

Hockey

**A story of the creation of hockey
teams on the tip of the Great
Northern Peninsula**

The game of Hockey

As it was in its early years in Northern Newfoundland
--Researched and compiled by Leonard Tucker of Ship Cove--



Figure 1 Foster Hewitt's voice on the radio, skates and hockey gear were icons in rural Newfoundland. Right: Ian Pynn of Raleigh sports a pair of hockey pants worn by CeeBees hockey legend Jimmy Dawe.

The game of hockey emerged from the far snow-filled reaches of Canada, from the frozen wilderness of its lakes and rivers; the remote small towns of the prairies; the vast stretches of Ontario's hinterland; and the wintry mosaic of a thousand and one villages in Quebec.
-- "Faulkner, a Hockey History" by Tom Rossiter

Listening to Hockey Night in Canada was a Saturday night tradition in northern Newfoundland. Families gathered around a radio powered by a fading battery and an uncertain radio signal and with straining ears listened for Foster Hewitt to announce, "He shoots, he scores!"

On the Northern Peninsula, folks mostly cheered for either Montreal or Toronto, which often led to many heated discussions when members of the same family rooted for opposing teams. Sunday mornings, fans would gather in someone's kitchen and debate and argue team standings and performance.

There was also a strong following with Newfoundland hockey, where the NAHA (Newfoundland Amateur Hockey Association) league played. A team out of Conception Bay, known as the CeeBees, appeared on the scene, captured the imagination of the fans, and were to dominate the league for a decade, winning four championships and finishing in second place three times. In March 1968 the CeeBees came to St. Anthony and played an exhibition game against the St. Anthony All-stars, delighting local fans with their display of skill and talent.

Hockey comes to communities on the tip of the northern peninsula

Derrick Pilgrim grew up in Raleigh, and remembers when hockey first came to his home town.

“In 1960-1965 there were several people who were catalysts when it came to hockey on the Northern Peninsula: Gerald O’Leary, Heber Pike, and a fellow down in Griquet by the name of Ralph Drover. Gerald O’Leary came from Conception Bay. He was living in Goose Bay, married Becky Bessey from Raleigh, had moved to Raleigh and was probably fishing there. Pike and Drover were teachers: Pike came over from Red Bay and Drover came from Conception Bay. When they arrived in the outport communities, they brought their knowledge of hockey with them. Until then our skating was just ‘catch me if you can’; we didn’t know what a real hockey stick looked like.”



Figure 2 The new Olympia Stadium was scheduled to open in 1964

He refers to the slogan: ‘*We’ll open the door in ’64.*’ “That is when the St. Anthony Olympia Stadium was supposed to open its doors for an indoor rink. Until then St. Anthony rinks were all outdoors. But there were delays and I think it wasn’t until 1965 that the arena actually opened. In St. Anthony there was organised open-rink hockey. I would say prior to 1960 there was no organised hockey whatsoever in Raleigh or Ship Cove, but once O’Leary and Pike showed up, Pike started getting the boys in Ship Cove interested, and O’Leary started getting the Raleigh fellows involved.

“So the Raleigh Rockets and the Ship Cove Jets teams were formed, and Ralph Drover, in Griquet, got to work putting a team together, and they became the Griquet Braves.”

The Clash on Maggashoe Marsh: Jets versus Rockets...first game by Leonard Tucker

Maggashoe Marsh lay midway between Raleigh and Ship Cove and was the locale for the famous first clash between the Jets and the Rockets. A school teacher, Heber Pike of Red Bay, Labrador, first arrived at Ship Cove in 1961-1962, but it wasn’t until 1964-1965 that Pike

returned and organized a hockey team. Edward Small from Morton's Harbour arrived with him that year—he was also a teacher—and was to become a player on the team.

A 'Time was held in the community to raise funds for the purchase of equipment. Logs and planking were supplied by the community to build a dam on Eel brook, creating a flooded area for a rink. The team jerseys were ordered from an outfitter in Winnipeg.



Figure 3 The Jets jersey and crest were custom-ordered from Winnipeg.

The exact date is lost with the passage of time, but on a winter day in 1965, the Raleigh Rockets and the Ship Cove Jets met on Maggashoe Marsh. Fans from each community walked, dog-teamed and snowmobiled to the game; those too young to make it to the game waited anxiously at home for the outcome. A young Ian Pynn of Raleigh would be one of those who waited at home. When the news came, Ian said, "I was devastated at the news. It was sad...sad indeed."

The game

It was pond hockey at its finest: no boards, no lines, and wooden nets were made of pickets and covered with fish netting. Officiating was provided by local men whose main duty was to drop the puck and call blatant off-sides. The game was on. Raleigh, it turned out, had a secret weapon; a player by the name of Gerald (Gerry) O'Leary. Heber Pike recalled that no one was aware of O'Leary and how talented he was, but the Jets were soon to find out. O'Leary was fast, a gifted skater and puck-handler, and the Jets players watched in awe as he controlled the game single-handedly.



Figure 4 A game of hockey on the ponds.

Midway through the second period, the Rockets were cruising along with a 6-3 lead and Pike and the boys were struggling to counter O'Leary's tactics. It was certainly not looking good for the Jets. Attending the game that day was hockey fan Selby Tucker, and after observing the slack performance of the Jets and especially the weak goaltending, offered himself as a goalie. Frank Tucker remembers Coach Pike called a timeout. The goalie was taken out and replaced by Selby Tucker. Heber laid down a strategy for his players: focus on double coverage of

O'Leary to shut him down. The strategy worked. Once O'Leary was contained, the Jets went to work on the Rockets. With a team of 12 players—eight Tuckers, Lester Bessey, Hedley Andrews, Ed Small and Heber Pike (player/coach)—the Jets went on to win the game 9 to 6.

The Arrival of a Star...

The second year of the Jets hockey team saw the arrival of an unknown player. When the coastal boat arrived in late summer 1965, anticipation was rife around the community as to whether or not the new teacher would be a hockey player.

That anticipation all changed and hopes were elevated when a young man strolled down the gangway onto the government wharf. Over his shoulder was slung a pair of skates and a hockey stick. That young man's name was Wesley Halfyard.

The only question now was, could he play and was he any good.



Figure 5 Ship Cove Jets Hockey Team L-R Willy Tucker, Wesley Halfyard, Lester Bessey, Andrew Tucker, and Wilfred Tucker (in front)

All those questions were answered with the first practice on the frozen pond that fall. He was a player of substantial talent, a fast skater and a great puck handler. He was very passionate about the game and, to his credit, he was a Leaf's fan! He would rush home at the end of the school day—not bothering even to eat his supper—grab skates and stick, head for the pond, and play with the Jet's team until dark. Some people said that Halfyard could skate faster backwards than some could forward.

The team was looking to be competitive that year and when word got out, challenges would come their way.

With Heber Pike staying on for a second year, and the addition of Halfyard, as well as the local boys developing their skills and talents, the Jets were ready.

Challenges would come from local teams, and one such challenge came from the Boat Harbour Northern Hawkes.

Winter of 1965-1966

An exhibition game against the Teachers and a challenge match against the Boat Harbour Northern Hawks

In their second year the Jets received a challenge from the Boat Harbour Northern Hawks to meet at the Stadium in St. Anthony for a game. The Ship Cove Jets were used to playing their games on the ponds, so an arena with good ice conditions, painted lines and boards would require some adjustment. Would they adapt? Most of the team made it to St. Anthony mid-day for the evening game against Boat Harbour. They showed up with enough players for one full line, a goalie and a spare. Heber Pike and Wesley Halfyard, both teachers, would arrive later in

the day, as they had teaching duties in Ship Cove. That afternoon, the Jets were allotted ice time to practice on the artificial ice, and it was at this time that the local Teachers team (of some talent) in the St. Anthony Commercial League had some free time and suggested an exhibition game.

