minn. way and want to visit the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame, call first. The facility has been closed for a year due to lack of funding, but is scheduled to re-open in the near future. On May 10, USA Hockey reached an agreement with the HOF board to elevate the profile and promotion of the HOF. USA Hockey will assume responsibility for the selection process and plans a fall induction ceremony for a yet-to-be-selected Class of 2007. The U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame was founded in 1973 and, to date, 130 individuals have been enshrined.



Bill Fairbairn

The Final Face-Off

Since our last newsletter in December 2006, the hockey community has lost a number of Manitobans and others with a connection to hockey in our province. Information below was compiled from obituaries and other sources such as the Internet. Complete obituaries for many of the following can be found in the *Winnipeg Free Press* by searching the online archives at www.passagesmb.com/. Individual members of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame are noted with an asterisk*. Please let us know about any deaths that have not been listed in The Final Face-Off.

Nov. 3, 2005 in Nelson, B.C. – **Ted Hargreaves, 61** – Member of the Winnipeg-based Canada National team in the 1960s. Later played pro in the Toronto Maple Leafs system and for the Winnipeg Jets of the WHA in 1973-74.

Dec. 22, 2006 in Kelowna, B.C. – ***Gordon Kerr, 74** - Long-time official who served as MAHA and MJHL referee-in-chief and worked in the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games and the WHA. Inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame as an official in 1990. Played junior for the Winnipeg Canadians.

Dec. 27, 2006 in Brandon – **Ed Chown, 82** – Played in the CPR League in Brandon.

Dec. 31, 2006 in Winnipeg – **Bob Magee, 82** – Played goal in the CN Nite Hawks Hockey League for several years.

Jan. 2, 2007 in Winnipeg – **Ralph O'Rourke, 82** – Played junior hockey in Montreal before moving to Winnipeg in 1956.

Jan. 9, 2007 in Winnipeg – ***Terry Hind, 86** – Inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame as a builder in 1981. Served as manager of the Winnipeg Maroons senior team for 11 years including 1964 when the team won the Allan Cup and held positions with the MJHL, Monarch juveniles and Charleswood Hawks. Also a member of the Manitoba Sports HOF and the Manitoba Baseball HOF.

Jan. 15, 2007 in Nepean, Ont. – **Gordon Scott, 79** – Member of the 1946 Memorial Cup champion Winnipeg Monarchs who played for Wembley in the English League. Also a long-time coach and referee in the Nepean and Laval, Que., minor hockey programs.



Gordon Scott

Jan. 16, 2007 in Winnipeg – **Chad Lund, 29** - Elkhorn product who played defence for the Portage Terriers of the MJHL.

Jan. 21, 2007 in Steinbach – **Bill Lavallee, 58** – Engineer and icemaker at River Heights Community Centre in Winnipeg for 28 years.

Jan. 24, 2007 in Winnipeg – **Jim Deluca, 78** – Port Arthur native who moved to Pine Falls in 1950 to play for the Paper Kings. Later played with the Pine Fall oldtimers.

Feb. 1, 2007 in Dufresne – **Bernie Gill, 75** – Former executive director of the Fort Richmond Community Club who managed Richmond Kings, Fort Garry Twins and South Winnipeg Monarchs minor teams that won several provincial tier 1 and 2 championships.

Feb. 9 in Winnipeg – **Cal Allan, 76** – Glenella native who lived in Rivers where he was involved in hockey as a player, coach, referee and volunteer with the MAHA and CAHA.

Feb. 10 in Peoria, Ill. – **Craig Campbell, 81** – Portage la Prairie native who played junior in Winnipeg.

Feb. 12 in Winnipeg – **Ray Crosby, 68** – Manager, hockey convenor and president of the River Heights Community Centre for many years.

Feb. 15 in Parksville, B.C. – **Ted Prokopanko, 71** – Professional photographer who was a volunteer photographer for the Winnipeg Jets and travelled with the team to Japan.

Feb. 24 in Winnipeg – **Ab Collings, 91** – Played with Selkirk of the MJHL followed by a professional career primarily in the AHL with Philadelphia Ramblers and Providence Reds.

Feb. 24 in Flin Flon – **Gordon Mitchell, 84** – President of the Flin Flon Bombers hockey club for 10 years and governor of the WCJHL.

March 3 in Winnipeg – **Dennis Williams, 71** – Known as Punch (Imlach) during his more than 25 years of coaching at Harrow and Crescentwood community clubs.

The Final Face-Off (continued)

March 9 in Mississauga, Ont. – ***Glen Harmon, 86** – Member of the 1941 Memorial Cup champion Winnipeg Rangers and the 1944 and 1946 Stanley Cup champion Montreal Canadiens. The Holland, Manitoba native was inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame in 1985.

March 14 in Red Deer, Alta – **Birk Sproxtton, 63** - Flin Flon native who played in the northern community and later became a well-known Western Canadian author. Frequently wrote about hockey; *The Hockey Fan Came Riding* was one title.

March 25 in Winnipeg – ***Earl Ormshaw, 70** – Level 6 official who officiated more than 1,800 games during his 40-year career. Served as referee-in-chief of the MMJHL since its inception. Inducted into the HOF in 2005.

March 31 in Winnipeg – **Guenter Lauber, 54** – Long-time volunteer at Sinclair Park Community Centre who served on the executive of the NWMHA, the WMHA and the St. James Canadians juniors.

April 4 in Dauphin – **Ted Dent, 89** – Member of the 1937 Memorial Cup champion Winnipeg Monarchs.

