

Riverview Community Club Memories submitted by Wayne Stewart

The Riverview Community Club commenced with an ice rink, field and a railway boxcar in which to change your skates. In **1948** the boxcar was replaced with a new yellow stucco building.

Riverview Community Club had free skating and hockey rinks with teams in peewee, playground, midget and juvenile. The boys played hockey and the girls figure skated. The kids skated until our toes were numb; when we couldn't feel our toes any more, it was time to go in, loosen the laces and pound our feet a bit. Our fingers developed calluses from tying and untying laces. The big event for the boys was having a shinny game every winter weekend and it would consist of 10 or more players on each team. They all played at one time, as no one wanted to stand on the snow bank and watch. It improved your skating, stick handling and passing immensely and made us all better hockey players.

In the fall of **1953** the principal of Riverview School, Mr. Ron Thompson, decided the onus was on him to give Riverview an identity as a junior high school. The sport he chose to give Riverview a reputation was speed skating. Mr. Thompson took the matter in hand. He persuaded Fred Green, then president of the community, to have a speed skating rink flooded on the football field, and we began to train at lunch hour. All skaters went skating at noon instead of going home. Riverview entered the Winnipeg Public Schools competition and our practices had paid off as we started to place in the standings.

In February of **1955** the city schools championships were decided at the Amphitheatre rink where Riverview won the Junior High competition.

The unlimited junior girls relay placed first with the team of Margaret Muirhead, Linda Thorsteinson, Carol Lawrence and Janice Muirhead.

Brian Allan and John Hodges won the unlimited junior high boys singles in **1954** and then Brian won again in **1955**. The unlimited junior high boys champions were Wayne Stewart, Al Ackland, John Mansley, and Cliff Leach (picture attached).

Besides the speed skating, we all played hockey at Riverview and assisted the custodian, John Halldorson, with cleaning the ice services and flooding the rinks.

1952-1953 the Riverview Bantam hockey team won the Winnipeg city south division. Our coach was Barry Williamson and the players were Trevor Stinson, Ed Kostaka, Al Wolfe, John Mansley, Barry Mitchell, Fred Pritchard, Jim Wolfe, Pat Roy, Mike Piercy, Gerry Barcell, Fred Ross, Henry Meledjus, George McKay, and Wayne Stewart. (picture attached). (Also attached is a picture of the Riverview jacket that we were given for winning the south division).

1952 and 1953 most of the hockey team played six-man football for the Riverview Panthers and a couple of names that did not play on the hockey team were Ron Pritchard and Art Friesen.

1955 Riverview had a Midget baseball team and it was a good team made up of players from Riverview and Lord Roberts. Names that come to mind are Cliff Leach, John Kemp, Don Hewitt, Andrew Tait, Wayne Johnston, Stu Cherry, Brian McLeod, Elmer Malakoff, Brian Wright, Mike Piercy, George Trafton, Phillip Wake, and Wayne Stewart.

1956 I coached the Riverview Pony league baseball team, which lost out in the city final. It was a great team made up of fine boys. Brian Lunney, Doug Jackman, George Trafton, Don Baizley, Ted Yelland, Brant Heywood, Bruce Wright, Ron Thorsteinson, Clive Morrison and maybe someone can help out with the other team members.

1956-1957 I coached the Playground "A" hockey team and they won the city south division championship. Players that come to mind are Don Baizley, Clive Morrison, Brent Hayward, George Trafton, Brian Price, Ingi Ingleson, Don Brewster, Bruce Wright, Brian Lunney, Mike Hanford, Billy Rae, Dale Reid, Jerry Moore, Ken Katchluk, Den Jackman, Brian Pascoe, Duff Jackman and Jerry Moore. (Pictures of crests are attached).

As you can see we spent most of our time at the community club and if we were not playing sports we attended the teen dances, which were held on Friday nights.

With reference to the hockey players in the fifties there were seven or eight that went on to play Major Junior Hockey, and Professional Hockey.

For your information the late Melinda McCracken of Riverview wrote a book titled MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS published by James Lorimer & Company. Published in Toronto 1955. This was a story of the generation who were teenagers in the Fifties living in Riverview.

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