The warm-up game with the Teachers heated up quickly. The Teachers had it in their mind that they were going to put the Jets in their place and demonstrated this by throwing their weight around. The Jets replied with a spirited effort; tempers flared and some very rough checking ensued. Partway through the game Pike and Halfyard showed up and joined the action. An upstart player, Wilfred Tucker, popped four goals. At one point later in the game, a Teacher's player was heavily checked into the boards and ended up crashing through the gate into the players' bench. The Teachers responded by complaining, arguing that it was only an exhibition game after all. The game ended without any further incident and the Jets enjoyed a 7-3 win.

Perhaps the exhibition game against the Teachers was a mistake, as the Harbour Hawks were fresh and rested for the game and the Ship Cove Jets, having played against the Teachers, were not. However, the Jets rose to the challenge head-on. Late in the third period with the game dead-locked at 4-4, and the last minutes of the clock ticking away, Pike, deciding to finish out the game on the ice, called the two regular defencemen off for a change. Pike and another forward took to the ice to play defence. Pike, having possession of the puck, while leaving the Jets' zone, was checked by a Hawkes' player and lost possession. The Hawkes' player, after gaining possession of the puck went in on the Jets' goal, unimpeded, and scored the winning goal.

Carl Tucker recalls this incident clearly. The loss was difficult for the Jets to live down and even Pike has admitted he had a penchant for pulling his defencemen off the ice so he could play the last minutes of the game, thus losing a few close games to opposing teams.

And there were more games to follow...

There were to be many more games over the intervening years. Memories have faded somewhat, but all recall that local games were won and lost on the ponds, the steadies, at The Gulley in Raleigh, at The Dam and at Eel Brook in Ship Cove and at the arena in St. Anthony. Some attempts were made to join the Commercial League in St. Anthony, but transportation wasn't always reliable and some of the players lacked commitment, so that never materialized. A few of the more elite players would go on to play with the Griquet Braves in the senior league.

The Raleigh Rockets must have won in the Commercial League in the late 1960s because there is a hockey trophy located in Raleigh—The St. Anthony Commercial Hockey League trophy—but with no dates and no winning team names on the plates.

Memories of a Reunion game and a brawl by Terry Smith

In the early 1970s, the Raleigh Rockets decided to hold a Reunion hockey game...it might have been against the Saints, but certainly it involved the old-timers from the Raleigh Rockets team. It was meant to be a fun hockey game but, unfortunately, the game didn't play in its entirety because it turned into a brawl. According to the rules, there wasn't supposed to be any body contact, but it didn't take long for someone to get hit too hard or rubbed the wrong way. It was young Harvey Taylor who was front and center in the fracas and older brother Hector came in and picked up for his little brother, and the brawl was on.

Naturally, the game was called off, and that was the last time the Raleigh Rockets ever got together.

Still too young to play with the senior league
by Derrick Pilgrim

In the years before the CeeBees, Derrick Pilgrim remembers when the Raleigh Rockets were a force to be reckoned with. At the time, he was still a youth—14 or 15 years old. “I remember the games between the Raleigh Rockets and the Ship Cove Jets,” he recalls. “We were young boys cleaning off the ice and getting ready for a game of hockey, and then the Jets and the Rockets would show up and kick us off, and they’d play their game instead.” He smiles ruefully. “How often did that happen? We’d go in, clean off the pond with shovels, get ready for a game of scrimmage by ourselves, and the big guys would come along and kick us out of it and play hockey.”



Figure 6 A pair of old-fashioned wooden skates (skates courtesy of Bonnie Andrews).

Early years: He couldn't wait to get on the pond
Ralph Smith

Ralph Smith can't remember a time when he didn't love playing hockey. Growing up in Raleigh, he couldn't wait to get on the pond. “I'd get up Saturday or Sunday morning and be gone all day, not even bothering to eat, and wouldn't come home till dark.” Back then kids didn't have much in the way of skates; they wore hand-me-downs. Some wore old wooden skates, strapped onto the bottom of their boots. Ralph didn't belong to a minor hockey league because he took the bus home from St. Anthony, he had nowhere to stay overnight in town, and times were tight anyway. So he played shinny on the pond with the boys, and nothing could quench the passion he felt for the game.

1965-1969

Conflicts and growing pains

Derrick Pilgrim

In St. Anthony at the time there four senior teams: towards Fishing Point were the Pateyville Polars; from the hospital on the west side to where the Hotel North is at present, were the St. Anthony Saints; from Coates' Hill to Old Man's Neck were the Ramblers; and in the area of the Fish Plant were the Aces. In Griquet there was one senior team, the Braves.

Mr. Pilgrim remarks, "When the doors opened at the stadium in 1964 or '65, everybody was excited. Griquet had a team and I think Goose Cove was getting a team together. Between 1965 and 1969, the game of hockey began to take off. They had Senior teams and a 'B' League, and in that B League, I think, were the Red Wings from Cook's Harbour, the Rockets from Raleigh, the Jets from Ship Cove, teams in Straitsview and Quirpon, St. Carols, and an FPI (Fishery Products) team. The hospital may have had a team."

Conflict arose between the senior teams and the B League because the senior teams were taking players from the same areas the B League was recruiting from. For instance, the Griquet Braves, a senior team, were taking players from St. Anthony Bight to Cook's Harbour. Of course this affected the B League and there were complaints that they were grabbing all the good players. For teams on the Northern Peninsula that were new to the game of hockey, these were certainly growing pains.



Figure 7 The Loyal Orange Lodge trophy was the first championship trophy for the St. Anthony senior league.

"When all this was happening between '65 and '69," recalls Pilgrim, "the Polars began to run out of players; there weren't many players on the go and eventually they folded. That was when Goose Cove came into the league, so you still had five senior teams. Then the Ramblers folded, leaving the Aces and the Saints, Goose Cove and Griquet. Now they wanted a fifth team to make the game more interesting for spectators, so they opened things up so that a team from the B League could move into that slot. At that time the Raleigh Rockets was perhaps the strongest team in the B League, so they figured if they were going to bring a team into the Division, it would probably be the Rockets.

"So now they had to come up with the zoning. Where were they going to be pulling players from? Gerry O'Leary, from Raleigh, was already playing with Griquet. If that was the case, then Griquet would have to give up some of their players, and Griquet wasn't happy about that, so there was a big racket going on. If the Rockets went in,

Griquet wasn't prepared to give up those players. And Griquet wasn't the only team upset over the changes; others were, too.

"I was 19 at the time. I decided to step forward. I said if we're going to put in a team, we're going to have to change the name. Players from other communities will not want to be called Raleigh Rockets, so we need a name that will incorporate the whole area."

Pilgrim was looking for a name that would represent the community: its people, its history, and its character. He made an interview with Mr. Gersham Elliott of Raleigh and queried him about the history of the community.

"At the time Raleigh was considering a new team name, the arena manager, Doug Squires, who had played in the NAHA and was from the Conception Bay area, suggested a name to resemble the powerhouse CeeBees during the '60s decade."

--Gavden Pynn

How Ha Ha Bay was renamed Raleigh by Derrick Pilgrim

"According to Gersh Elliott, Raleigh wasn't a community for a long time. There had been a shipwreck and the survivor of that wreck was a William Parmiter. He was the first fellow to settle. After that, the Elliotts and the Taylors came and Raleigh became established by those families. The Elliotts came from Cook's Harbour; the Taylors from Harbour Grace, Conception Bay.

"Back then, the community wasn't called Raleigh; it was called Ha Ha Bay. It was 40 or 50 years later that the name was changed to Raleigh. Gersham's brother John was a minister, and he had been down to Raleigh, North Carolina. When he returned to Ha Ha Bay he asked his father, Tom Elliott, and Harve Taylor to petition the government to have the name changed to Raleigh."