April 10 in Winnipeg – **Fred Martens, 75** – Minor coach, volunteer with the Seven Oaks Raiders juniors and treasurer of the MMJHL.

April 13 in Winnipeg – **Stanley Trybell, 84** – Winnipeg Jets press box host for 17 years.

April 26 in The Pas – **Ron Cox, 75** – Played for The Pas juniors and captained the intermediate Huskies. Later coached minor hockey and refereed.

April 27 near Portage la Prairie – **Alex Rodier, 18** – Played minor and high school in Transcona and for the AA Saints.

April 30 in Winnipeg – **Bryson (Doc) Murray, 81** – team physician for the Winnipeg Jets.



Glen Harmon

Smallest Town Ever to Win Stanley Cup

It was well documented in daily papers early in the year that the Kenora Thistles, not a Manitoba club, but certainly an area team, celebrated the fact that 100 years ago they defeated the Montreal Wanderers to win the Stanley Cup. A new book, *Kenora Thistles: Our Hockey Heritage*, covers the struggles the team had from the founding of the Rat Portage club in 1894 through to the Canadian intermediate champion Kenora Thistles of 1953-54.

Jim Blight, coordinator of the book, said in a *Winnipeg Sun* story, “They were the smallest town to ever win a Stanley Cup, by a long shot.” Many of the struggles The Thistles had were not on the ice. Hockey officials in Winnipeg seemed to be determined to avoid playing Kenora by classifying them as intermediates and excluding the team from the senior league.

Champions of a three-team league with Portage and Brandon, Rat Portage challenged the Ottawa Silver Seven in 1903, but were not strong enough to win the Cup. At the end of the 1904-05 season, Thistles traveled east again to play the Silver Seven. The team won the first game 9-3, but the rough Easterners took games two and three 4-3 and 5-4. “There was no judge of play,” the local *Miner and News* reported.

Kenora finally took the Stanley Cup in January 1907 downing Montreal Wanderers 4-2 and 8-6. The *Montreal Star* reported, “Speed won. It wasn’t a question of superior hockey, superior courage, superior combination, but it was simply a question of speed...They were not only always at the heels of the Wanderer forwards, but often in advance of them and the result was that when the Wanderer quartette (read four-man forward line) came down the ice they found a septet of Thistles protecting the goal-keeper, some of whom would either directly steal the puck or bewilder them so by their tactics that they would not know which way to turn.”

Montreal challenged Thistles and won the Cup back before the end of the season. The teams split two games, but Montreal won on goal differential. However, the fast team from the small town had their names on the famous trophy.

Skating Down Memory Lane With Hockey Historian Ed Sweeney

In 1904 both the Winnipeg Rowing Club and Brandon Wheat Kings challenged the champion Ottawa Silver Seven for the Stanley Cup. It was the only time either team appeared in a Stanley Cup final.



The Rowing Club won the 1903 Western Canada Senior Amateur Hockey Association championship and was the first team to play Ottawa for the sterling cup. The best two-out-of-three game series was played at the Aberdeen Pavillion in Ottawa. In the opener played on Dec. 30, 1903, the hometown team won by a 9-1 score. The 2,500 fans, who saw Frank McGee lead the winners with a four-goal performance, enjoyed the huge margin of victory. Teammate Harry Westwick tallied three times. Billy Breen scored Winnipeg's only marker.

The visitors stormed back in game two and posted a 6-2 triumph. Breen and Bill Bawlf sparked the Winnipeg club with two goals a piece in that New Year's Day game. In the final game played on Jan. 4, 1904, Ottawa netminder Bouse Hutton blanked the Winnipeg squad and McGee tallied the Stanley Cup winning goal.

Ottawa had six future Hockey Hall of Fame members in its line-up, captain Harvey Pulford, Billy Gilmour, Alf Smith, Hutton, McGee and Westwick. In addition to captain Breen and Bawlf, the Rowing Club line-up included Cliff Bennest, Claude Borland, Art Brown, Percy Browne, future Hall-of-Famer Joe Hall, Bill Hamber, Harry Kirby and Crawford Richards.

Brandon Wheat Kings captured the Manitoba & Northwest Hockey Association championship on Feb. 29, 1904 with a 4-3 victory over Rat Portage (Kenora). Brandon immediately challenged Ottawa for the Stanley Cup. The two-game, total-goal series got underway on March 9 at the Aberdeen Pavillion. The Silver Seven won the opener by a 6-3 score with ace player Frank McGee scoring three times. Brandon defenceman Lorne Hannay led his team with a pair of goals. The Wheat Kings other defenceman was 20-year-old future Hall-of-Famer Lester Patrick, who dazzled the crowd with his up-ice rushes. In game two on March 11, Ottawa dashed any Stanley Cup hopes that Brandon might have had by recording a 9-3 win. Once again, it was Frank McGee leading the way with three goals. Alf Smith also scored three times.

The Brandon line-up consisted of captain Jack Brodie, Doug Morrison, George (Doc) Smith, Harry Bright and Lorne Laidlaw in addition to Hannay and Patrick.



1903-04 Winnipeg Rowing Club

Front Row (L-R): H. Sullivan, Trainer; Claude Borland; unidentified; Harry Kirby

Middle Row (L-R): Percy Browne; Joe Hall; Bill Breen; Bill Bawlf; unidentified.

Back Row (L-R): H.H. Richards, Sec.-Treas.; F.H. Bole, Comm.; F. Galt, President; R.A.C. Manning, Comm.; unidentified.