

# A History of Lacrosse in North Glenora 1965-1972

by John E. Tayler

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**“How did lacrosse start here?”** A question that I have been asked many, many times over the past seven years. The answer is almost “give a boy a stick and ball and anything can happen!”

It did! The following pages, hopefully will present a picture of the What, When, Where, Why & Who of lacrosse in North Glenora since its conception seven years ago.

In September 1965 a good friend, Ron Dempsey, and I were sitting having coffee in my kitchen. Both of us were involved in the hockey and baseball programs of the Federation of Community Leagues and we were discussing the work involved in scheduling a six week baseball program every spring – right after the end of a winter long hockey season. Was it worth it? Was there another game that would involve boys for a longer period? Well, there was lacrosse! But who knew anything about it? How could it be started? Both of us had played years ago – he in Winnipeg and myself in Edmonton. We decided to phone Jack Reilly, Director of Athletic Programs and an old friend at (*Edmonton*) Parks and Recreation Department, City Hall. He agreed it was a good idea and knew a couple of fellows who were experts in the game. Shortly after, toward the end of September – George Gamble, Keith Hutcheon, Henry John

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(from Parks & Rec), myself, and Jack Reilly met in his office at City Hall. Ron Dempsey also attended that first meeting but was most definite in not getting any further involved except to give his vocal support (which was and is considerable).

Of the many meetings that followed – perhaps the one on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1965 - was the real core seed that gave birth to the revitalization of lacrosse in Edmonton and in the Province of Alberta.

We formed a Steering Committee and held meetings all of that winter of '65-66. We found others who were interested in working towards our new established goal – to form an organization that would give boys and young adults the opportunity to play the Game all of us had enjoyed so much in our younger days. Bill Waterman and Jim Milton of Inglewood, Larry Geldhart of Ottwell and John Retallack Sr. became a part of the embryo E.M.L.A. (*Edmonton Minor Lacrosse Association*).

Although we were perhaps naïve and over enthusiastic promoters of the Game at every opportunity – we found out very quickly that our rather parochial dedication was not shared by the public, other organizations, or indeed City Hall (with the exception of Henry John and Jack Reilly).

A few obstacles to the achievement of our Aims and Objectives were:

1. There were no retail or wholesale suppliers of Lacrosse equipment in Edmonton. Nor was there any real interest.
2. The public image of Lacrosse was a tarnished blood-spattered, potbelly memory of the game at its worst in its history in the late 1940s.
3. Despite Jack Riley's enthusiasm, City Hall did not look favourably on spending tax dollars on facilities for “something that might not catch on’.
4. The same outlook applied to “might be sponsors” - wait and see if lacrosse catches on - then we might help you.
5. Community leagues were apathetic towards lacrosse as it might upset their ball programs - How could a boy play both lacrosse and ball?
6. Although the four of us were certain we could find the boys in our communities - how would we get sticks, balls, nets, boxes, goalie equipment and player equipment?
7. How would we raise money?
8. Who would referee?

## 9. How could we arrange for clinics?

In the spring and summer of 1966 boys from Ottwell, Meadowlark, Inglewood, and North Glenora learned to catch and throw in dirt boxes using hockey goal nets and hockey goalkeepers equipment. Players revamped their hockey equipment and wore home-made kidney and arm pads.

In North Glenora itself, I had bought the only three lacrosse sticks in local sports stores. Bill, my son, and Alan Heather were the first boys to have a “throw around” in the North Glenora box in the spring of 1966. Subsequently, some of the members of Stan Kirk’s successful North Glenora midget (*hockey*) team of ‘65-66 joined them. Russ McFall, John Monsma, Ron Mussieux, Larry Davis, Gerry Hunt, Dave Smith, Barry Konkolus, Doug Parsons, Jim McFall, Doug Kassian, Dennis Cronk, and John Retallack. These were the originals. Other boys - younger and older - watched over the boards - seeing for the first time the attempts of these “few” to learn Canada’s Game. It became obvious that sticks were needed and these were ordered from Chisolm Lacrosse Mfg. in Cornwall, Ont. The first dozen came C.O.D. and were paid for and subsequently sold to the boys. After a few more C.O.D. orders credit lines were established and for the next five years sticks were purchased direct from Chisolm and sold to players at cost.

We made kidney pads from an old quilted “silence cloth” and extended hockey shoulder pads with the same material. Old community league practice sweaters and “cut-offs” became our first uniforms. Felt or wrap around foam kidney pads - even homemade knee pads - using a nylon stocking filled with foam rubber and tied around the knee - were used. During the first lacrosse summer in North Glenora we practiced catching and throwing and shooting with boys from 12-18 years of age. I endeavoured to teach basic skills and to instill a philosophy of learning among the boys. It soon became obvious to me, the teacher, and to the boys - that there was and is no format to make “Instant Lacrosse Players”. **I believe that the boys learned “patience in learning” as I did in teaching.** Those who did not have this quality didn’t last long - but others came along all the time.