Derrick Pilgrim continued his search for a name that would represent the people of Raleigh. "Raleigh was made up of people from Cook's Harbour, Ship Cove, Straitsview, and the whole area, so I decided we were no longer the Raleigh crowd; we were the Ha Ha Bay crowd.

"Then Conception Bay kept popping up. The Taylors came out of Conception Bay, the Elliotts came out of Conception Bay; Parmiter—and his shipwreck in Ha Ha Bay—came out of Conception Bay. Conception Bay had a hockey team called the CeeBees. So, if they were called the CeeBees, why couldn't we be called the HeeBees? So that's the name we settled on."

1969 The HeeBees are formed by Derrick Pilgrim

"The Raleigh HeeBees team was formed in 1969—one hundred years after the first man set foot in Raleigh—but they didn't get in the league that year, nor did they get in the next year because of the fuss they were having with Griquet. Griquet wasn't willing to give up Gerry O'Leary."



Figure 8 The Raleigh HeeBees jersey.

In 1971 Derrick Pilgrim attended university and that was the first year the HeeBees became a part of the senior league. In 1972 Pilgrim took a teaching post at Cook's Harbour. His friends Nels Pilgrim and Edgar Pittman were teaching in Raleigh and were looking forward to playing on the HeeBees team, but to their disappointment the team had folded. When the three young men arranged to see the senior league about the Raleigh HeeBees making a comeback, they were told: 'That crowd isn't fit to talk about; they make the biggest kind of a racket—the schedules have all been drawn up and they quit before the year was over.'

Pilgrim recollects, "Nels and I had to almost swear an oath that we'd bring the team back and be responsible for keeping them together. Edgar Pittman would be the goalie. We revived the HeeBees and brought them back into the league."

1972-1975

The cellar years by Derrick Pilgrim

According to Derrick Pilgrim, they were a cellar team their first year back, and didn't make the playoffs, but the second year they did. He remembers, "Griquet had a reputation for being rough and later on, Raleigh gained the same reputation. Most of the teams could beat the Griquet team, but none of them wanted to run the risk of being injured while playing against them. So Griquet was one point ahead of us for the fourth and final playoff position. We had one game left against Goose Cove; they were the top team. We played them and we won. The story went that Goose Cove let us win so they would not have to face Griquet in the playoffs. We finished in fourth place position, Goose Cove was in first. We had to play them in the first round, and we took them out. Goose Cove said they let us win, but the Raleigh team disagreed.

After that, and especially in the mid-to-late 1970s, the Raleigh HeeBees were dominant and in winning form.

Playing with the HeeBees by Terry Smith

“My first two years playing with the Raleigh HeeBees (1973-74) I was attending high school in St. Anthony. I was sixteen years old and the team was losing badly. I would go to the games but wasn’t getting a lot of ice time; I was mostly on the bench.

“As a child, I learned hockey from scratch. My dad, back when I was about 12 years old, got me a Christmas gift—hockey gear. But he just couldn’t wait till Christmas. There was a big hockey game going on in on Drinking Pond, and I think it was probably December 10th and Dad came in and decked me right out: new pants, new socks, new jersey, shin pads...Mom still talks about that.

“The years when Raleigh was winning, the stadium would be rocking on game night.”

--Allan Bock, former editor of the Northern Pen.

“It was probably in my third year with the HeeBees that I finally became skilled

enough to get a regular spot on the team. But at the same time, there were big changes happening; a lot of the older team members were aging out and leaving; players like Gayden Pynn and Johnny Green. So now there was a new bunch of young guys: me, Abiel Smith, Terry and Barry Roberts of Ship Cove, Morris Green, Nels Pilgrim, Derrick Pilgrim, and a trade school teacher from St. Anthony named Dave Boone, a St. Anthony elementary school teacher named Peter Hewlin and Gerald Short of Cook’s Harbour. And finally, there was me. And that’s when we started to become competitive with the other teams in the league.”

The HeeBees dominated, and fan support was incredible by Ralph Smith

“The year I was in grade 11, which was 1972-1973, I played with the HeeBees for one year, and that was the first time I ever played organized hockey. At that time, the HeeBees were in the so-called senior league, and they were being dominated by other teams.”

In June 1973 Ralph graduated from Harriot Curtis Collegiate and in September began attending Memorial University for four years. While there, he would play recreational hockey with other students attending university. A year before he returned to Raleigh (1976-1977) the HeeBees won the championship. In the fall of 1977 Ralph joined the team, and the HeeBees really took off then.

Ralph mostly played right wing; he was a right-hand shooter. He remembers, “The HeeBees dominated that year; we became the team to beat (14 wins, no losses, two ties with 30 points, finishing first). We had a good group of guys on the team: Terry Smith, Abiel Smith, Hedley Taylor, Ian Pynn, and Nels Pilgrim. We also had two guys from Ship Cove, Terry and Barry Roberts, and two from Cook’s Harbour, Jim Larkin and Gerald Short.”

It seemed that after the 1977 season the HeeBees gained in popularity. “When they would play the Griquet team,” recalls Ralph, “all of Griquet and all of Raleigh would come to watch the game. Everything in the community closed down when Raleigh was playing.”

Smith says that the fan support was incredible, and fans weren’t just young people; a lot of seniors came out to watch the game. Admittance had to be paid at the door, but that didn’t deter the crowds.

“My parents never missed a game. They had three of us playing: Hedley, Abiel, and me. The fan support really added to the adrenaline factor, absolutely,” smiles Smith.

The Raleigh Team was a big draw
by Terry Smith

The Raleigh team was a big draw. They were all paying fans and they were filling the stadium.

In Raleigh on game night, the fans would load up the cars and there would be a convoy out of Raleigh, going to the game in St. Anthony. Nearly half the town would attend. There was a certain section in the stadium where the Raleigh fans sat: to the left of the door as you entered the arena. The Griquet fans sat to the right of the entrance, and on the opposite side of the arena, where the players’ benches were located, were the St. Anthony fans.

One particular year we filled the place with fans, to the point where we said to the St. Anthony hockey league that we wanted a cut of the revenues generated from the fans, and we got it. That revenue helped us to buy hockey sticks and other equipment. One year they agreed to pay us a commission on the door receipts.

When the Straits teams came down to play, they came by the busload. There would be seven or eight school buses parked in the arena parking lot. Before the game even started, two police cars were directing traffic into the stadium, and when the Stadium parking lot was full, cars would be directed to park by the Vinland Motel, the Viking Mall, and Squires Garage. After the game, when everybody was leaving, it was chaos.

May’s Takeout was located on North Street on the way out of town. May stayed open till one o’clock every night, my son, and when everybody from the Straits went home, they’d stop and pick up takeout: pizza, chicken, and stuff like that.

Rivalry: community against community
by Ralph Smith

On the Northern Peninsula, hockey had become more than just a sport; to a lot of people it became a rivalry, community against community, and that was a good thing. “There was a lot of pride on the line,” Smith says. “For us, it was like winning the Stanley Cup, especially when we took on larger communities. Raleigh was a relatively small community compared to St. Anthony, and for our team to take down St. Anthony was something like taking down a giant.”

1976-1977

There is no newspaper record of Raleigh’s first championship, but it must have been thrilling for a small outpost like Raleigh to take on, and defeat, the powerhouse teams in St. Anthony.

Winning the First Championship by Ian Pynn

We were just a bunch of young fellers who had started with nothing on a small pond in Raleigh. To travel to another community and win a game was a big thing for the HeeBees, but to finally win a tournament...it was amazing! It was a great feeling to win the championship.

When we first started out as a team we didn't do that well. We were a cellar team...down with the potatoes...but we worked out way up and we finally won.

