

The History of Early Ice Hockey, from 1749-50 to May 4, 1926

A summary of key ideas in *The Four Stars of Early Hockey* by Mark Grant, 2025

Modern ice hockey can be traced back to an encounter that took place no earlier than the winter of 1749-50 – soon after around three thousand English settlers arrived in what became known as Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 21, 1749.

Thomas Raddall, an Order of Canada historian, stated that the “first” settlers observed the Mi’kmaw playing a hockey-like game on ice during some early winter. Later, he said he found several such references while researching his 1948 book, *Halifax – Warden of the North*. In Raddall’s account British officers began playing pond hockey with local Mi’kmaw players who called Halifax *Kjipuktuk*. That great moment marked the literal birth the version of hockey that would evolve into the modern game.

After the two parties began playing together, Raddall stated that the officers began distributing the Mi’kmaw’s “necessary” playing sticks throughout the British military network. In 2021 we suggested that the Mi’kmaq sticks were likely considered necessary because of their flat, thin blades. The sticks used in Britain’s three stick games—hurling, shinty, and grass hockey—were all adapted for use on grass. Ordinarily, one would expect that Britain’s settlers gradually adapted their grass-oriented sticks for ice. Halifax and Dartmouth settlers were different. The flat, thin blade was already in use there.

Players who used grass-adapted sticks chased pucks on ice. The Mi’kmaw’s flat, thin blade was an evolutionary end-point. The flat thin blade made man the master: it allowed users to trap pucks with great efficiency and send them in any controlled direction. Mi’kmaq sticks were simply better. Way better. That’s why they began circulating in military locations, with Kingston, Cape Breton, and Windsor being among the likely candidates.

The first time this happened a business partnership was established that would evolve into one of Canada’s most successful business ventures. This ‘Halifax-Dartmouth-Kjipuktuk’ partnership lasted into the 1930s, defeated only by the Great Depression and mass-production. To this day, the story of Halifax’s true role in the rise of modern hockey remains early Canada’s greatest untold story.

Here’s a detail to remember: Raddall also wrote that the officers only *later* started playing with skates. Why?

This likely had to do with the skates of that time. Since the introduction of metal skates centuries earlier, people had always strapped them onto boots and shoes. Strap-on skates hindered movement. Bone skates weren’t effective either. Until around 1863, Raddall’s officers may have decided that it was more enjoyable to play without any kind of skates.

Much later, around 1863, Dartmouth’s Starr Manufacturing Company introduced footwear that would rapidly revolutionize the skating world. Starr’s famous Acme skate enabled users to leverage their bodies like never before. As far as hockey was concerned, its greatest advantage was that it weaponized turning.

Since they were associated with the local upper class, it’s likely Halifax’s officers were among the first to get Acme skates. When this happened, something historic and unanticipated occurred: the birth of 19th-century ice hockey’s dominant player. In our book, we call this player *radix stellaris*, in an attempt to define the kind of player who conquered all other ‘hockey’ players before the end of the 19th century. *Radix* means root in Latin, in reference to the tree roots that the Kjipuktuk Mi’kmaw used to craft their flat thin blades. *Stellaris* is a nod to Dartmouth’s Starr corporation, maker of the necessary Acme skate.

Suddenly, around Halifax and nowhere else, hockey players began what turn out to be the necessary tools of modern ice hockey. The 1863 marriage of the Mi’kmaq stick and Dartmouth’s Acme skate allowed Halifax hockey to rapidly evolve. With few weekend distractions and thousands of locals on the ice on favorable days, we can be sure Halifax’s finest players honed their craft. For ten years, the Mi’kmaq and Canadian players of Halifax-Dartmouth-Kjipuktuk evolved their game in 19th-century isolation, unseen by most other communities. As the only version of ‘hockey’ that could evolve, Halifax quietly and quickly became the singular home of *world-class* ice hockey the 1860s.

This is why it’s incorrect to say early ice hockey only needed any kind of skate and stick. There were two types of hockey, actually: one kind was based on any skate and stick, and the other—Halifax hockey—that required special skates and sticks.

Modern ice hockey's next great turn of events came in 1872 when a Halifax player moved to Montreal at the age of 22. James Creighton, history tells us he was an advanced skater, skilled hockey player with the instincts of a promoter.

