



Town of Onaping Falls – March 15, 2019

Join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Hardy Hockey Club.

The Hardy Hockey Club is a not-for-profit hockey organization that has been in existence since 1969. In the beginning, the Club's main goal was to provide a low-cost men's recreational hockey team based in Levack, Ontario at the I.J. Coady Memorial Arena and has provided this service for our community for the past 50 years. The Hardy Hockey Club has become a staple in our community. In conjunction with the Onaping Falls Recreation Committee, the celebration is planned for Saturday, April 27th, 2019.

Please find enclosed an article written by one of the founding members of the Hardy Hockey Club, Jack MacLellan.

EVENT

Join us for a semi-formal evening of dinner and dancing at the Dowling Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 27th, 2019. Cocktail hour begins at 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm.

Registration is required for dinner at \$ 50 per person and includes dinner, dance, souvenir, photo booth, door prizes, live entertainment and free ride home (from Cartier to Azilda after 11 pm).

Dance begins at 9 pm and is open to the public for a cost of \$ 10 per person.

Associated Link

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/597329080739313>
- www.ofrecreationcommittee.com

For further information and to register contact:

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The Hardy Hockey Club – The First Half-Century

By Jack MacLellan

A little more than a year and a half before his passing, J. Gordon Hardy, former mining engineer and later President of Falconbridge Nickel Mines, was able to see his namesake mine and mill start production in 1955. The establishment of the Hardy complex was the beginning of Falconbridge's development of its "West End" and was followed by several mines and two more mills. Hardy was always the smallest mill in the companies' suite and the camaraderie of its employees was envied elsewhere within the company.

In the fall of 1969, a group of young men at Hardy Mill got together and decided to have a little fun playing a friendly game of shinny hockey on the outdoor rink in Onaping, Falconbridge's company town. Al Stacey, Jim Craig and Jack MacLellan, who worked in various departments of the mill decided to arrange a game for a Friday or Saturday night. It was planned to make it a competition between the office and lab employees and the mill mechanics.

Due to the "intensity" of this great match, in freezing temperatures, it was decided that thirst quenching bottles of water would freeze so an alternate solution appeared on the goaltenders nets. A rematch was planned after the game as everyone had had a great time. After a few more games it was decided that a group would be put together to challenge the Onaping Oldtimers who actually played indoors at the Levack Arena. Having a roof over their heads instead of stars so befuddled the Hardy boys that they lost their first indoor game 16-3!

After playing a few more times together with borrowed equipment, the group decided to create one team. Fundraisers were carried out to be able to buy team sweaters, socks and goaltender equipment. The equipment was purchased from DeMarco Sports in Sudbury in the colours of the Boston Bruins. It has been lost in time why the colours of the Bruins were chosen, but it is likely the drawing of a team crest by the late Don Cholmondeley may have been the reason as the teams' name "Hardy Hockey Club" fit neatly in that design. As it was, Jack MacLellan was a fierce Maple Leaf devotee and there was no shortage of Montreal Canadien supporters in the mill.

With the organization of the Hardy Hockey Club, Al Stacey who had found out in the meantime that goaltending was not his strength, became coach, while Jack MacLellan was chosen Captain and Assistant Captains Don Cholmondeley and Don Cook were named. Ice times were arranged at the Dowling arena on Thursday nights between 9:30 pm and 11 pm. Each week games would be arranged with other old-timer teams in the area including Dowling Oldtimers, Onaping Oldtimers, Falconbridge Oldtimers, Azilda, Oldtimers and Barrydowne Oldtimers. Throughout the years the team has played on outdoor rinks and in many local arenas as well as on the road including in Little Current, New Liskeard, Mattawa, Toronto and Verner.



Money was raised to support the team by running hockey pools, stags and raffles. Also, working at the Dowling Winter Carnival with setup of games, running the Malamute Saloon and hosting a few hockey house-league tournaments at the Dowling arena. Falconbridge Nickel Mines (now Glencore) was generous each year with a donation to the club based on the number of active recorded members.

When Al Stacey left due to job commitments in 1978 Don Cholomondeley took over his position as well as playing and Jim Larocque came onboard as coach. Don Cook and Brian Abrams took over Don Cholomondeleys' duties when he stopped playing in 1995. In 2005 Jack MacLellan retired after 35 years with the club. When Don Cook retired in 2006 Chris Kiernan then handled the teams' interests which he is continuing to do to this day.

We always had a solid core of players, however, when we were short we would pick up a player or two for a game thus the number of players that played over the years is well over a hundred.

Over all these years the purpose of this organization was to go out and have some fun once or twice a week. There was never any stress about having to win because it really wasn't about the game itself but about the camaraderie and the kibitzing, trick playing and friendly insults. This is what the Hardy Hockey Club is all about and why it is still operating to this day.