During that summer we played a few exhibition games against Bill Waterman’s Inglewood players and Larry Geldhart’s Ottwell players. These were a sort of impromptu Sunday afternoon social affair held in the North Glenora box. The parents and friends hung over the boards watching the players who had far more enthusiasm than technical ability. If more than 3 consecutive passes were made - it was an occasion for all the fans to cheer wildly, as the ball was normally on the ground surrounded by a maze of players trying to pick it up in a cloud of dust. Despite the size of the hockey nets relative to lacrosse nets - the score was usually very small like 3-2 or 1-1 or 2-0.

**We were not very good at lacrosse then but the spark of enthusiasm for the game was kindled into a flame which came later.**



A few of the boys who played in those games: Ray Anaka (Ottwell), Dave Kutt, (Eddie's big brother), Craig Meredith, Billy Quinn, Len Fasek, Bill Buckley, the Graham bros., and Don Waterman for Inglewood. During the season some younger boys began to be interested in North Glenora Lacrosse - Tom Cairns, Wayne Lamoureux, Donnie Konkolus, Mark Valastin, Glen Glasgow, John South, Keith Carter, Bob Johnston, Bob McFall, Harvey Clarke, and others.

That fall of '66 and the winter of '66-67 saw the formation of the E.M.L.A. (*Edmonton Minor Lacrosse Association*) and the establishment of the A.L.A. (*Alberta Lacrosse Association*). Again, as in the previous winter, many meetings were held. Liaison was established with the B.C.L.A. (*British Columbia Lacrosse Association*) and the Canadian Lacrosse Association (*C.L.A.*). It is noteworthy that both these associations assisted us greatly in our growth. Our problem at the time was that all of us were wearing "too many hats". As Lacrosse Directors in our own communities and on both E.M.L.A. and A.L.A. Executive Committees, it was too much. New blood however came into the Lacrosse scene - Bill Tieland, Gordon McLeod, & Ron Carter (N.G.) joined us and contributed their time and effort toward the common goal and Ron Carter and Bill Tieland still are.

That winter saw several local clinics in high school gyms and another "high" in the growth of lacrosse was the C.L.A. Clinic held in the spring of 1967. We obtained films and "how to books" and tried the C.A.C. (*Canadian Athletic Club - the organization that ran competitive hockey in north west Edmonton*), Sports Councils and Community Leagues to get lacrosse going. Peter Black new coach of the Senior A Salmonbellies and Bev Groves conducted a successful 2 day clinic at the U of A.

The Centennial year 1967, actually was the first year of organized lacrosse in Edmonton and Calgary. I was privileged to coach an "All Star Team" of Bantams, basically a North Glenora team and play against

the powerful peewee champions, the New Westminister Salmonbellies. We wore the "Centennials" sweaters purchased by the E.M.L.A. and later (1968) purchased by North Glenora. We were beaten but learned a lot. Other games were played against Calgary. Our Juveniles played the Calgary Seniors. They beat us in Calgary but we managed a win in Edmonton. This showed us that size or age were not as awesome as it appeared and was again a "high" in our growth – and again we learned a lot.

In league play in Edmonton there were 4 Juvenile teams - Inglewood, North Glenora, Ottwell, and Meadowlark, 3 Bantam teams - Inglewood, North Glenora, Meadowlark. North Glenora lost to Meadowlark in the Juvenile finals (that game - the tension was high. I pulled my team off with a few minutes to go and by doing so gave the title to the Larks). Our Bantams won in overtime 10-9 against Inglewood.



The fall and winter of 1967-68 saw continuing activity - a regular winter lacrosse program was set up for North Glenora and from October to April weekly training and instruction took place in the Ross Sheppard Gymnasium and Westminister Junior High School.

It was during this period that real efforts were made by the North Glenora players to raise money. We now had a set of lacrosse pipes - made by Ollie Olafson of our (North Glenora) community - and had purchased nets. But other than old community league sweaters, we had no uniforms. I had made a set of

wooden goals for gym practice sessions which proved invaluable until they were replaced by a metal set made by Ron Mussieux's father a couple of years later.

**Even at this early time we were dreaming of representing Alberta at the Canada Games in Halifax. Although it was still 2 years away we set our sights on it and together worked toward it.** During the winter, we, North Glenora, were invited by Don Benson of the New Westminster Salmonbellies and the B.C.L.A. to come out to the coast at Easter 1968. The object was to play against B.C. Junior B teams (under 19 years of age), attend clinics and eat and breath lacrosse for 5 days. A team was selected which included 4 Meadowlark players - Bob & Pete Gamble, Jim Good, and Bill Draper, Dave Kutt from Inglewood, and from North Glenora - Russ McFall, Doug Parsons, John Retallack, Bill Taylor, Bill Tieland, Dave Smith, and Ron Mussieux. Players paid their own train fare. Ron Carter was the manager and I (*John Taylor*) was the coach. We lost every game including one against a Junior A team - 11-3, 9-3, 10-4 but we learned again in all facets of lacrosse - lessons which have been put to good use. We also strengthened our friendship with the B.C.L.A. and its fine players and administrators.



