

## Windsor, Nova Scotia - The Birthplace of Hockey

Windsor's claim as the birthplace of hockey is rooted in a passage from writer Thomas Chandler Haliburton's book *The Attache* (1844), in which he recalls his formative years at King's Collegiate School in the early 1800s: "...**you boys let out racin', yelpin', hollerin', and whoopin' like mad with pleasure and the play-ground, and the game at base in the fields, or hurley on the long pond on the ice...**" This early game of "hurley on ice," adapted from the Irish field game of hurling, is thought to have evolved over the course of 75 years to become the game of ice hockey, first played in Montreal in 1875.

The evolution of ice hockey is not just a Windsor story, but truly a Nova Scotia story. Halifax native James Creighton, who introduced ice hockey in Montreal, used Halifax rules--as well as Starr skates from Dartmouth, and Mi'kmaq-made sticks crafted in Nova Scotia.

Stick-and-ball games have existed for thousands of years, and ice games were played in Europe and by the Mi'kmaq long before 1800. What makes Windsor's claim unique (compared to those of Halifax, Montreal, or Kingston) is a sense of continuity, or what hockey historian David Carter calls "stickiness." The things that existed in the 1800s are still here today--Long Pond, KES, and Haliburton House—and form a continuous link to the modern game.

Hockey has been played in Windsor for over 200 years, from the Stannus Street Rink (1897), to Exhibition Arena I (1950), Exhibition Arena II (1982), to our state-of-the-art West Hants Sports Complex (2020). Hockey lives here!