



Kalamalka Lake, near Vernon, B.C.

Souvenir Programme

ALLAN CUP FINALS

CHATHAM MAROONS
Eastern Canada Champions

VS.

VERNON CANADIANS
Western Canada Champions

1956

VERNON, B.C.

"BY THE LAKE OF MANY COLORS"



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

Incorporated A.D. 1892

Greetings:

Sports-wise and community wise, this 1956 West Versus East Allan Cup Final playoff for the Senior Amateur Hockey Championship of Canada is a significant event in the history of the City of Vernon and of the North Okanagan.

As Mayor of this City, I take real pleasure and great pride in welcoming to the Vernon Civic Arena the two Canadian finalists, our own beloved Vernon Canadians and the Chatham Maroons from Ontario, the eastern winners.

A year ago our Vernon team won its first British Columbia Senior Championship in fifty years. In that long interval the game was kept alive in the Okanagan by the devoted efforts of players and supporters in this City until to-day the Okanagan Valley and Kamloops is home to one of the leading senior leagues in Canada, housed in modern sports arenas.

In this final series, may the best team win in the highest traditions of good Canadian sportsmanship.

FRANK F. BECKER,
Mayor of the City of Vernon

ALDERMEN

(Mrs.) Geraldine F. Coursier
F. V. Harwood
J. S. Monk
H. J. Down
H. J. Murray

APRIL, 1956

AS A MATTER OF FACT, by Harry Tyrell

The Chatham Maroons have plenty of power and depth, as the following thumbnail sketch will show:

Marv Edwards in goal has been on two Memorial Cup winners, the Barrie Flyers and the St. Catherine's Teepees. His home is in Niagara on the Lake.

Marty Zorica, defenseman, born in Vancouver, now living in Sarnia, Ont., played junior for Windsor, senior hockey with Sarnia and Chatham, and was playing coach of Wallaceburg Hornets Sr. B Club.

Danny Blair on defense comes from South Porcupine, with with Guelph juniors three years, played on Memorial Cup winner. Has been with the Chatham club for the past three seasons.

Bill Flick, forward, native of Guelph, played junior hockey for Kitchener and has been with the Stratford Indians of the OHA four years.

Dick Kotanen, defense. From Port Arthur. Played for the Kamloops Elks in the OSHL. Played in the OHA for Windsor Bulldogs and Chatham for last two seasons.

Doug Baldwin. Team capt. Defense. Played with Quebec Aces when they won Allan Cup. Also played with Toronto Maple Leafs, in the NHL, Pittsburg in the AHL and Kansas City on the old U.S. Hockey League.

Ernie Dick. Forward. Native of New Hamburg, Ont. With Maroons for six seasons. Also played in International hockey league with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Eddie Busch. Forward. Played with Springfield and Cleveland in the AHL. Then went to Ohio and New Haven in the Eastern hockey league. Former resident of Regina and played junior in Windsor.

Graham Joyce. Forward. From Toronto. Played with Kitchener, then with Toledo of the International league before coming to Chatham this season.

Ron Halstead. Forward. Played junior with Galt and Guelph in the Ont. jr. circuit. With Wallaceburg senior B club part of this season and balance, Chatham.

Lou Bendo. Forward. Born in Timmins, Ont. Played junior with Toronto Marlboroughs. Then Stratford Indians for three seasons before joining the Maroons.

Ted Power. Forward. Well known at Pacific Coast. Native of Halifax. Played jr. with Ottawa and St. Catherines. Senior with Quebec Aces, pro with Syracuse and Three Rivers, Que. Also Charlottetown, PEI and Vancouver in the Western league.

Jimmy Connelly. Forward. Born in South Porcupine, Ont. With Guelph juniors when they won Memorial Cup. Played with Chatham for past three years.

Bill Chalmers. Forward. Played junior with Guelph and Galt, Ont. Also was with the Kelowna Packers of the OSHL for a spell.

Eric Unger. Defense. Home is at St. Catherines. Played with Niagara in OHA. Pro with Vancouver Canucks and Springfield in the AHL. Was a member of the Toronto Lyndhursts when they played in the world championships overseas.

Lloyd Ferguson. Forward. From Hamilton. Played pro with Winnipeg. Stratford Indians in the OHA. Hamilton, Niagara and Chatham Maroons this season.

Alex Viskelis. Forward. From Montreal. Played junior in Montreal, and Waterloo. This is first year senior.

Dick Piatkowski. Born in Kitchener and has played with Oshawa, Ont. Senior hockey with Windsor and Chatham in the OHA. Went to Wallaceburg Sr. B club and was called up again as spare goalie for the Maroons.