Upon moving to Montreal, Creighton started hanging out with rugby players that were associated with McGill University and the Victoria Skating Rink. In what was likely the winter of 1872-73, Creighton's new chums decided to try playing lacrosse with skates. The experiment bombed.

By then, this son of Halifax may have been surprised to learn that nobody in Montreal played hockey on ice. He must have thought about Byron Weston, Joe Cope, William Gill and the others back in Halifax, as his new Montreal friends chased lacrosse balls until they had finally had enough. It would have been then, or soon afterwards, when Creighton suggested they try Halifax hockey.

But rather than suggest that everyone make their own sticks from trees, Creighton would have told the others that he would order Mi'kmaq sticks. In doing so, he put both his and Halifax's reputation on the line. Passing out the sticks wouldn't be enough—Creighton would have to lead by example. If he wanted to keep playing, he'd need to show the Montrealers the *sizzle* of Halifax hockey.

Imagine around two-dozen rugby players gathering at some frozen pond, possibly on the land where Montreal's Forum stands. Or nearby. All of the Montrealers have Canadian Acme skates or ones that incorporated their evolutionary advantages. These are the recipients of Montreal's first Mi'kmaq sticks. The Halifax conversion is now complete. Montreal is ready to start playing, a uniquely Canadian-Mi'kmaq version of hockey on ice.

It isn't difficult for hockey people to imagine what must happen in a scene where a motivated, and known-to-be-skilled player with ten years experience feels the need to show two dozen *total* newbies what it means to *tame* a puck on ice. Less obvious, is the part where Creighton had to overcome the aftertaste of the failed lacrosse experiment.

Whether he impressed during warm-up, at Montreal's first hockey game, or both, we know James Creighton *sold* the Montrealers on Halifax ice hockey. We call his performance the 'Selly of the Century' because Montreal took Halifax's game and molded into Canada's official way of playing Ice Hockey. That entire arc began when Creighton transferred *radix stellaris* hockey to Henry Joseph and the others. A near-sacred bond was formed between Montreal and Halifax-Dartmouth-Kjipuktuk that locks down the tale of lineal hockey history for all eternity. Contrary to current thinking, it is a tale that was largely driven by two Halifax technologies.

For two years the Montrealers played proper ice hockey, and very often according to Henry Joseph. Of them, only Creighton would have understood Halifax hockey's tremendous appeal in general. From the time he was around twelve he watched people increasingly play hockey on the waters around Halifax and Dartmouth. *Radix stellaris* hockey was a big deal back home, even though people didn't call it that. It may have led to the extinction of others old country games played during winter, like 'hurling on ice' (rickets), shinty on ice or grass hockey on ice.

It is widely assumed that James Creighton organized the first demonstration of 'Montreal' ice hockey at the Victoria Skating Rink (VSR) on the evening of March 3, 1875, two years after the Halifax-Montreal transfer. Around forty people paid to attend the event which is where early ice hockey's story begins in most narratives—ten years after the birth of the game's dominant player, which coincided with the 1863 introduction of the Halifax Skating Rink.

The confident Creighton probably wasn't surprised that the March 3rd match was very well-received. Demand for more "necessary" Mi'kmaq sticks definitely followed. (Those who wanted them were likely owners of Dartmouth's Acme skates, then in their tenth year.) Creighton grew a side business, but he had greater ambitions. The father of Montreal hockey wanted to build what would become one of Canada's greatest cultural pillars.

By 1881, lineal hockey had become such a staple in Montreal that the city decided to showcase the Halifax-Montreal game at its Winter Carnivals. These annual events drew tens of thousands of people from across North America, with some even traveling from Europe.

At the time of the first Winter Carnival, the most experienced Montrealers had the same level of experience using Mi'kmaq sticks and Acme skates that Creighton had at the birth of Montreal hockey. Much of their performance will tell us what Halifax hockey had become by the time of the 1872-73 transfer, therefore.

Although they continued to use the same technologies—or imitations of them—the Montrealers didn't exactly play *radix stellaris* hockey. Early on, rugby players that they were, the Montrealers introduced intentional hitting. This gave rise to two significantly different ways to play lineal hockey: the incidental contact way or with intentional hitting. Winter Carnival visitors saw Montrealers playing *radix stellaris hittem* hockey.