**Incidentally, is there any other sport as robust and demanding as lacrosse where one will find willingness and cooperativeness among players and teams, to help each other to learn? I will always**

appreciate the B.C.L.A. Executive and the Salmonbellies organization for the help they have given to us to better our game.



**One of the factors of our visit to B.C. was to encourage our players to become involved in Coaching, Refereeing, and Administration.** I am pleased that all of the players who went on that 1968 Clinic have contributed their time and efforts unselfishly in 1968, 1969, 1970, & 1971 in one way or another in the North Glenora Lacrosse Club.



Hall of Fame chairman Ken Wright (bottom right) and B.C.L.A. official Don Benson welcome John Taylor, vice president of the Edmonton Metropolitan Lacrosse Association and Ron Carter, manager of the Edmonton Allstars at a civic luncheon Tuesday. The Allstars will play the New Westminster Jr. Athletics tonight at Queens Park at 7 p.m.



**Highlights of the North Glenora Teams in 1968:**

(i) Clinics to B.C. (Juniors at Easter)

(ii) First televised game at the U of A arena - "Combines" vs "Larks"

(iii) Sufficient money was raised to purchase sweaters, sox, and shorts for the Junior team - Orange & Blue sweaters & sox - white shorts.

(iv) "The Blues" became the North Glenora Junior team's name. (This name was thought of by Bill Tieland and the crest designed by Bill Tieland and John Tayler)

(v) North Glenora	Pee Wees:	Coach	Bill Tayler	Bill Tieland
	Bantams:	Coach	Dave Smith	Jim McFall
	Midgets:	Coach	Doug Parsons	Gerry Hunt
	Juniors:	Coach	John Tayler	Ron Carter

(vi) Pee Wees - defeated by Inglewood in City Final  
 Bantams - Provincial & City Champions  
 Midgets - Provincial & City Champions  
 Juniors - defeated by Meadowlark in Provincial final in a 2 game total points - 14-9.

(vii) B.C. Junior Champs Vancouver Cablevision played against and defeated the Larks (4 N.G. players) for the Western Canadian Jr. B Championships and the Jack Reilly Trophy - donated by Jack Reilly in 1968 on his retirement from the City of Edmonton Parks & Recreation Department.

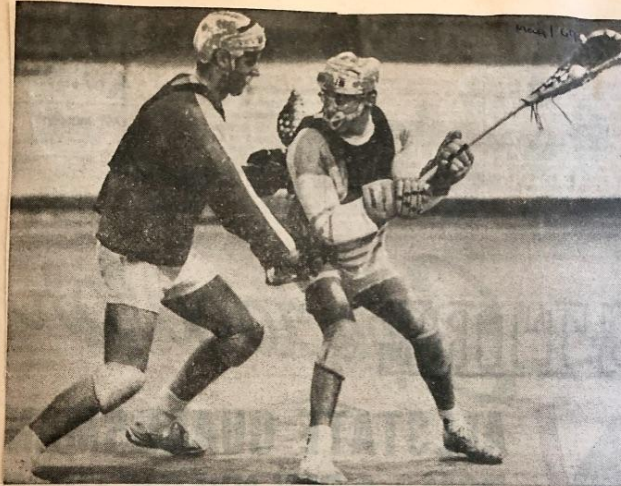
(viii) Tournament in Calgary - Spartans and Juniors

(IX) Clinics in Rocky Mountain House

Once again in the winter of 1968-69 a training program was held regularly twice a week. The Juniors smarting from their second consecutive defeat by Meadowlark were now doubly determined to win the provincial title and represent Alberta at the Canada Games in August of that year. In fact, they were so certain they could that some players ensured that their jobs would not interfere with the Games well before the next year. Intensive training and practices and training all winter took place at Macdonald High School & Ross Sheppard rounding off with sessions in the (*Kinsmen*) Field House in January, February, and March, & April.



Once again new blood was injected into the North Glenora organization. John Wispinski became active and helped with the Pee Wee team coached by Bill Tayler - subsequently named the "Little Blues". Money raising projects continued as always in bottle & paper drives & bingos. (*Also team "shells" and blazers*).



A NEW SEASON OPENS

... Doug Parsons of North Glenora juniors defends against Bill Taylor in an inter-squad game

## Minor lacrosse revived

By STAN NEUFELD  
Of The Journal  
Sissies are not welcome.  
Lazy players are scorned.  
Why? ... because it's one  
of the fastest and most robust  
sports on two feet.