THE VERNON SENIOR HOCKEY CLUB

Hockey in Vernon started around 1898, playing against teams over in the Kootenays. Then in 1903-4 the Vernon club won themselves the B.C. senior A championship defeating Sandon. Again in 1912-13 they latched onto the A title, from then till about 1924 hockey was in the doldrums around these parts.

In 1928 intermediate hockey took over, and from then till 1941, the Coy cup seemed to have established residence in Vernon. Senior hockey again started rolling in 1947-48, when we lost out in the B.C. finals to the Kimberley Dynamiters. Dave MacKay came to town in 1948 and again things started to buzz. From that time up till now, the Vernon Canadians have been building up a club that could take its place in Allan Cup history.

In the coaching dept. we have had Alex Kuly, Dave MacKay, Alex Ritson, and our present coach George Agar for the past three seasons.

The Vernon hockey club have been fortunate in having the top caliber of men during the past years handling the business end of the club's affairs, and this one is a repeat from last year. President George Castonguay acted as team manager last year, and this season has taken over the task of running the club with wonderful help from the balance of the executive. Treasurer Andy Johnston has kept the team financially solvent, and with the co-operation of the players many headaches have been eliminated.

EXECUTIVE:

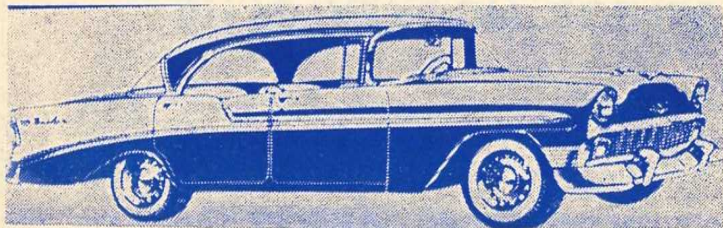
President—George Castonguay
Vice-President—Arthur F. Crowe
Second Vice-President—Carl Sorensen
Treasurers—Andy Johnston
Bert Livingston
Secretary—Tommy Barton
Club Physician—Dr. John R. Smith

DIRECTORS:

Bill MacKenzie, Biff Bowes, Del Eastwood
(President of Ladies' Auxiliary), Art Dunn,
George Henry, Archie McLean and Dave
Howrie.



GEORGE CASTONGUAY



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VERNON MOTOR

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-

Cadillac

W. Lowe

Geo. Agar

Willie Schmidt

Johnny Harms

Frank Gray

Art Hart

Tom Steep

Don McLeod

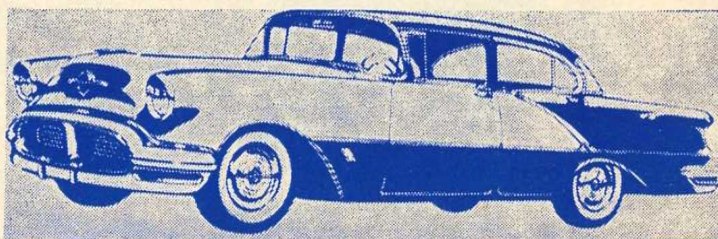
Orval Gault

CHATHAM MAROONS

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Marv. Edwards, goal | | |
| 2 | Marty Zorica, d | | |
| 3 | Danny Blaid, d | | |
| 4 | Bill Flick, f | | |
| 5 | Dick Kotanen, d | | |
| 6 | Doug Baldwin, cpt, d | | |
| 7 | Ernie Dick, f | | |
| 8 | Eddie Busch, f | | |
| 9 | Graham Joyce, f | | |
| 10 | Ron Halstead, f | | |
| 11 | Lou Bendo, f | | |
| 12 | Ted Power, f | | |
| 14 | Jimmy Connelly, f | | |
| 16 | Bill Chalmers, f | | |
| 17 | Eric Unger, d | | |
| 18 | Lloyd Ferguson, f | | |
| 19 | Alex. Viskelis, f | | |