Kjipuktuk Mi'kmaq sticks would have been made available for purchase. Shipment solutions were conceived of in advance. As one sees with Toronto's and Winnipeg's introduction to *radix stellaris* hockey, wealthy Winter Carnival visitors would obtain Mi'kmaq sticks for cliques of friends who had long-ago obtained Dartmouth or Dartmouth-inspired skates.

The envy these cliques inspired had significant *lineal* consequences. Rather than wait for commercial sticks, the more ambitious onlookers fashioned ones that imitated the Mi'kmaq stick's flat, thin blade. With each imitation, the legacy of the Kjipuktuk Mi'kmaw spread. The commercial hockey stick market soon followed. Before long, the 'Micmac' stick became seen as just another brand of *hockey* stick—a superior one, but still just another. This is ironic, as the Mi'kmaw were literally buried by their own success. The term 'hockey stick' implies English provenance. It doesn't reflect how lineal ice hockey history played out. It's more accurate to say those commercial devices were actually "Mi'kmaq sticks," as they all borrowed the Mi'kmaw's prototypical flat, thin blade. Such reasoning would extend into the current age.

With the introduction of the Stanley Cup, Montreal's *hittem* hockey became the official way of playing elite men's hockey in Canada. Both versions thrived, as they do today, with incidental contact hockey having always been the more common version.

In 1886, the year of lineal ice hockey's first international games in Burlington, Vermont, the Montrealers published rules in the *Gazette* newspaper. That they named their charter the Amateur Hockey Association of Canada rules speaks to their ambitions. Drafted a couple of weeks earlier at the Victoria Skating Rink, the AHAC rules were a *Halifax-Montreal* charter its high-sticking rule dating back to 1860s Halifax, per the testimony of James Creighton's childhood friend, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge, Byron Weston.

Since their introduction, the original 1886 AHAC rules have become modern ice hockey's *Magna Carta*. Every version of the modern game, from beer leagues to the NHL, IIHF, and Olympic hockey, is derived from this template.

By the end of the 1800s Ice Hockey's first three Stars had conquered Canada. Their *Montreal-Halifax* invasion would soon spread to the USA and Europe. As hockey gained popularity, pressure grew to allow professionals to compete for the Stanley Cup. The first openly pro leagues emerged as soon as this happened. In a few years, by 1911, the National Hockey Association (NHA) became Montreal's top-dog.

In 1912, a new professional league appeared out west in Oak Bay, British Columbia. The Pacific Coast Hockey Association's debut game took place on January 2nd, involving the hometown Victoria Aristocrats and the New Westminster Royals. The PCHA was the brainchild of Frank and Lester Patrick, icons of great reputation who are said to have played with Art Ross in pond games at the site of Montreal's Forum, the greatest cathedral in 20th century hockey.

The birth of early Ice Hockey's Fourth Star marked the beginning of a rivalry that would divide Canada for fourteen years. The Patrick brothers used their father's wealth and their connections as elite players to lure top NHA players to British Columbia. It quickly became clear that PCHA hockey was just as good as the NHA's. When Stanley Cup trustees noticed this, they decided that the new Cup champion would be determined annually through a competition between the East and West champions.

To attract fans, the NHA and PCHA introduced various innovations while retaining all the essential elements of *radix stellaris hittem* hockey. The Patrick brothers were the greatest innovators, credited with introducing over two dozen modern features. All of these debuted in the West, establishing British Columbia as a key player in early ice hockey's development.

The West's final great innovation came in 1925, when the Victoria Cougars defeated the Montreal Canadiens by introducing shift hockey. In the NHL, players had been skating full sixty-minute games as players had always

played. In the 1925 Cup finals, Lester Patrick had the Cougars play in five-minute shifts, marking Stanley Cup hockey's introduction to attrition warfare. It is said that the series ended, well before its official conclusion, in west-central Oak Bay, on March 30, 1925. Whatever the truth, Georges Vezina, Howie Morenz, and the rest of the Montreal Canadiens were sent home as losers, thanks to the final major contribution of early ice hockey's fourth Star.