And, when we first started playing teams in the senior league in St. Anthony it was intimidating; absolutely, because playing the boys in St. Anthony was huge. And when we won....what a good feeling! It started with just a goal, and we were happy to get that, but to win a game...and then to win enough games to make the playoffs...and finally, to win the championship, was great.

Back in those days there was a large pool of up-and-coming hockey players to choose from. When I was a young hockey player boys had to fight to get a spot on the team; not everybody got to play, which was good, because that made for a stronger team and a stronger league.



Figure 9 Raleigh HeeBees win first hockey championship; the Skylight Restaurant Senior Hockey trophy.

"When we first started playing teams in the senior league in St. Anthony it was intimidating—absolutely—because playing the boys in St. Anthony was huge. And when we won....what a good feeling! It started with just a goal, and we were happy to get that, but to win a game...and then to win enough games to make the playoffs...and finally, to win the championship...that was great."

--Ian Pynn

1977-1978

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In the senior hockey league the HeeBees lead the Aces by two points, with two games in hand.

The following standings as of Feb 10:

	W	L	T	Pts
HeeBees	10	0	1	21
Aces	9	3	1	19
Braves	7	6	0	14
Flyers	5	9	0	10
Eagles	0	11	0	0

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PLAYOFFS CLOSING IN: WILL HEE BEES DO IT AGAIN?

The Raleigh HeeBees are pitted against the Griquet braves in the semi-finals. Judging by their record this season, the HeeBees could be slated high to win the championship. However, one is not to count out the strong Griquet team.

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Final standings for regular season:

Teams	GP	W	L	T	Pts
HeeBees	16	14	0	2	30
Aces	16	11	4	1	23
Braves	16	8	6	2	18
Flyers	16	5	11	0	10
Eagles	16	0	15	1	1

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Top Ten Scorers

Raleigh had 5 players in the top ten points leaders: Hedley Taylor: 48; Terry Smith: 40; Abel Smith: 30; Ralph Smith: 28; Terry Roberts: 21.

The Raleigh HeeBees whipped through their semi-final series in three straight games against the Griquet Braves. The other semi-final series saw the Aces eliminated the Goose Cove Flyers in three straight. The HeeBees and Aces face each other in best of seven series.

In the first game the Aces won a close but sloppy game. The second match-up was touch and go, went into overtime and then sudden death. It was here that the Aces pulled out a win when Gary Rowbottom, who had to leave the game earlier because of injury, came back during the sudden death and scored.

In the third game – down two games – a determined Raleigh team, using only two lines, stormed back with a 8-5 win. The Aces had been down by 7 at the end of the second period, but came up short. During this game the referee was the victim of all sorts of slander and cursing. He was ejected from the series.

In the fourth game, Raleigh bombarded the Aces with 13 goals in a one-sided affair most of the way with a 13-6 final score.

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HEEBEES RETAIN CHAMPIONSHIP: COME BACK FOUR STRAIGHT

A large crowd turned up at the St. Anthony Olympia for game six. The Aces, after taking a two game to nothing lead, are now down three games to two after a startling comeback by Raleigh.

The first two periods did not tell the story about the final outcome. The Aces walked over the HeeBees with a 5-2 lead going into the third period. It was in the third period that Raleigh put themselves in gear.

The fans were in an uproar as the puck made close calls on both nets. Raleigh finally scored to make it 5-3, and then 5-4. With about four minutes left in the final period, with the stadium a tension-charged madhouse, would Raleigh tie the game? Could they? Could the Aces hang on? Time passed too slowly for the Aces, while for Raleigh it was passing too quickly. The fans were stifling their tensions and trying to cry out in excitement all at once.

Then, the bubble burst, the roof lifted off the place as Raleigh put the puck past Aces goalie Tony Patey. The game was to go into overtime!

Overtime! Right off the bat, in the first minute, Raleigh scored to lead 6-5, only to have the Aces tie it up shortly thereafter. Raleigh then went ahead 7-6; this was never to leave their hands.

The Aces pulled their goalie in the last minutes but to no avail. With the net open, Terry Smith flipped the puck into the net for the 8-6 win.

It was all over, the Raleigh fans poured onto the ice in recognition of the end of a season and the retention of the name "CHAMPIONS: RALEIGH HEEBEES."

MVP:	Hedley Taylor
Best Goalie:	Wilber Fillier
Best Defenceman:	Ian Pynn

NOTE: The reporter referred to Barry and Terry Roberts of the HeeBees and Elijah Cull and Gary Rowbottom of the Aces as being four of the best players from the area. He added that Ralph Smith, as team captain, displayed leadership in keeping his team together and setting up many superb plays, saying the HeeBees displayed the comeback power needed to win, and have developed into a dynamic, 'dangerous' team.

Northern Peninsula Championship

After the finals in the St. Anthony Senior League, the series switches to the Northern Peninsula Championship. The winning team from the Straits League come to St. Anthony to play the winner.

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BEAR COVE, RALEIGH: NORTHERN PENINSULA FINALISTS

April 7th saw the opening game between the Bear Cove Flyers and Raleigh HeeBees. Bear Cove with nine players opened up the game with a 4-0 first-period score. After two periods, the score was 7-4, and Raleigh was coming on strong. However, the Flyers held on to smash the HeeBees 12-6.

Saturday, April 8th, the HeeBees bombarded the Flyers with a 7-4 score. In the win the HeeBees showed determination to win, never letting up all game. Terry Smith scored two goals for HeeBees. It was after this game that several spectators from Bear Cove, not liking the loss for their team, called out the referee and linesmen. A rough scene took place between spectators from both sides. Warnings were issued to both sides of supporters that charges would be laid if such incidents broke-out again.

Polaris News

May 1, 1978

**Bear Cove Flyers win,
defeating Raleigh
HeeBees 4 games to 3
in wild, woolly series.**

Sunday afternoon, a Raleigh team with their stuff together, opened the scoring with two goals from Terry Smith, and at 4:19 Ralph Smith scored his first of four for the game. The Flyers fought back with 4 goals to make it a tight game.

Monday night was bounce-back time for the Flyers. They downed the HeeBees with a decisive 7-1 victory, holding a tight control over the game.

Wednesday night saw a close game again. No score after the first period of a very defensive game. Early in the second period, Raleigh scored two goals, but that was it. Seven unanswered goals from Bear Cove gave them a 7-2 win and a 3-2 lead in games.

Note: It was during this series that a group of fans, Aces supporters, still sore after their loss to Raleigh in the finals, decided to cheer for the Bear Cove Flyers. The reporter makes a comment about this bunch of 'sore losers'.

April 13th Thursday's game saw a better playing Raleigh team bounce back to force a seventh and final game with a 6-3 win. Terry Smith put in one of his best performances by scoring the first four goals. Other goals came from Hedley Taylor and Gerald Short.

1978-1979

Polaris News

Volume 2

Number 5

March 17th, 1979

There is a great deal of excitement at the stadium over the new ice-resurfacing machine, the Zamboni.

The standings of the Intermediate Hockey League:

Raleigh Heebies	1 st with 26 pts
Aces	2 nd with 25 pts
Griquet Braves	3 rd with 18 pts
Goose Cove Flyers	4 th with 7 pts
Eagles	5 th with 4 pts

Individual scoring for the top ten:

Ralph Smith	64 pts
Alvin Elliott	54 pts
Hedley Taylor	44 pts
Terry Smith	30 pts

March 19th semi-finals get underway with Raleigh Heebies facing off against 3rd place Braves.

Polaris News

Volume 2

Number 7

April 15, 1979

Heebies eliminated the Braves in three straight games and with the Aces defeating the Goose Cove Flyers in three straight, everyone was expecting Raleigh and Aces to have an extremely tough final series, which most figured would go the full seven games.