The name of this game ...  
lacrosse.

The sport has advanced in  
Canada since early Indian days.  
At one time it flourished in Ed-  
monton, faded, but three years  
ago started a comeback at the  
minor level.

Now, junior and senior high  
schools are adopting the tradi-  
tional game into their physical  
education programs. City young-  
sters are finding lacrosse chal-  
lenging.

Heading into its fourth sea-  
son, the Edmonton Metropol-  
itan Lacrosse Association has  
grown to 500 participants. This  
group includes youngsters age  
eight to 21.

Lacrosse is coming back in

Canada. For example, the 1968  
minor Ontario program vaulted  
to 35,000, an increase of 30 per  
cent over the year prior.

Edmonton has a big season  
ahead.

A highlight is the inter-city  
junior tournament against Cal-  
gary which will decide an Al-  
berta entry for the August  
Summer Games at Halifax. The  
series runs from May 25 to  
June 15 with three Edmonton  
teams and one Calgary team.  
Edmonton has eight of 12 home  
games.

Next big event is the provin-  
cial final at Edmonton's Jasper  
Place arena in August. This  
leads to the Western Canada  
championships.

Last year Edmonton won the  
provincials and lost out to Van-  
couver Athletics in the Western  
Canada finals 9-6 in a two-game  
series.

B.C. has always been consid-  
ered senior to Alberta as far

as lacrosse goes. It has been  
the sport for at least 60  
years. But the neighboring  
province sat up and took note  
when Edmonton North Glenora  
midgets came home after an  
Easter holidays B.C. tour with  
two wins in four games. It was  
the first time Alberta had  
beaten B.C.

The century-old game was in-  
stituted by Indians as a method  
of training warriors for battle.  
They called it Bagadaway and  
it was much more brutal and  
vigorous than the newest addi-  
tions.

REQUIRES STAMINA

Today lacrosse is a game of  
stamina. As in hockey, it is  
rough-and-tough with basic  
skills such as passing, shooting  
and running a necessity.

City promoters are emphas-  
ing the skills of the sport rather  
than body contact style.

Box lacrosse (there is also  
field lacrosse) is played here

either at indoor arenas or out-  
door rinks. The equipment is  
basic and increases as the play-  
er graduates from league to  
league.

Edmonton's professional hopes  
for the future?

"We can expect senior la-  
crosse here within five years,"  
John Taylor of Edmonton and  
secretary-treasurer of the Al-  
berta Lacrosse Association  
says.

"It's all a matter of estab-  
lishing a strong minor lacrosse  
program," he said. "We have  
just started building one."

An eight-week officials' clinic  
is in progress in Edmonton.  
During the winter, the Alberta  
Lacrosse Officials Association  
was formed.

Regular city leagues, which  
involve pee-wee, bantam, mid-  
get and junior levels, get under-  
way within a month of two.  
Youngsters are always wel-  
come.

At Easter 1969 once again by invitation of the B.C.L.A. and the New Westminister Salmonbellies organization, our North Glenora Midgets - "The Griffins" - at their own expense - travelled to New Westminister. They played four games - won 2 and lost 2 and they too learned a lot. Under the leadership of Ron Carter, and assisted by Russ McFall and Bill Taylor, the North Glenora "Griffins" made history by being the first Alberta team to defeat a B.C. team in their own category not just once but twice. They defeated New Westminister 15-6 and Surrey 9-6. This was a big feather in our caps and proved that the fast running game as played by North Glenora, can, in fact, did, and in the future, will beat any team which plays a slow calculated flow game.

North Glenora entered league play in the Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, and Junior categories.

Pee Wee	-	Bill Taylor	John Wispinski
Bantam	-	Jim McFall	Dave Smith
Midgets	-	Doug Parsons	Russ McFall
Juniors	-	John Taylor	Ron Carter

- Bantams - won City & Provincial Title
- Midgets - won City & Provincial Title
- Juniors - won City & Provincial Title and the new "Miles Palmer Memorial Trophy" and played a series for the right to go to the Halifax Canada Games
- Pee Wees - lost in the City final to Inglewood by 5-4 (Inglewood won Provincials)

In the summer of 1969 some of the young girls and ladies got together and started to learn the game - catching and throwing. The Juniors were most helpful and charming coaches - especially when the girls were practicing during a Junior practice. What can a coach say?



EVEN THE GIRLS ARE INVOLVED  
 . . . Pat McFall, left, and Bonnie Lundeen are members of newly-formed girls boxla squad

## Gals form lacrosse team

Lacrosse in Edmonton is off to another bouncing start this season with a note of expansion.

Although lacrosse is not traditionally for the feminine sex, girls are also taking a whirl at swinging the sticks.

A girls' team, comprised of players 14-20 years, is part of the expansion program this year.