According to this reckoning, Ice Hockey's 'early' era ended in 1926. That year, the East hosted the Stanley Cup finals, with Victoria facing the Montreal Maroons at the newly constructed Forum. This time, the East won. Lester Patrick stayed in town to handle some business. On May 4th, he sold all of the West's player contracts to the NHL. This is how "the West was won" in the true story of Ice Hockey.

For the next forty-six years, elite hockey was largely defined by the NHL. Changes there were often adopted by lower leagues and institutions like the IIHF. From start to finish, this 'middle' period of modern ice hockey was almost exclusively a Canadian affair.

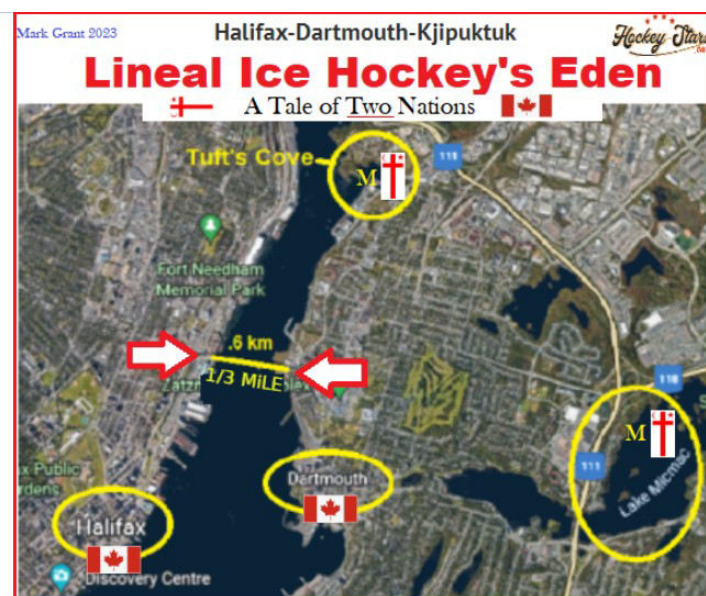
The middle era ended most dramatically, on Saturday September, 2, 1972 at Montreal's Forum which others have called the "Vatican of hockey." As the world looked on, the Soviet Union and Europe began the first of eleven test matches that pitted a team of Canadian NHL all-stars against players from the Soviet Union, Sweden, and Czechoslovakia's best leagues.

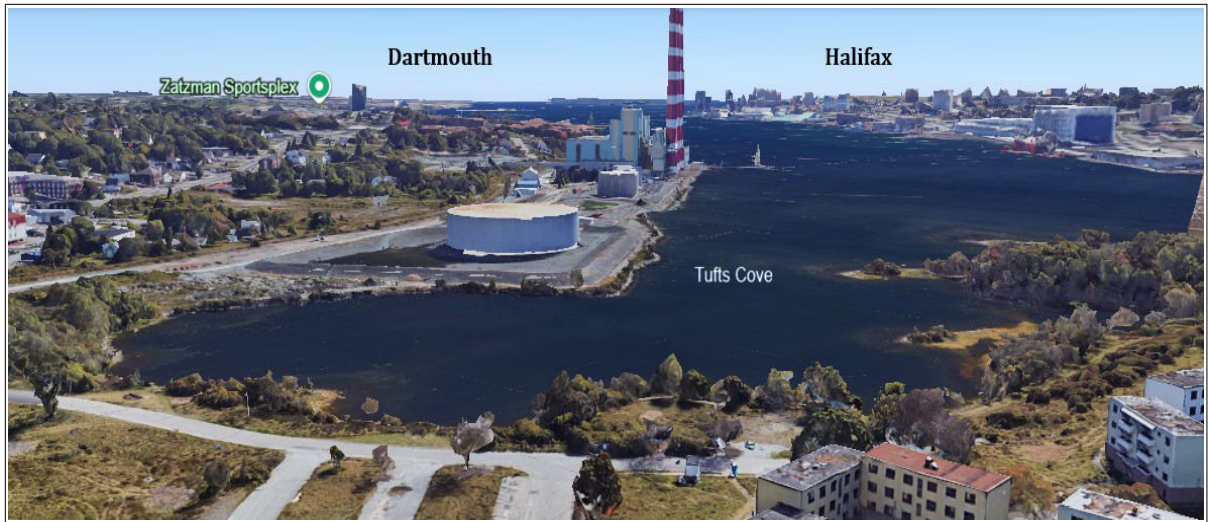
By the second period of that first game, it was clear that ice hockey had entered a new age. This was the great lesson of best-on-best hockey: Europe was no longer playing second-fiddle to North America. It wouldn't take long for the Americans to catch up either, which they did a few years before they won their first best-on-best title, at hockey's Vatican.