Coch: Murph Chamberlain
Trainer: Tommy Jacques

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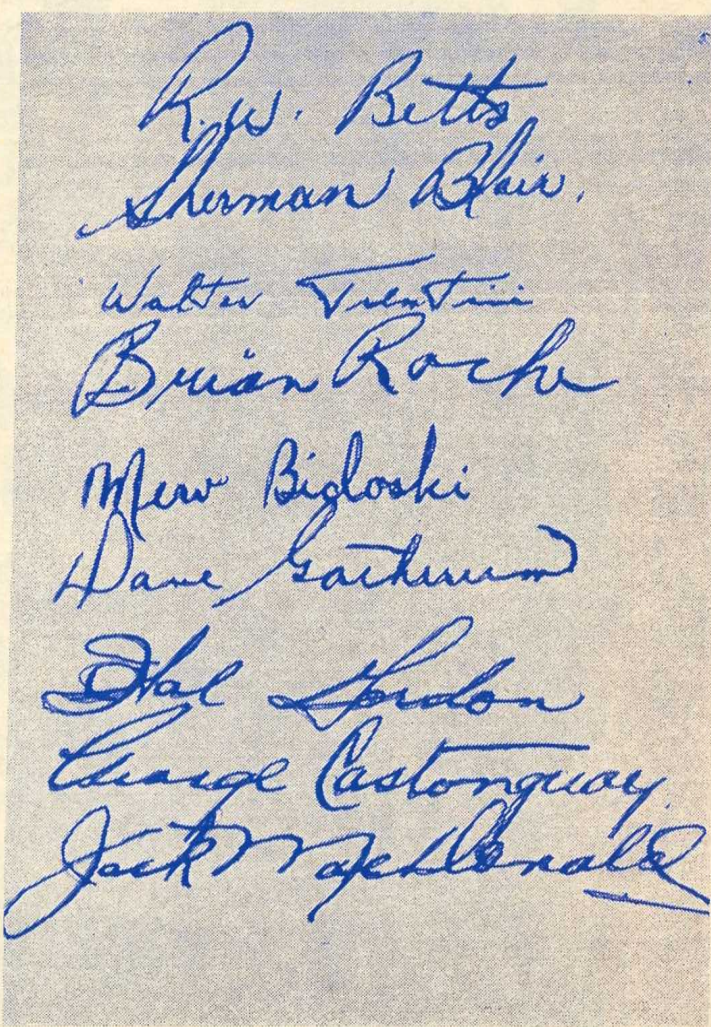
illac

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Oldsmobile

VERNON CANADIANS

1	Hal Gordon, g		
2	Tommy Stecyk, d		
3	Don McLeod, d		
4	Willie Schmidt, d		
5	Orval Lavell, d		
6	Odie Lowe, f		
7	Johnny Harms, f		
8	Walt Trentini, f		
9	Sherman Blair, f		
0	Frank King, f		
1	Merv Bidoski, f		
2	Art Hart, f		
3	George Agar, f		
4	Jack MacDonald, f		
5	Brian Roche, f		
6	Yogi Kraiger		



Playing Coach: George Agar
 Spare Goalie: Dave Gatherum



VERNON CANADIANS, 1955-56

Winners of the Okanagan Senior Hockey League title and losers of only three games in 20 playoff starts to date, the Canadians now play the Chatham Maroons for the Allan Cup. Left to right, back row: George Caslongway (president and manager), Walt Trentml, Sherm Blair, Tom Stecyk,

Merv Bidoski, Art Hart, trainer Reg Betts. Middle row: Orval Lavell, Jack MacDonald, Johnny Harms (captain), Willie Schmidt, Don McLeod, Frank King. Front row: Hal Gordon, Odie Lowe, George Agar (coach), Brian Roche, Dave Gatherum (spare goalie).

—Photo by Kernode

Meet the Vernon Canadians

HAL GORDON . . goal

Hal has been just about tops of all goalies in the OSHL since he first came to the Okanagan from Calgary. For the past three seasons Hal has shown why he rates on an all-star team. This season he had a 4.11 ave., tops for the four clubs. He has been around hockey quite a spell, seeing action in the Maritimes, and pro leagues in the East. Well might he be named "The Mighty Mite."

WILLIE SCHMIDT . . defense

Willie has played a lot of pro hockey both on the prairies and at the coast. Three seasons ago he coached the Nelson Maple Leafs to the Savage Cup finals against the Penticton Vees, and lost a tough series in eight games. This is Willie's second season with the club, and was on the OSHL all-star team this year.

DON McLEOD . . defense

Don graduated from junior hockey back in Port Arthur, came west and attended the Seattle club's training camp. He was farmed to Vernon, and has been with the Canadians since then, with the exception of a few months at the start of this season when he spent ice time with the Trail Smokies. He is a hard body checker, and carries quite a reputation for doing just that.

TOMMY STECYK . . defense

Tommy is the only charter member on the Canadians' lineup. He came to Vernon after graduating from the Westminster Cubs jr. squad. That was back in 1948, and Tommy has made just about every all-star team since that time. A methodical player, with an illusive shift, that starts his forwards away on goal scoring sprees. He has scored over 100 goals since joining the Canadians and is one of the top defensemen in the league when it comes to scoring from the point.

YOGI KRAIGER . . defense

Yogi joined the club Tuesday, adding strength to the Canadians' defense. Was with Sudbury for two years. Played against the Vees. Has been with the Trail Smokies in the WIL till the present time.