"We have about 20 regulars turning out for practice," said Alberta Lacrosse Association member John Tayler of Edmonton.

Meanwhile for the boys, lacrosse enters its fifth season and is still growing.

Lethbridge native Sons have joined the five-team Alberta Junior Lacrosse League this season which also in-

cludes three Edmonton teams and another from Calgary.

"A former North Glenora Blues' player, Dave Smith, has really got the interest boiling at Lethbridge," said Tayler. "He's coaching the junior team."

Most of the power still remains in Edmonton with the Blues, Inglewood Shamrocks and Meadowlark Larks holding the fort. Calgary's team is called the Trojans.

The AJLL season, a 16-game schedule, opens tonight with two games. In a 8:15 game at Sherwood Park, the Blues play Larks and at Calgary the Trojans meet the Native Sons.

Southern and northern playoffs will lead to the AJLL final. Alberta will also be

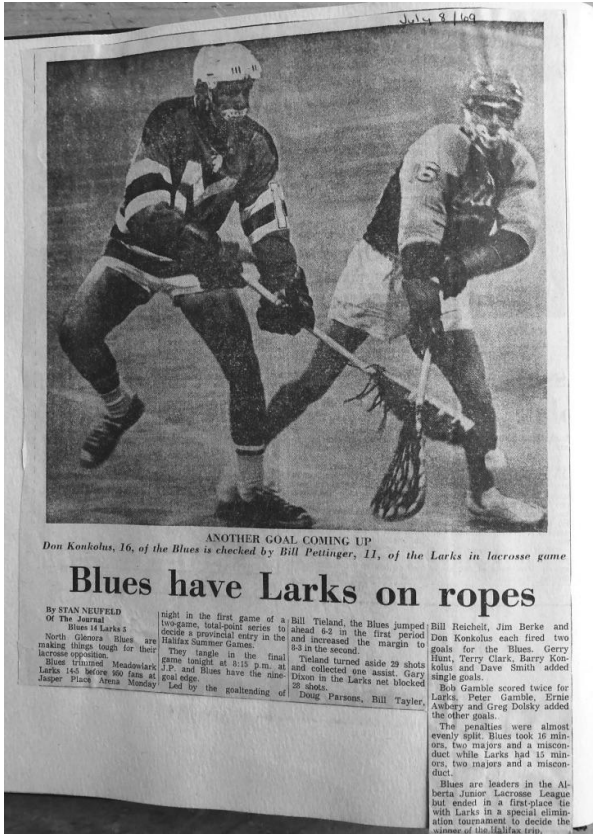
represented at the Western Canada championship this summer and will send a team to the junior centennial tournament at Manitoba July 12-17. The league will also have a team competing July 11-12 at a tournament in Victoria, B.C.

Five teams have joined the lower city ranks this season which brings the total involvement to 700, and 1,400 province-wide.

McQueen adds two teams and Sherwood Park another increasing the bantam division to eight teams. Sherwood Park has two new pee wee teams for a total of seven in the city while there are six midget clubs.

For the girls who still want to get in on the action, there

are regular practices Tuesdays at the North Glenora Community Centre.



July 9/69

## Blues had enough for boxla honors

Larks 10 Blues 5

North Glenora Blues lost the battle Tuesday night but won the war.

Blues lost 10-5 to Meadowlark Larks at Jasper Place arena, but won their two game total point series 19-15 and qualified as Alberta's lacrosse entry for the Halifax Summer Games.

After taking the opener 14-5 Monday night, the Blues were nine goals up and had money in the bank so to speak.

But they ran out of cash Tuesday night as the Lark hammered away all evening. Time expired and the Blues preserved a slim lead.

Blues led 2-1 after the first period and Larks moved ahead 7-5 after the second period.

Bob Gamble paced the Larks with three goals. Harvey Geddes and Peter Gamble each scored twice while Ron Williams, Bill Pettinger and Jim Good added singles.

Blues got goals from Doug Parsons, Gerry Hunt, Harry

Parlee, Bill Tayler and Barry Konkolus.

Regular action in the Alberta Junior Lacrosse League resumes tonight with an 8:15 p.m., game at Jasper Place between the Larks and Inglewood Shamrocks.