Since 1972, modern ice hockey has increasingly become a North American-European game. This is fitting, as only those two continents contributed to the creation of modern hockey, which began in Halifax, Nova Scotia, no earlier than the winter of 1749-50.

Tonight, as the world's best nations return to Montreal for the NHL's 4-Nations Playoff, they will play a game whose history is no mystery. It can be retraced concisely, in a retrospective journey that leads to one location: Halifax-Dartmouth-Kjipuktuk. The stick game that became modern ice hockey was literally born there, to the exclusion of all other places. It was, therefore, born in Canada and the Mi'kmaq First Nation, making it a Canadian-Mi'kmaq game in terms of its provenance.

Mark Grant – *The Four Stars of Early Ice Hockey, the Final Edition* Feb 11, 2025





Appendix I

Three notable items regarding the origins of Halifax-Dartmouth-Kjipuktuk ice hockey around 1749.

Thomas Raddall 1954 letter to DL Fisher on
"several" Halifax references to hockey on
ice in 1700s and early 1800s.

Dalhousie Archives

January 25th, 1954

D.M. Fisher, Esq.,
Lakehead Technical Institute,
Port Arthur, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Fisher,

In my research for the Halifax book I came across several references to hockey played on the ice in the latter 18th and early 19th centuries. These references were in letters and newspapers, but I did not make exact note of the sources because the point did not seem of historical value, and I invariably came across them in looking for something else. However I can give you one accurate reference. Thomas Chandler Haliburton ("Sam Slick") in "The Attache: Second Series", published in London, New York, Philadelphia and Boston in 1844. In reminiscing about his youth in Nova Scotia, and the games of his school-days (i.e. about 1810 — Haliburton was born in 1796) he writes of "the school room and the noisy, larkin' happy holidays, and you boys let out, racin', yelpin', hollerin' and whoopin' like mad with pleasure; and the playground and the game at base in the fields, or hurly on the long pond on the ice."

Tradition in Halifax is that the first white settlers found the Micmac Indians playing a form of hurley on the ice, and that officers of the British garrison later adopted it. Certainly the Micmacs had such a game. Silas T. Rand, in "Legends of the Micmacs" (Longmans, Green & Co., New York and London, 1894) records amongst other ancient Indian games, the ball game, "toodijik". He goes on to say (page 181) "Another kind is called wolchumadijik; this is played with hurleys, the ball being knocked along the ground." On page 200 he mentions it again, with an alternative spelling, — "Another game was Alchumadijik (hurley)." Remember that here he is speaking of Indians in their aboriginal state, when there were few open spaces in the forest where the ground was hard enough for such a game. When winter froze the lakes and rivers the obvious place for it was on the ice.

In 1943 there was an interesting discussion of the origin of ice hockey in the sport columns of the Halifax Herald and Mail. (I'm sorry I can't give date and month, my only note is a pencilled 1943 on the clipping) Frank Power, of Halifax, whose father James W. Power long conducted a sports column in these papers, contributed a long article under the title "Halifax Prominent in Early Stage Of Game", quoting largely from his father's notes. (James W. Power wrote sports for the Herald and Mail from about 1880 to 1937.)

James Power had known personally Colonel S.A. Weston, and he noted, "Colonel Byron Arthur Weston tells me he played hockey in the Sixties, and that they had games with the Micmac Indians who resided near the lake. 'They played with a block of wood for a puck,' said Col. Weston, 'and stones marking the place to score goals.'" Colonel Weston believes the Indians played the game on the Dartmouth Lakes long before the Sixties. The hockey sticks, which differed slightly from those in use today, were made by the Indians; and it may not be generally known that for many years sticks manufactured by these Indians have been shipped from here to the Upper Provinces and the United States."