The Heebies ended that notion by sweeping the series in four straight games. Games 1, 2, and 3 were totally dominated by Raleigh with scores of 11-5; 11-6; and 14-2.

Polaris News

Volume 2

Number 8

April 30, 1979

Raleigh to play the Bear Cove Flyers in the final N Pen team series

This series was started five years ago as an invitational tournament, mainly to stimulate more revenue for the stadium but also – to determine the top team on the Northern Peninsula. This series has become the number one series to fans and players alike. Each year the games attract more and more fans, and now all over town there is much talk about who will win. This year look to attract more fans than ever. It is predicted that this will be the most exciting series ever hosted. The opponent this year will be the Bear Cove Flyers, an aggressive, a well disciplined and fast skating team. The Raleigh team is no pushover. They too have the speed and passing skills, so that this year the Trophy may change hands.

The winter sports finished for another season. The last activity was the series between the Raleigh Heebies and the Bear Cove Flyers. After three games, Bear Cove led the series three games to none, then Raleigh bounced back and took the fourth game. In the 5th game and deciding game Bear Cove proved to be too strong for the Heebies. In spite of Raleigh's last efforts, they lost by a 4-3 decision. Last year Raleigh forced Bear Cove to seven games, this year it was over in five.

From an HCC newsletter

The Raleigh Hee-Bees have done it again! This team's hard work, determination and desire to win paid off. They finished the regular seasonal play in the number one position, entered the semi-finals against the Griquet Braves, and eliminated them in three straight victories.

When the Molson Canadian Aces defeated the Goose Cove Flyers in three straight games, everyone was expecting Raleigh and the Aces to have an extremely tough final series which most people figured would go the full seven games. The Hee-Bees ended that notion by sweeping the series four games to nothing. Games 1, 2, and 3 were totally dominated by the Raleigh team with scores of 11-5, 11-6, and 14-2.

Trophy night brought on the fans and the Aces died hard playing to the 700 fans at the stadium, but

their final dreams of defeating Raleigh were shattered when Ralph Smith scored with only a minute of play left in the fourth game. Smith's goal was the winner of the series, breaking the 5-5 deadlock. Final score was 6-5.

Raleigh will now go on to play the Bear Cove flyers in the final Northern Peninsula team series. We have just three series of hockey left for this season.

The St. Anthony All-Stars will be playing host to the Straits All-Stars in a best three out of five games.

The Northern Peninsula team championship series between the Raleigh Hee Bees and the Bear Cove Flyers will mark the end of the hockey for this year. The schedule of games will be announced at a later date.

This series was introduced five years ago as an invitational tournament,

mainly to stimulate more revenue for the stadium but also to determine the top team on the Northern Peninsula.

Since that time it has become the number one series to fans and hockey players alike. Each year the games attract more and more fans, and now all over town there is a great deal of talk about who will win the series. This year the Northern Peninsula Championship series (a best 4 out of 7 games) will attract more fans than ever before. It is my prediction that it'll be the most exciting series we have ever hosted. Our opponents, the Bear Cove Flyers, are an aggressive well-disciplined and fast skating team; but mark my words; the Raleigh Hee-Bees team is no pushover. They too have the speed and passing skills required to face Bear Cove, and I believe that this year the trophy is about to change hands.

Winning the Championship: the next step
by Ralph Smith

Once the league championships were over, the team played the winners up the Straits, and that drew a lot of fans. Those games were best of seven. Back then, every team up the Straits had their own league. Every little community had a team: Bear Cove, Green Island Brook, Savage Cove, Flower's Cove, St. Barbe, and so on.

The team they played most every year was the Bear Cove Flyers; it was the winning team up that way. These games usually took place in St. Anthony because the Straits teams used natural ice and by April their ice was gone.

"They beat us every year, I think," remarks Smith. "I have one regret...we never beat them. If I recollect right, every year it went to six or seven games, but we could never win that seventh game.

"But it was fun times. Good memories."

*****1979-1980 Stadium Closed for Renovations*****



Figure 10 The St. Anthony Olympia Stadium opened in 1965 and closed its doors April 2012.

1980-1981

Northern Pen
Jan 14, 1981

“Raleigh is the team to beat in the intermediate”

Raleigh looked impressive in the first weeks. The team got off to a good start in the opening game doubling the Aces 8-4 and then downing Goose Cove 12-1.



Northern Pen
April 8, 1981
Page 10

“RALEIGH WINS TITLE: Smith outstanding player, top scorer”



Raleigh HeeBees are champions again. They confirmed their supremacy downing the Aces 11-5 to take the final series four consecutive games. Game one saw Terry Smith with three goals for a 10-6 score. Game two, the Aces managed to stay with the HeeBees for part of the

contest but the outcome was never in doubt, final score 8-2. Raleigh got two goals from Terry Smith and Alvin Elliott. Game three was the most competitive when Raleigh posted a 7-4 decision, Hedley Taylor and Terry Roberts scored a pair each. The victory marked the fourth year in succession

Raleigh has copped the championship trophy. One of the reasons for their success has been the outstanding play of Ralph Smith. During the regular season he notched 69 points and in the playoffs he boosted his title to 101. Smith was named MVP in the playoffs.



Figure 11 Raleigh HeeBees

“Bear Cove Flyers easy winners over Raleigh”

Northern Pen
Apr 22, 1981
Page 20

The champs are no match for the champions in the Straits League. The Bear Cove Flyers were out to prove that point. And they proved it in style. They took the best of seven series from Raleigh HeeBees in four straight, trouncing them soundly

in all but one of the contests. It marked the fourth year in succession that the honor of being the best went to the Straits league. In the opening game the Flyers won 17-6, and that game set the pace for the wide-open brand of hockey that was to

follow. Game two saw the Flyers double the Raleigh squad 10-5. Game three was the most competitive of the series, but late in the third the Flyers scored to break a 3-3 deadlock for the win. Game four it was the Flyers all the way, winning 18-12.

1981-1982

A season of turmoil

A new approach...a new jersey...a new name

For the new season of 1981-82, the Raleigh team was looking for a new approach. The HeeBees had established themselves as a winning team, coming off four championships in a row. They adopted a new jersey (the black Vancouver Canucks of the time). The jersey sported a V-pattern of yellow and orange. Ian Pynn, who had operated his business—Raleigh Sports

Centre—out of Raleigh, relocated his business to St. Anthony, and became sponsor for the team. The team adopted the name Raleigh Sports.



This season was shaping up to be another productive one as they tore through the early part of the regular season. They were the team to beat and were on pace to repeat as champions.

Turmoil and Indifference by Terry Smith

There were some issues that created turmoil in the League. One year the St. Anthony League made a decision that Raleigh would be suspended (*see the Raleigh team's Letter to the Editor, Northern Pen, January 26, 1982*) and being suspended discouraged a lot of players on our team.

Then, we felt as if our team was being treated unfairly, or with indifference. It seemed to us that the St. Anthony senior hockey league committee—when the Aces won, for instance, or another St. Anthony team—would roll out the red carpet with a banquet and presentations. Perhaps in the first and second years that we won, there was a banquet and we were presented with trophies, but after that, the players who won individual trophies were phoned and told, “There’s a box of trophies, boys, come on over and pick them up.”

Somewhere along the line, it seemed to me that St. Anthony abandoned all formalities, presentations, banquets, and recognition of our team’s accomplishments. We couldn’t help but notice that when a hockey team was winning over and over—especially an out-of-town team—St. Anthony became indifferent to the formalities.

During Christmas break, teams from the Straits—the Bear Cove Flyers, Green Island Brook Twins, and Sandy Cove Jets—came to St. Anthony to play an exhibition series against local teams. It was during this series, in a game between Raleigh and Bear Cove that the turmoil erupted.