The Junior team - the Blues - carried the North Glenora banner to Halifax. Although we were allowed only 15 players and one coach/manager we found that other provinces had in fact taken additional players and team officials at their own expense. A resume of the Summer Games of '69 has been recorded elsewhere. However, one point regarding the Games remains pertinent. The Blues were probably the **best conditioned team there and were fast**. We played a running game - hard on us - but confusing to the opposition. Ron Delmonico, coach of the B.C. team who beat us 14-8 in our first game stated: "You really had us worried right to the end of the game - we never knew just what you were going to do". The fact that we led 7-6 after 2 periods gives strength to his statement. However, the ability and skills of his coaching and his players proved that they could still beat us with their superior experience. This and a temperature of over 100F on the floor plus playing at sea level humidity drained our physical resources and although we scored once again B.C.'s ball control netted them 8 in the final period. **Personally, I firmly believe that the fast-breaking, offensive game and the defensive/attack game will prove successful to a team in condition, in defeating a B.C. or Ontario team now and in the future.**

## Blues - Canada Games 1969

NORTH GLENORA "BLUES" - CANADA GAMES 1969

Front Row

Left to Right: D. Bowler B. Christopherson B. Konkolus R. McFall R. Massieux B. Tieland D. Konkolus B. Tayler  
J. Ferguson D. Smith

Back Row

Left to Right: J. Tayler (Coach) T. Clark B. Lyon J. McFall H. Parles J. Burke G. Hunt D. Parsons (Capt).  
L. Davis P. Gamble B. Reichelt J. Wispinaki R. Nichol S. Parsons (Manager)



Although we did not get "in the medals" at Halifax once more we learned more of the "How" and "When" of lacrosse. Immediately on return we faced the Victoria B.C. team for the "Jack Reilly Trophy" and the Western Canadian final. This was a 3 game total goal series and we went down 41-29 to the better team. Even in this defeat, we feel we had learned more of the game that would prove useful to us in the future. Incidentally some players on both these B.C. teams are now playing Senior A in the W.L.A. (*Western Lacrosse Association*).



Once again, we held a winter practice/training program with all categories involved during the 1969-70 winter season. Early in the year, we booked the (*Kinsmen*) Field House for indoor full equipment practices. “Little Blues” under Len Richardson’s capable hands now in “the Blues” orange and blue uniforms.



## 1970

Pee Wee	City and Provincial Champions	N.G. Little Blues	Len Richardson
Bantam	City Champions	N.G Centennials	Blake Christopherson
Midget	City Champions	N.G. Griffins	Doug Parsons
Juniors	Defeated by Larks in Prov. Final	N.G. Blues	John Tayler

Team registration of players in 1970 showed 84 players were registered in the North Glenora Lacrosse Club. Several of our Junior players were coaching in other communities. Gerry Hunt was helping in Sherbrooke. Ron Nichol started a Pee Wee & Bantam team in McQueen with the help of Bob Lyons. Others were active in refereeing namely Jim McFall, Russ McFall, Doug Parsons, Ron Nichol, and Larry Davis. Jim McFall Sr. was now the A.L.A. registrar. Dave Smith started lacrosse in Lethbridge and was duly honoured with a plaque by the A.L.A. and letters of commendation from the Department of Youth and the Canadian Lacrosse Association for his outstanding single-handed effort. Other Juniors maintained interest and help to the younger players in North Glenora. Some even attended E.M.L.A. or A.L.A. meetings. One day they will be the Executive Committees of these organizations.

In the spring of 1971, following considerable discussion, North Glenora Lacrosse Club found sufficient people to form an Executive to conduct the affairs of the club teams as the control and administration had become beyond the capability of a sole director. The Executive under the Chairmanship of Len

Richardson has carried out the diversified responsibilities and administration of the club to date. A Ladies Auxiliary to assist the Executive was also founded.

Several money making projects made it possible to purchase "Blues" uniforms for the Novices ("Mini Blues"), the Bantams, and Midgets. (*Several trips were organized*) - a trip to Assiniboine for the Pee Wees and Juniors for an Exhibition Series and a trip to B.C. for the Bantams to compete in the Western Canada Bantam Championship. Vern Monson and his wife Carol along with myself escorted the team who beat a B.C. team - Richmond 7-6 and came home with silver medals.

In August our Pee Wee "Little Blues" attended the National Pee Wee Finals and did very well under Len Richardson, his wife Win, and Gordon and Doreen Bridgett.

All North Glenora teams (except the novice "Mini-Blues") - Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, and Juniors had now been exposed to the best lacrosse in their categories in B.C. The learning process, started years ago - still goes on. **Hopefully it will continue and we in North Glenora will be able to help others as we have been helped in learning to master this great Game.**

Junior Blues	Jim Burke (Coach) - won Provincials and the Miles Palmer Trophy and represented Alberta at the Western Canada Finals in Saskatoon. The team were beaten by B.C. which went on to win the National Championship.
Midget Blues	Doug Parsons, Peter Sonnen (Coaches) - won City Championship but lost to Willow Park for the Provincial title in overtime in a two-game total goals 25-23. In the Tackaberry Midget tournament they lost to Coquitlam 17-10 and to Nanton 13-12.
Bantam Blues	Randy Clark, Blake Christopherson (Coaches) - apart from the Silver Medal won in the B.C. tournament the Bantams were not successful in the City or Provincial play-offs.
Pee Wees "Little Blues"	Len Richardson, Bob Johnston (Coaches) - won city championship but lost the Provincial title to Calgary.
Novices "Mini Blues"	Bill Tieland (Coach) - won City Championships and the "Premier Cycle Trophy"

As a point of interest, in 1968 the Junior Team scored 32 goals in 8 games of league play. This year the Junior Team has 5 players with more than 32 points.