This drew a letter from Joe Cope, an intelligent old Indian of the Micmac reserve at Millbrook, near Truro, N.S. It ran as follows:—

* Be the somewhat lengthy Fox Box over the origin of the Hockey Game in the Herald of the 26th and where it began, I believe the honor and credit belongs wholly to the Micmac Indians of this country, for long before the pale faces strayed to this country the Micmacs were playing two ball games, a field and ice game, which were identical in every way. Each had two goals which the Indians called forte and were defended by the owners. I do not believe any white man living today ever saw an Indian field game played because it was suppressed by the priests about 100 years ago on account of the somewhat cruel nature; a good second to a prize fight.

"My father, who died in 1915 at the age of 95, saw ...Indians of the old Ship Harbor Lake Reserve playing a skateless hockey game before the Reserve was abandoned about 100 years ago. When the Micmacs left the Ship Harbor Lake Reserve they came to Dartmouth, and camped on what was then known as Suston's Hill. Father said they played their old games in Weymouth and Oak Hill Lakes long before they moved up to the Dartmouth Lakes. I was born in a birchbark wigwag near the old Red Bridge on April 34th 1859, so I am no longer a papoose. The old Indian field game should be studied and revived by some sports enthusiasts for a change. It is a 20 men game -- 10 on each side. I well remember Col. S.A. Weston and other old players."

All this is sketchy, I know, but it throws some light on the descent of the game from Indians to whites in the region about Halifax. None of the earlier references I struck gave any description of the game. They merely mentioned games of hurley played on frozen lakes or streams. An objective research of early Halifax letters and newspapers might disclose more.

Sincerely,

I discovered this letter in 2023, which seems to have gone unnoticed in discussions of early Halifax ice hockey. This 1954 letter sheds more light on the two main sources we have - Raddall's, from 1948, and a 1965 essay by Dr. Bruce Fergusson. Raddall's mention of the "first" settlers being involved is new, and the "several" references he saw adds to Joe Cope's claim that the Mi'kmaq were playing pond hockey before the colonists arrival in 1749. - Mark Grant

Hockey Club

Thomas Raddall - Halifax: Warden of the North 1948 Nearby, at the Forum, he could indulge his sporting instincts in winter with ice hockey, a very old occupation in Halifax and Dartmouth. It is a fact little known in Canada, but a fact none the less, that ice hockey, Canada's national game, began on the Dartmouth Lakes in the eighteenth century. Here the garrison officers found the Indians playing a primitive form of hurley on the ice, adopted and adapted it, and later put the game on skates. When they were transferred to military posts along the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes they took the game with them and for some time afterwards continued to send to the Dartmouth Indians for the necessary sticks.

Dr. C. Bruce Fergusson Early Hockey at Halifax, 1965 - Halifaxians might just as well say that since troops were stationed at Halifax from 1749 it is quite possible that English troops played hockey in Nova Scotia as long ago as that year. There is also the likelihood that hockey was played on the Dartmouth Lakes in the eighteenth century. Perhaps the game was played by the Micmacs, as it has been stated, at Tufts Cove on Halifax Harbour, in the eighteenth century, and earlier also, with a rounded block of wood as a puck, and with eight men on each team.

Appendix II

1943; Two articles prove Halifax hockey was played by the Mi'kmaw and Halifax-Dartmouth settlers.

Joe Cope and Byron Weston describe “the” game that James Creighton introduced to Montreal in 1872-73.

