

1938 WCPAA Hockey Team. Photo taken in front of the Olympic Rink,  
Church Ave and Charles St



Back Row: Art Sutherland, Norm Stewart, Walter Hansen, Earl Sutton,  
Dave Morris, Art Hammill, Bob Coulter, Al Swanson.

Front Row: Ken Mills, Harry Vanderveken, Bobby Mills (Mascot),  
Al McInnes, George Green, Lou Sauve

# Looking Back A DONNYBROOK OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS

## WCPAA hockey team competes in the 1938 Manitoba Intermediate Hockey Championships

Starting in the 1920s the Winnipeg City Police Athletic Association (WCPAA), founded in September 1919, became one of the province's most frequent sponsors of high profile amateur sporting events, particularly boxing and wrestling. As an organization, active involvement in sports made sense for WCPAA membership as it promoted job related skills as well as fundraising opportunities for the association.

In the late 1930's and early 40's the WCPAA supported a senior men's intermediate hockey team. In March 1938 the WCPAA team came its closest to winning a provincial championship when it knocked out Sturgeon Creek, Petersfield, Transcona and Teulon in the playoffs, before taking on the Treherne Indians in a best of two, total goals, finals.

The first game was taken 3-1 by Treherne on March 26 in front of 1100 Treherne fans. The series returned to Winnipeg for the final game on March 28 at the Olympic rink, located at the corner of Church Avenue and Charles Street (where the Olympic Towers apartment block now stands), about 8-blocks from the then North End (E-Division) station at Charles and Magnus.

The Treherne Indians were the favorites to win, having previously won the championships in 1935 and 1936. In addition the 1938 squad boasted Thomas "Smokey" Harris as a player coach. Harris had previously played professional hockey and was in three Stanley Cup finals with Portland and Vancouver between 1916 and 1923 and is remembered for scoring the first goal in Boston Bruins' franchise history in 1924.

Treherne took an early lead 3-1 in the final game before "a donnybrook of major proportions" broke out in the second period. "With team against team, player against player, and assault the order of the hour ... fans hoped over the boards, rinks attendants jumped into the thick of things ... and finally uniformed police arrived to sort out the belligerents" reported a youthful Winnipeg Free Press reporter (and future Hockey Night in Canada commentator) Scott Young. Treherne went on to win the game 7-2 and the series 2-0.



As befitting their performance, at a WCPAA sponsored dinner at the conclusion of the

Manitoba Amateur Boxing Championships, the hockey team was presented with silver cigarette cases for their efforts by W.P. Fillmore, President of the Manitoba Boxing and Wrestling Commissions, on April 5, 1938.

The WCPAA intermediate hockey team never placed as well again, the war effort and injuries eventually taking their toll on its members. Constable Norm Stewart (later Chief of Police) was shot and wounded in a gun battle that killed Constable McDonald on February 4, 1940; defenceman Constable Arthur Hammill was killed in action on June 17, 1942 with the Royal Canadian Air Force; and defenceman Constable Walter Hansen suffered serious head injuries in 1944 after being side-swiped against a telephone pole while on duty by a stolen vehicle.

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