Now, towards the end of the 1972 league play - North Glenora is again entered in Novice, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, and Junior.

This story would not be complete without mention of the Senior team - the Golden Jets. As the original North Glenora players “passed over the hill” (reached 21 years) there was nowhere to go. In 1971 - a senior team with a majority of “old Blues” formed and played in the junior league on a no point basis. They found a number of enthusiastic “oldsters” to fill out their team, including men who had never played lacrosse before. The Jets went on to win the first Provincial Senior B title in Alberta by defeating the southern Alberta entry from Taber.

In 1972 they once again played in the Junior/Senior league and hopefully will go on to win the Provincials title again.

Now, in years ahead, players in minor lacrosse today will have a continuation of the game for them in a Senior league.

I mention this particularly as it was **North Glenora players**, these “original few” - those “whirling dervishes of the dust box” who instigated and carried out the difficult task of forming the embryo of Senior Lacrosse in Alberta.

### **Builders of North Glenora Lacrosse**

Jim McFall	Blues Player Canada Games '69 - Referee in Chief A.L.A.
Jim McFall Sr.	Registrar A.L.A.
Ron Carter	Manager & Coach of Juniors & Midgets (Griffins) President E.M.L.A. President A.L.A.
Bill Tieland	Blues Player (goal) Canada Games '69 - Player/Manager of the Jets - Coach (Pee Wees, Mini-Blues) - Vice President E.M.L.A. President of the E.M.L.A.
Sid Parsons	Manager Midgets - General Manager of the Jets; President of the E.M.L.A.
Doug Parsons	Blues Player (captain) Canada Games '69 - Referee - Coach Midgets - Jets Player (captain)
Russ McFall	Blues Player Canada Games '69 - Coach (Midgets, Bantams) Winner of the North Glenora “Sportsman of the Year Award” - Referee - Jets Player

Larry Davis	Blues Player Canada Games '69 - Coach (Midgets) - Referee - Goalie and forward on the Jets
Barry Konkolus	Blues Player Canada Games '69
John Retallack Sr.	Treasurer E.M.L.A.
John Tayler	Founding member - Blues Coach - Vice-President of the E.M.L.A. - Secretary-Treasurer A.L.A.
Bill Tayler	Blues Player Canada Games '69 - First Coach (Pee Wees) - Player Calgary Trojans (captain)
Ron Mussieux	Blues Player Canada Games '69 - Coach - Jets Player
Dave Smith	Blues Player Canada Games '69 - Started lacrosse in Lethbridge and Taber and received C.L.A., A.L.A., and Provincial Government recognition
Gerry Hunt	Blues Player Canada Games '69 - Coach (Wellington) - Coach (Centennial Midgets?)

The mothers, wives, and girl friends deserve more than a passing mention when we talk of the growth of lacrosse. Their patience with the external chatter whenever 2-3 players gathered together was and is outstanding. It would seem to me, on a personal observation, that the "girl friends" – who never became wives were those who put a priority on life other than lacrosse. The countless times the ladies came to practice or games, withstood the training schedule which took their men elsewhere, the phone calls lengthy on "the subject" and their never ending rounds of meetings must have tried their patience to the limit. The smell of a damp lacrosse stick is mild to a sweat sodden set of 18 sweaters, heavy and dank which some gal hung on her line to air out and dry. The kit bag – full of soaked equipment needed washing - the meals scheduled to meet the players needs and the countless hours watching their sons or husbands or boyfriends go through the frenzied antics which is (to some) a Lacrosse Game! It gives the ladies a very special place in our hearts and their contribution to lacrosse would in itself, make a volume.