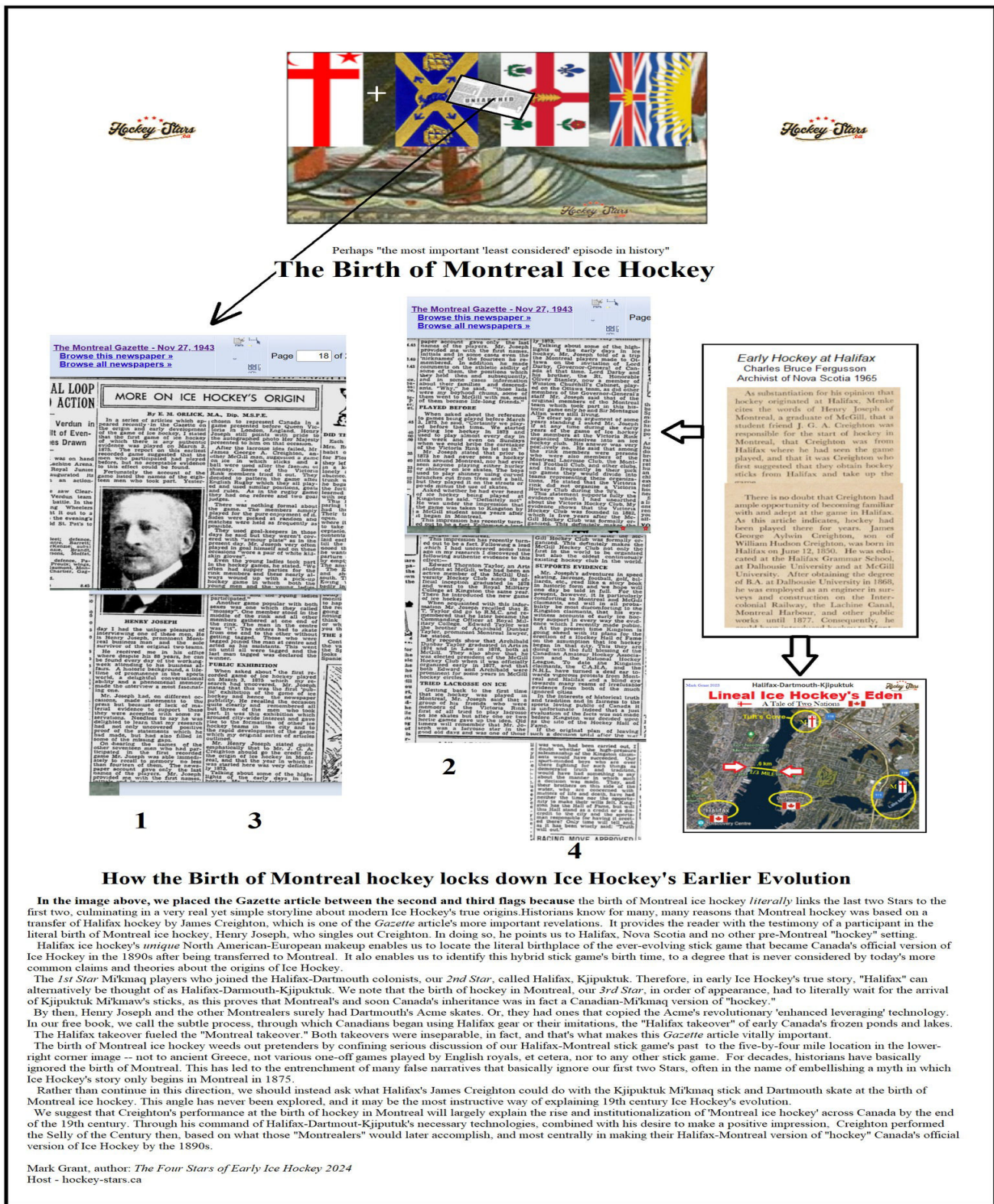
Cope was a Mi'kmaw player. Weston was a former mayor of Dartmouth, a Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge and, most significantly, a friend of Creighton since the age of ten.

Note the introduction of the high sticking rule. This Halifax piece of legislation was transferred to the 1877 Montreal rules, by James Creighton, and then the all-important AHAC rules of 1886.

Appendix III

The 1872-73 birth of Montreal hockey, as told by one of the participants, Henry Joseph. This is one of the most important primary sources in early Ice Hockey history, because of how it solves the so-called mysteries of modern Ice Hockey's origins.

As with the articles that involve Joe Cope and Byron Weston, this Montreal *Gazette* article from the same year, 1943, from the has gone lost to the general public.



consider the question.

HOCKEY.

THE DOMINION ASSOCIATION.

THE RULES AND WORKINGS OF THE NEW INSTITUTION.