“Exhibition game may prove costly for Raleigh Sports”

Northern Pen
January 5, 1982
Page 21

In this game (on Saturday night) against the Bear Cove Flyers, the Raleigh goalie, Wayne Pittman was handed a

match penalty on an attempt to injure. On Sunday, there were reports that Raleigh, with their goaltender suspended for a least

two games, were considering withdrawing from the St. Anthony league.



Figure 13 Northern Pen January 5, 1982

Northern Pen
January 12, 1982
Page 12

“Raleigh suspended for remainder of season”

Gone from the league is Raleigh Sports, league leaders after the first half and last year's champions. The problem started in an exhibition game with Bear Cove when goaltender Wayne Pittman was given his third slashing penalty of the game and the referee termed it a match, indicating he interpreted the infraction as an attempt to injure one of the Bear Cove players. The team notified the league that they felt the assessed penalty was too severe and warned that if Pittman received more than a two-game suspension, they

would withdraw. Pittman was eventually handed a four-game suspension. When Raleigh was scheduled to play Maurice's Service Center on Monday night, they failed to show. The league then approached the Green Island Brook Twins who joined the league.

At that point Raleigh decided against withdrawing because of the goalie suspension. Their failure to show for the game against Maurice's Service Center had to be dealt with. A meeting of the league players was called by the executive and

they voted to suspend the team for the remainder of the season. The decision to suspend the Raleigh team can be appealed by the team to the Newfoundland Amateur Hockey Association executive.

Raleigh suspended for remainder of season

There is a new entry in the St. Anthony Senior Hockey League this week and a team which has won more than its share of league championships is out.

The new entry is Green Island Brook Twins. They usually toiled in the Straits' league but have now chosen to become part of the St. Anthony league, where they'll likely enjoy a longer season. In the past they played at the St. Barbe Arena, where there is natural ice.

Gone from the league is Raleigh Sports Centre, league leaders after the first half and last year's champions.

The problem with the Raleigh squad started in an exhibition game with Bear Cove at the Olympia, two weeks ago. Goaltender Wayne Pittman was given his third slashing penalty of the game and the referee termed it a match, indicating he interpreted the infraction as an attempt to injure one of the Bear Cove players. The team then notified the league that they felt the assessed penalty was too severe and warned that if Pittman received more than a two-game suspension, they would withdraw. Pittman was eventually handed a four-game suspension.

Raleigh was scheduled to play Maurice's Service Centre last Monday night, but they failed to show. In the meantime, the Twins had been approached and they agreed to play in a five-team but not in a six-team league.

Then, Raleigh apparently decided against withdrawing because of the suspension to their goaltender. So, their failure to show for Monday's scheduled game had to be dealt with. A meeting of league players was called by the executive and they voted by a margin of two votes to suspend the team for the remainder of the season.

A 16-game schedule for the five teams, including

the Twins, opened Friday night with Maurice's Service Centre 6-5. Sam Kinsella had for the winners. Campbell fired two Maurice's.

Aces' Ronnie Ward Campbell picked fighting majors late in game and will sit out next game of the schedule.

The schedule will run March 17 and games be played on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays previously stated.

The decision to suspend Raleigh can be appealed by the team to Newfoundland Amateur Hockey Association executive.

Northern Furniture collects 3

Northern Furniture had a three point week in St. Anthony Recreation Hockey. They stopped Hydro on Monday night and battled to a 4-4 tie with Fishery Products on Friday.

Hubert Richards had two goals and an assist in the win over Hydro and Harrison Richards had a hat trick in the tie with Fishery Products. Gerard Strangemore had two goals for Fishery Products that game.

Other action during the week saw Hydro doubled the Vinland Motel, 8-4. Gerard Ward had two goals in the winners. Neil Simms had three in a losing cause.

Fishery Products leads the league followed by Northern Furniture, Vinland and Hydro.

Figure 14 Northern Pen January 12, 1982

More difficulties by Ralph Smith

"A third penalty had been levied against the Raleigh Sports team, and we decided it was time to go to the league to complain that if they didn't get better officiating, we'd have no other choice but to withdraw. We'd had enough—three games with three players suspended."

The team wrote a letter to Maurice Simmonds, who was the president at the time. Simmonds advised them to come over to St. Anthony for a meeting.

"Terry Smith and I went over to the meeting; I think it was on a Thursday night. We talked to Maurice and the executive and they said, 'Gee, Raleigh, you can't pull out now. You're part way through the season, it's not fair to your fans, and it's

not fair to your sponsor.' At that point we hadn't officially said we were out, so at that meeting we agreed to go back to our team and see if they wanted to stay in the league; which they did, so we called back and said we'd carry on.

"We were supposed to play the following Monday night. Sunday, apparently, the executive called a meeting with the other four teams—Raleigh didn't know about the meeting—and the other teams all voted us out. So now we were out of the league. Monday we were ready to come over and play hockey, and Noah (Tiny) Smith, our coach, got a call from Maurice. He told Tiny they'd had a meeting the day before and they'd voted to suspend us."

Letter to the editor
Northern Pen
January 26, 1982, Page 5

“They beat us off the ice...”

Another hockey season has come to an end for Raleigh Sports Center in the St. Anthony Intermediate Hockey League. However, this year their season has ended on a different note—they are losers—not because the competition beat them on the ice but, rather, off the ice.

The competition cheated them out of a chance this year for the championship.

Yes, on Sat., Jan. 9, a meeting which involved all teams (except Raleigh) in the St. Anthony League was called by the local executive. It was during that meeting that the players took a vote to see whether or not they would allow Raleigh to compete in the St. Anthony League any more this season. A vote was taken by the 34 players, which was less than 50 percent of the players in the league, and Raleigh lost out 18 against them, 16 for them. The final result—Raleigh not allowed to play any more hockey in the St. Anthony League this season.

What was the reason for the vote? Why did the players vote Raleigh out? Why were they given a suspension for one season? No one on the Raleigh team knows for sure. Earlier Raleigh had threatened that they would withdraw from the league because they felt they were getting too many unfair match penalties called against them—two in four games. As a result, Raleigh decided to call a team meeting on Monday, January 4th, to see what, if anything, they could do in regard to their match

penalties. That same night Raleigh was also scheduled to play Maurice’s Service Center. Therefore, the captain (Terry Smith of Raleigh Sports) telephoned the stadium, Sunday, Jan. 3, and asked the management to postpone the game until a later date, since the Raleigh team was having a team meeting. The management said that there was no way that the game could be postponed. The captain then said that he had no choice but to forfeit the two points to Maurice’s Service Center, and that he would let the stadium know, by the next game, Sat., Jan. 9, whether or not they would withdraw their team from the league.

After the team meeting on Monday, Raleigh wrote a letter to the executive saying they would have to withdraw from the league if they did not get a reasonable decision (not more than two games) for their goalie. They felt that since a player in the same league gets only two games for spearing, then surely two games would be reasonable to a slashing call, where no contact whatsoever was made.

On Thursday, Jan. 7, two team members from the Raleigh Sports team met with the executive. That same day Raleigh’s goalie was given four games suspension. According to Raleigh’s earlier letter to the executive then, it seemed that Raleigh would be withdrawing from the league. However, at the executive meeting, the Raleigh team members were told by the

president (Maurice Simmonds) that the executive could do nothing about the match nor the suspension and that if Raleigh did withdraw, they could be suspended from the league for three years. The executive then asked the Raleigh members to ask their team to reconsider and that they (the executive) would give Raleigh until 12 o’clock Fri., Jan. 8, to make their final decision on the situation. Raleigh did reconsider and they informed the executive through writing before the deadline that they would continue to play hockey this year, but this was not to be so. For on Sat., Jan. 9, Raleigh’s hockey season had come to an end.