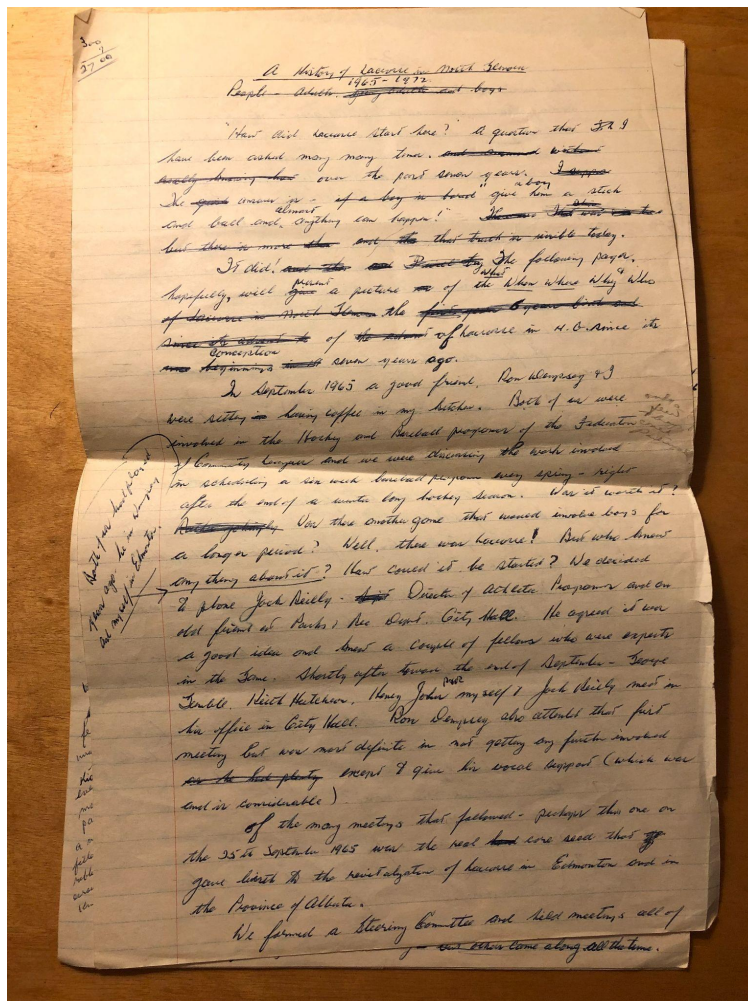
To the more recent members of our lacrosse family and to the Executive Committee responsible, I can only wish that, in time you will know the inward, personal satisfaction that I have. It surpasses all trophies and awards and rests in the knowledge that "I gave some boys a ball and some sticks" and almost everything did happen.

It was the best investment I ever made.

John E. Tayler "JET"

Edmonton

1972



## Notes

JET's thirteen page narrative of the history of North Glenora lacrosse is a significant document that tells the story of how the Blues came to be - in the words of its founder. The transcription of the narrative provided an experience that was as close to going back in time as one could imagine. I transcribed the narrative sentence by sentence - never reading ahead - letting the story come out one word at a time.

On occasion, I added words to make a sentence flow or some punctuation to make it easier to read. I also used italics for spelling out the names of organizations in full. I used the bold function to highlight some key points that JET made. But overall, I've tried to stay true to his intention of sharing this important story. Here it is, forty-nine years after it was written! The narrative is one of many artifacts that JET kept. The newspaper articles and photos are from the two scrapbooks that our family kept from 1966-1974. There is a plan to digitize the scrapbook pages and the key contents e.g. programs, game sheets. I've also transcribed JET's short summary of the Canada Summer Games in Halifax which appeared in an edition of the 'Edmonton Lacrosse' newsletter produced by Kees Wouters. An interview with JET was published in a tournament program in the mid 1990's where he also discusses how lacrosse got started. Transcription is underway.

I hope you enjoyed reading JET's narrative about how lacrosse got started in North Glenora.

Jim Tayler, Ottawa

June 11, 2021

## Photos

1. Exhibition game at the North Glenora box (Bill Tayler, Len Fasek)
2. Larry Geldhart from Ottwell with John Takahashi. Larry was one of the other founders of lacrosse in Edmonton.
3. Photo from the Edmonto Journal August 29th, 1967 during the city finals (Bob Johnston, Bill Quinn - not Eddie Kutt as labeled, Donnie Konkolus). Bob Johnston reported that Inglewood actually won 10-9 in overtime.
4. The nucleus of the North Glenora Blues (1968? Location?).
5. The Edmonton Hornets on the west coast Easter 1968 using borrowed hockey sweaters.
6. John Tayler and Ron Carter with Don Benson and Ken Wright of the B.C.L.A. April 1968.

7. North Glenora Centennials (1967) with coaches Jim McFall Jr. and Dave Smith. Five of the Centennials in the photo were on the 1977 Canada Games team.
8. North Glenora Griffins (1968) with coaches Gerry Hunt and Doug Parsons and manager Ron Carter. A number of players in the photo played on the 1973 Canada Games Team.
9. Stan Neufeld was a sports writer with the Edmonton Journal who provided an abundance of coverage of lacrosse and with whom JET was in regular contact (Doug Parsons, Bill Tayler).
10. The formation of a women's team (1969) with Pat McFall and Bonnie Lundeen.
11. Newspaper coverage of the Blues beating Meadowlark and winning the trip to Halifax in 1969.
12. A classic photo of the North Glenora Blues 1969. Taken outside at Jasper Place Arena.
13. JET making a point between periods in one of the familiar dressing rooms in Jasper Place Arena (Bill Reichelt #11) 1969?
14. Team photo of the North Glenora Little Blues (1970) with Len Richardson and Bob Johnston.