SHERMAN BLAIR . . left wing

The "Tank" as he is known, is a graduate of junior hockey in Calgary, has played senior hockey in B.C. before, and then was in the Scottish league for a spell, winning the scoring championship during his last season over there. He has been with the Canadians for three years, and each season has been near the top of the league's scoring parade. This season he had 32 goals and 37 helpers for a total of 69 points.

ORVAL LAVELL . . defense

"Stretch," as he is called by his teammates, brings a wealth of experience to the Vernon rearguard quartette. He has played a lot of pro hockey and has seen action in the old Maritime league, and three seasons ago was out here with the Sudbury Wolves, when they were defeated by the Vees. "Stretch" is another defenseman that revels in the tough going, and can throw a bodycheck with the best of them.

GEORGE AGAR

. . center and playing coach

This is George's third season with the Canadians, and has proved his ability by taking the Canadians to the Western Canada finals last year and now in his third season, has his club in the Allan Cup finals. He is also one of the very few hockey players that has scored well over 300 goals during his career on the ice, and he is still going strong. He finished this season with 32 goals and 56 assists for a total of 89 points. He has played a lot of pro hockey, and was on the Western pro loops all-star team three years ago. He played with the Calgary Stampeders at that time.



COACH GEORGE AGAR

Compiled by Harry Tyrell and printed by The Vernon News Ltd. for the Vernon Hockey Club.

Meet the Vernon Canadians

WALT TRENTINI . . right wing

Walt is another player that has seen pro service, being with the Calgary Stampeders two years ago, finishing up that season with the Trail Smoke Eaters. He is able to adopt himself to any position, and often works at center ice. This season he finished the year with 31 goals and 45 assists for a grand total of 76 points.

ODIE LOWE . . center

Odie led the club in the regular league scoring race, winding up with 91 points, made up of 43 goals and 48 assists. The Snapper has also seen pro ice duty, and came out here with the Winnipeg Maroons three years ago. He was their coach at the time and lost out in the Western finals to the Vees. A very deceptive player, with the knack of being able to hook check the puck away, go in and setup his wings for a scoring opportunity.

JOHNNY HARMS . . capt. and right wing

This is the second season for Johnny to wear the team capt. letter, and is another player that has been in action with pro clubs. Coming here from the Nelson Maple Leafs in the WIL. he is the plugger of the club, getting that puck into center ice from the corners is his specialty. Johnny missed 17 games during the regular season, but finished with 41 points, 16 goals and 25 assists.

FRANK KING . . left wing

Frank carries many nick names on the club. The Tipper and the Scorchers are two that stay with him. Without doubt, Frank is the greatest opportunist playing hockey in senior ranks today. Whenever he gets in front of the net, bang, another goal. Sold to Montreal Canadiens for \$20,000 when he was a junior, Frank has come up through the ranks, and always on a winning team. He came west with the Sudbury Wolves, and has stayed here since. Had 74 scoring points this year.

MERV BIDOSKI . . left wing

Merv is a product of Vernon minor hockey, having gone through our minor setup from midget up. This is his third year as a regular, having played with the Prince Albert Min-to's three years ago. He is a terrific skater, and his 180 pounds are deceiving to opposing defensemen. Merv wound up this year with 59 points in the league's scoring.

ART HART . . left wing

The speed ball and the fire brand of the Canadians, is this youngster just out of junior hockey. Last season with Lethbridge, he is the youngest man on the Canadians, and is close to being the fastest skater in the OSHL. He is a former Alberta Golden Gloves Boxing champ, and sometimes mixes that with hockey. He tallied 48 points this season in regular league play, and came close to being runner up as the league's bad man.

JACK McDONALD . . center

A grad of Edmonton hockey and a member of the world's champion Vees for three seasons, Jack was called up by the Canadians to give them that extra punch down the middle. He had 79 points in league play. Jack likes it when the going is rough, and will give the Maroons defensemen a hard time during the coming series.

BRIAN ROCHE . . right wing

Last season Brian was with the Canadians when they went east for the western Canada finals, and this season went back to the Kelowna Packers. He was picked up by coach Agar for his great scoring ability and general play making. Brian finished fourth in the league scoring with 93 points.

DAVE GATHERUM . . spare goalie

Dave is a newcomer to the Okanagan Valley, this being his first year in the Okanagan. He played a standout job of netminding for the Packers all this season, and was a wise choice by Agar to take over the extra goal tending duties. He is the chattle of one of the NHL teams, and could be called up next year to a junior pro club. He finished this season second in the net minding dept.

REG BETTS . . trainer

Reg has been looking after the aches and bruises for the Canadians for the past five years, and previous to that wore the Canadians blue and white colors.

In this rough league of ours, Reg sometimes had a rough job to keep the boys on the ice, but always seems able to come up with a good patching job. He has been around hockey for years, and played some hockey overseas.



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