The association for the governing and guidance of hockey in the Dominion of Canada, suggested by the GAZETTE, is now an accomplished fact, an evidence of which is the recent little volume of by-laws, rules and constitution which has been received from the secretary. The object of the association is stated to be to improve, foster and perpetuate the game of hockey in Canada; protect it from professionalism, and to promote the cultivation of kindly feeling among the members of Hockey clubs. The constitution is based on that of the N.A.L.A., with some alterations to suit its requirements. The laws of the game are given in view of the hold which it is expected the game will take, and with a view to familiarizing those interested with their technical points. These are as follows:—

1. The captains of contesting teams shall agree upon two umpires (one to be stationed at each goal) and a referee.

2. All questions as to games shall be settled by the umpires and their decision shall be final.

3. All disputes on the ice shall be settled by the referee, and his decision shall be final.

4. The game shall be commenced and renewed by a bully in the centre of the rink. Goals, six feet wide and four feet high, which shall be changed after each game, unless otherwise agreed.

5. When a player hits the puck, anyone of the same side who at such moment of hitting is nearer the opponent's goal line is out of play, and may not touch the puck himself, or in any way whatever prevent any other player from doing so until the puck has been played. A player must always be on his own side of the ball.

6. The puck may be stopped, but not carried or knocked on, by any part of the body. No player shall raise his stick above his shoulder, charging or shinning, tripping, collaring, kicking or shinning, shall not be allowed, and any player after having been twice warned by the referee, it shall become his duty to rule the player off the ice for that match.

7. When the puck gets off the ice behind the goals it shall be taken by the referee to five yards at right angles from the goal line and there faced. When the puck goes off the ice at the sides it shall be taken by the referee at five yards at right angles from the boundary line and there faced.

8. The goal-keeper must not, during play, lie, kneel or sit upon the ice, but must maintain a standing position.

"ICE HOCKEY'S MAGNA CARTA"

The Amateur Hockey Association of Canada's first rules : Published in 1886

Drafted earlier that month

at Montreal's Victoria Skating Rink

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8. The goal-keeper must not, during play, lie, kneel or sit upon the ice, but must maintain a standing position.

9. Hockey sticks shall not be more than three inches wide at any part.

10. Goal shall be scored when the puck shall have passed between the goal posts and below the top and passed from in front below an imaginary line across the top of posts.

11. The puck must be made of vulcanized rubber, one inch thick all through, and three inches in diameter.

12. A team shall be composed of seven players, who shall be bona fide members of the club they represent. No player shall be allowed to play on more than one team during a season except in a case of a bona fide change of residence.

13. Two half hours with an intermission of ten minutes between will be time allowed for matches. A match will be decided by the team winning the greatest number of games during that time. In case of a tie after playing the specified two half hours, play will continue until one side secures a game, unless otherwise agreed upon between the captains before the match.

14. No change of players must be made after a match has commenced except for reasons of accidents or injury during the game.

15. Should any player be injured during a match and compelled to leave the field his side shall have the option of putting on a spare man from the reserve to equalize the teams; in the event of any dispute between the captains as to the injured player's fitness to continue the game the matter shall at once be decided by the referee.

16. Should a game be temporarily stopped, by the infringement of any of the rules the puck shall be brought back and a bully shall take place.

Concerning championships the following is the code:—

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Section 1. The season shall be from the 1st of January to the 15th of March, both days inclusive.

Section 2. The club holding the championship trophy will accept all challenges in the order of their reception and shall be obliged to play all such championship matches with an intermission of not more than seven days between each match.

Section 3. All unsatisfied challenges on file with the champion club at time of their defeat by any other club in the association will be handed over to the authority of such club defeating them, to be played off by said club in order of rotation as specified in preceding section.

Section 4. Any club holding the championship will, on being defeated, deliver up the championship trophy to their victors within one week from date of such defeat.

Section 5. All challenges must be sent by registered post to the secretary of the club intended to be challenged.

Section 6. Any club holding the championship making default shall forfeit the championship and trophy to the club to whom they have made such default.

Section 7. All championship matches shall be played on a rink or ice furnished by the holders of the championship trophy.

Section 8. Any club in the association holding the championship for three years in succession shall become absolute owners of the championship trophy referred to in these rules.

The secretary is Mr. W. E. Stevenson, to whom all communications are to be addressed at post office box 1905, Montreal.

Montreal Gazette December 23 1886



"ALL versions of modern hockey are based on this Halifax-Montreal rules template." Mark Grant