Since then a Raleigh team member (Ralph Smith) was in contact with Mr. Joe Byrne (referee-in-chief for NAHA) and according to him, the players should not have had anything to do with the situation; it should have been dealt with by the executive. However, according to the league president, it was Mr. Byrne who told him that the best thing to do was to let the players decide. Who’s lying? Mr. Byrne also said that Raleigh could appeal the decision that was made by the players to the local executive. Raleigh did, but to no avail. The executive said that they can’t overrule the decision of the players. It is not that the executive can’t, it is just that they won’t. So what’s the benefit of an executive—to help or harm? That’s one question that the Raleigh team know the answer to, too.

“We have been treated unfairly...”

To: the players in the St. Anthony Hockey League who voted us out—

He shoots, he scores; he shoots, he scores. These would be the words of a radio commentator in regard to Raleigh Sports play if he was broadcasting a game between Raleigh and any other team in the St. Anthony Intermediate Hockey League. However, for the remainder of the hockey season that phrase will be untrue for the Raleigh entry, which has won the championship the last four years, has been denied the chance of winning it a fifth year. Their competition has cheated them from winning it, for they (the completion) have voted them out of the league.

Although Raleigh's team was quite upset, disappointed and disgusted with the outcome of the vote, their first reaction was the opposite—they just laughed. They laughed because they

didn't think that players they have competed with in the last six to eight years would have stooped so low to get Raleigh out of the league, so that they would have a much better chance of winning the championship.

Just imagine players from other teams wanting to kick other another team out of the league just because they feel they would have a better chance of winning the championship come the end of the season. What's the matter boys, surely you're not afraid of us? Could it be that we're too good to be in the same league as you guys?

We, the Raleigh team, were supposed to be the unsportsmen-like players. We were the ones who could not display sportsmanship. We wonder now then, where's your sportsmanship? If you guys wanted to be champions that bad, why didn't you enter your

team in the B league, even better, why not the commercial league?

To the players at the meeting who voted for us, we greatly appreciate your support and would like to thank each and every one of you. To the players who voted against us, congratulations, you have got what you wanted. We hope that you are proud and pleased to get us out of the league. Just remember though, if you do be on the championship team, you're not the best, you have cheated the best out of retaining the championship trophy.

We, the Raleigh team, think we have been treated very unjustly and if you can't beat us any other way, congratulations, again, you have beaten us with injustice.

--Raleigh hockey team

Sitting out the season

Once the Raleigh Sports team was off the roster the league was down to four teams, and Green Island Brook, a team that previously had been asked to play, and declined, decided to play for the balance of the season. The Raleigh Sports team sat out the season, and the loyal fans in Raleigh opted not attend the games at the stadium.

1982-1983

The Northern Pen

Raleigh Sports team is back in the league after their suspension, and back in fighting form. With the main core of the team from last season intact, Raleigh quickly gets on track, finishing first in regular season play.



Figure 15 Northern Pen: February 5, 1983

“Raleigh Sports Sweeps Series”

Northern Pen
April 12, 1983
Page 21

Raleigh Sports attained hockey supremacy Tuesday night by finishing their final series against Mary Brown's Braves four games straight to win the

Skylight Restaurant senior hockey championship trophy. Raleigh's road to the championship was a relatively easy journey. A Braves'

lineup—that was continually short-handed throughout the series couldn't provide much opposition to a Raleigh squad that was knee-deep in players.

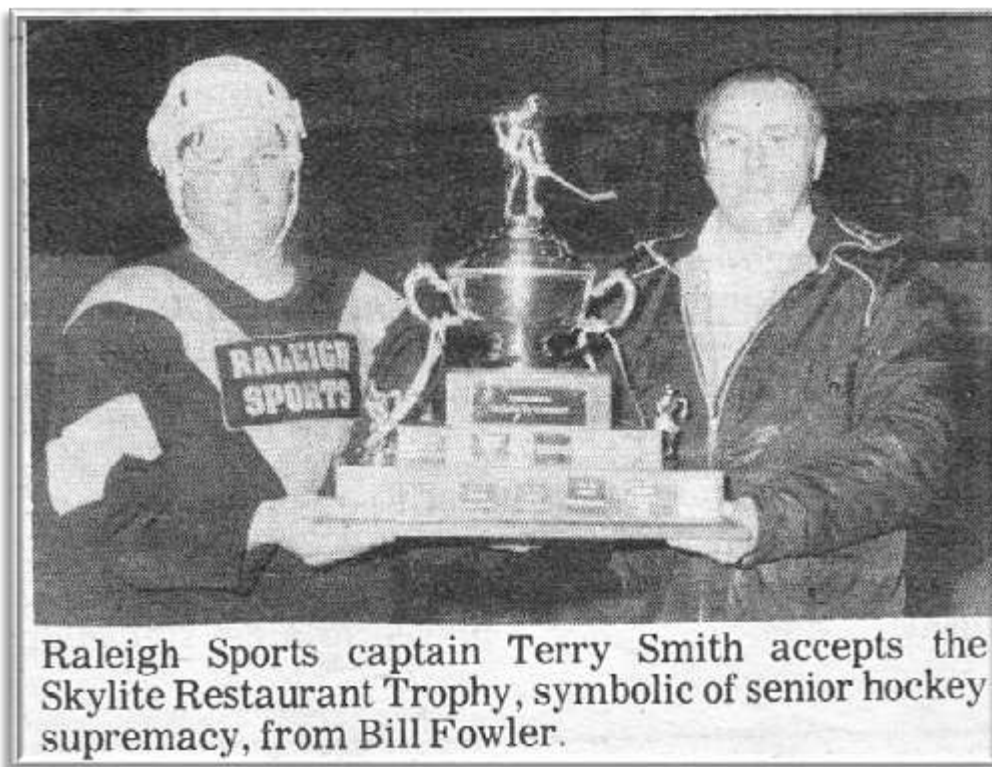


Figure 16 Northern Pen April 12, 1983



Figure 17 Northern Pen: April 12, 1983. Raleigh Sports sweeps series...



Figure 18 Northern Pen: April 12, 1983. Smith takes MVP, Scoring Leader, and Most Sportsmanlike Player.



Figure 19 Northern Pen: April 26, 1983

“Bear Cove Flyers put their hockey skills into high gear to score a pair of lopsided wins over Raleigh. Flyers clinched the best of seven series in six games. Raleigh’s downfall was their inability to slow down the fleet-footed Flyers. Their habit of taking needless penalties led to several power-play situations for the Bear Cove Flyers.”

--Northern Pen newspaper--

1983-1984

In 1983-84 some chinks began to appear in the Raleigh Sports team's armour. After five championships in six years, the team had begun to slow down. In January they suffered their first loss of the season to the Aces and were sitting in second place in the standings. By the end of January they suffered their second defeat, a 10-4 loss to the Aces. In early February they lost for the third time—to the Braves, 11-6. Suddenly, the Raleigh team—previously undefeatable—had become beatable.



Raleigh's Ralph Smith (8) throws his arms in the air in jubilation after he scored one of his squad's four goals in Wednesday's contest. But the joy was short-lived when goaltender Tony Patey (31) and the Esso Aces went on to post a 6-4 win over Raleigh, handing the defending champions their first loss of the year.

“Aces Steamroll Over Opponents”

Northern Pen

January 31, 1984

Page 13

Aces pounced on Raleigh's substitute goaltender en route to a 10-4 victory over the defending league champions. This was Raleigh's second defeat of the season.

The league standings as of January 25th:

Team	Win	Loss	Points
Esso Aces	5	1	10
Raleigh Sports	4	1	8
Mary Brown Braves	2	3	4
Cook's Harbour Wings	0	6	2

“Mary Brown’s Entry Scores 23, Wins 2”

Northern Pen
February 7, 1984
Page 13

Braves trounce Raleigh Sports 11-6.

“Aces Post 9-4 win over Raleigh”

Northern Pen
Feb 14, 1984
Page 16

Esso Aces post a 9-4 victory over Raleigh Sports.



Raleigh's Ralph Smith was in a perfect position to get a shot on Aces' goaltender Tony Patey after a pass from Dale Ryan, but defenseman Gary Rowbottom had other plans. Here, number 16 thwarts a potential goal during senior hockey action last Monday night.

“Raleigh Edges Closer to Aces with win, tie”

Northern Pen
Feb 28, 1984
Page 12

Raleigh Sports edged closer to league-leading Esso Aces with a win and a tie. Raleigh improved their record to 8-6-1 to maintain their hold on second place four points ahead of Mary Brown's Braves. Aces lead the league with 20 points.

Team Standings up to February 24th:

Team	GP	W	L	Tie	Pts
Aces	12	10	2	0	20
Raleigh	15	8	6	1	17
Braves	11	6	4	1	13
Wings	12	1	11	0	2

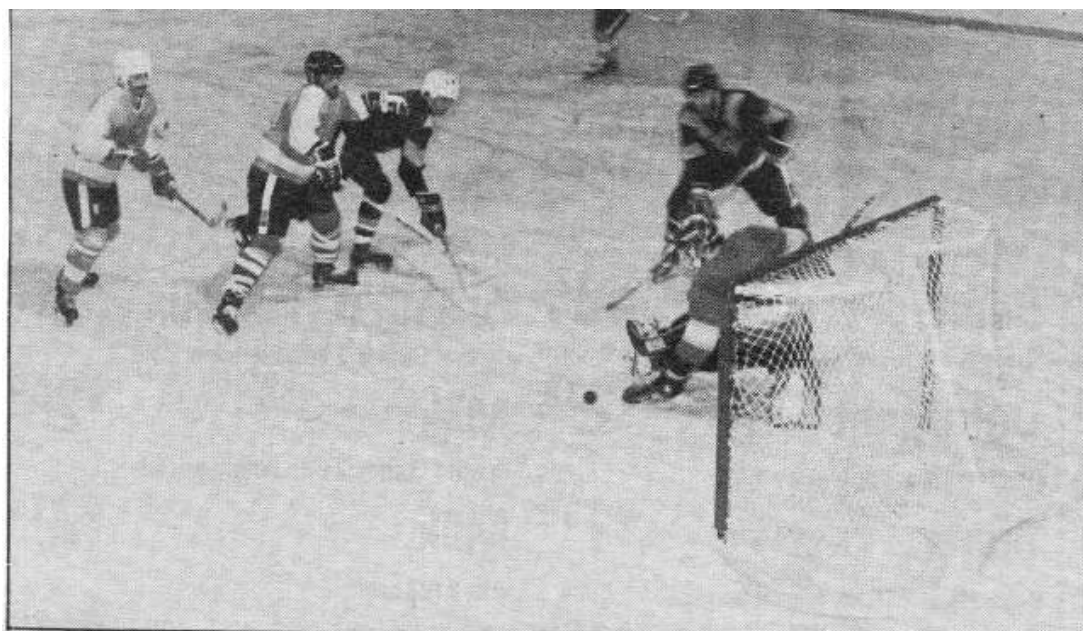
Northern Pen
March 6, 1984
Page 13

Aces register their eleventh victory of the year against just two losses when they dumped Raleigh Sports 9-6. Ezzo Aces lead the league with 22 points followed by Raleigh's 17, Braves' 13, and Cook's Harbour's four.

"Braves up-end Raleigh 6-4"

Northern Pen
March 13, 1984
Page 10

Mary Brown's Braves played 60 minutes of hockey—something they've had trouble doing all season—to up-end Raleigh Sports 6-4.



Braves' goaltender Morey Hillier makes the save on the shot from Raleigh's Alastair Dawe (third from left) during senior hockey action from the Olympia. Forward Ralph Smith tries to snare the rebound while Boyd Pilgrim and Lawrence Hillier (far left) of the Braves try to lend some defensive assistance. The Braves scored a 6-4 victory.

"Aces, Braves lead in senior semi-finals"

Northern Pen
April 3, 1984
Page 15

The Aces opened the series with an extraordinary effort, rebounding from a 6-3 deficit to post a 9-6 decision over Raleigh. Raleigh squared the series at one game apiece by turning back the Aces in a 9-3 triumph. Meanwhile, Mary Brown's Braves had little trouble in disposing of the Cook's Harbour Wings in registering a convincing 12-1 verdict. The Braves took a one game lead in the semi-final series match-up.

“Aces finally eliminate Raleigh; meeting Braves.”

Northern Pen
April 10, 1984
Page 16



“Braves need one for league Championship”

Northern Pen
April 17, 1984
Page 21

After the Esso Aces knocked off the defending champions Raleigh Sports in the semi-finals, they looked upon the final series with the Mary Brown's Braves as little more than a formality in their quest for the championship. However,

somebody forgot to tell the Braves, who refused to roll over and play dead. As a result, the Aces now find themselves down three games to none to the Braves, with their back against the wall.

The Braves moved to within one game of eliminating the Aces with a 7-2 win and appear to be getting stronger as the series progresses. The winner of the series will meet the Savage Cove Coasters.

“Braves Sweep series final”

Northern Pen
April 24, 1984
Page 22

For the past 18 winters hockey players from St. Lunaire-Griquet have been travelling back and forth to St. Anthony to partake in the game they love so well. And for 18 winters, all they're had to show for their efforts is the enjoyment that competition breeds. The distinction as the best senior hockey team in the area was something that was always just beyond their reach. That is until this year. They swept the series against the Aces in four games. It was a victory long overdue.

Winning the crown enables the Braves to advance against the Savage Cove Coasters.



Figure 20 Northern Pen April 28, 1984

The Braves went on to defeat the Savage Cove Coasters for the Northern Peninsula Senior Hockey Championships.

1984-1985

“Griquet Braves on the warpath again”

Northern Pen
January 15, 1985
Page 17

The Braves are looking strong again this season in dominating the competition.



“Braves repeat as senior hockey champs”

Northern Pen

Apr 23, 1985

Defeated Raleigh Sports in seven games



Figure 21 Northern Pen April 23, 1985

1985-1986

Times were different then...

By Ian Pynn

When I was growing up, times were different. In those small communities families were larger. We were a bunch of guys who liked to play hockey and could play hockey; we'd get out on the ice and play. We'd get up in the morning and say, gee, the ponds are froze over, we can

probably get up a game of hockey; or if we had a game scheduled that night, we looked forward to it all day. Now, in a community the size of Raleigh, or any community for that matter, families are smaller and the pool isn't big enough to choose from.

Change was inevitable

As with any sport, change was inevitable. There were various events and issues that led to the eventual demise of the senior hockey league. For instance, there was the issue of out-migration; young men were leaving the northern peninsula to work elsewhere. Now there were fewer younger players to choose from to replace those who were aging out. As well, the fan base which had provided sufficient income to pay for ice time had dropped off, and as the fan base dwindled, the players were asked to pay for ice time, which some were unwilling to do. There were less teams playing—some teams had folded—and that put the burden of payment for ice time on the remaining teams.

Eventually the senior league was discarded in favour of a recreational league.

*Special thanks to the Northern Pen newspaper
for allowing access to their archived files.*

ⁱ A party or celebration, especially a communal gathering with dancing, entertainment.

ⁱⁱ A thin, narrow strip of wood used as a lath or as a paling for a fence. A tall, slender, uniform, round stick of fir or spruce, with or without bark, placed vertically for fencing.