

Maple Grove Rugby Park

GRAND OPENING

September 14th
1985



Souvenir
Programme

OFFICIAL
MAGAZINE \$2.00





PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings and sincere best wishes to the men and women of the Manitoba Rugby Union on the occasion of the official opening of the Maple Grove Rugby Park.

My Government is indeed pleased to support projects such as this rugby park, which have been managed and mainly financed by independent citizens' groups. May I congratulate the Manitoba Rugby Union on their outstanding efforts to provide the community with this park.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I send my very best wishes to you on the opening of the Maple Grove Rugby Park and on the 100th Anniversary of rugby in Manitoba. I am certain that the popularity of the game of rugby will continue to flourish in the years to come, both in your province and across Canada.

Brian Mulroney

OTTAWA
September 14, 1985



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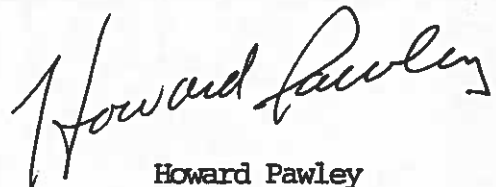


The traditional and challenging sport of rugby is growing in popularity in Canada and in our home province of Manitoba. It is a particular pleasure for me on this, the 100th anniversary of rugby in our province, to congratulate the Manitoba Rugby Union on strengthening that growth through the establishment of the Maple Grove Rugby Park.

The government of Manitoba has been happy to work with, and support, the efforts of an active group which through its own initiative has created a major new recreational facility for the province.

With the opening of the park, rugby in Manitoba can now advance and develop as never before.

To the whole Manitoba rugby community I extend hearty congratulations on a job well done.

Howard Pawley

Howard Pawley

William Norrie, Q.C.
Mayor



Office of the Mayor

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1B9, Canada

It is a pleasure for me on behalf of the members of City Council to extend greetings on the occasion of the opening of Maple Grove Rugby Park.

Sports have always been supported by the people of Winnipeg. They have always enjoyed good competitive events and rugby is no exception.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of rugby in Manitoba and on this occasion I extend to all the supporters and organizers congratulations for making this special opening a reality.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Norrie".

William Norrie, Q.C.
Mayor



CANADIAN RUGBY UNION

333 River Rd., Ottawa, Ontario K1L 8H9
Telephone (613) 748-5657 Telex 053 3660

June 18, 1985

Mr. L.B. Cherrett
President
Manitoba Rugby Union
1700 Ellice Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3H 0B1

Dear Larry,

On behalf of the entire Canadian Rugby Union membership, I extend congratulations on your opening of Maple Grove Rugby Park. This facility will prove to be the cornerstone for the flourishing of rugby in Manitoba and certainly enhances the quality of facilities nationwide.

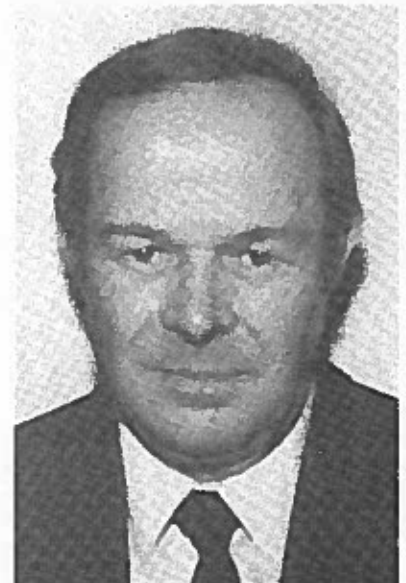
The efforts put forth by your membership in bringing this project to fruition are emblematic of the loyalty and dedication of the Rugby Community to our sport across Canada and indeed worldwide.

I have experienced the tremendous hospitality of the Manitoba Rugby Community when hosting events, and the organization and arrangements were always first class. I look forward to your first National/International event, which I am sure will set standards for others to follow.

The members of the Canadian Rugby Union wish you the best of success in your new rugby home and thank you for your addition of quality facilities to rugby in Canada.

Yours truly,

D.H. Brockington
President
Canadian Rugby Union



Manitoba Rugby: A Century of Growth

Prepared with the assistance of Jim Martens, U of M History Department.

Rugby was the sport of class-conscious British immigrants when it arrived on the Canadian Prairies in the late 1870s.

For the next 90 years the fortunes of the game in this province were to wax and wane. When British immigration was high, the game flourished. When immigration fell off, rugby declined.

Today, the game is thoroughly Canadianized and its growth no longer depends on the vagaries of immigration.

The first rugby club in Manitoba, the Winnipeg Football Club, was organized in 1879. At first games were played only between club members. Later, when games with other teams were organized association football (soccer) rather than rugby was often played.

By 1885 enough clubs had developed to establish a fixture list. This was the true beginning of rugby in Manitoba.

The game continued to develop and at one time there was a team in Brandon formed by Art Ross (the man after whom the N-H-L trophy is named).

By 1910 there were four rugby clubs in Winnipeg. They were made up almost entirely of British and Irish immigrants.

The First World War brought an end to Prairie rugby. In the post-war years Canadian football began to develop and draw potential players away from rugby.

In spite of these setbacks, a new wave of British immigration fueled a revitalization of the game in Manitoba in the mid-Twenties. In 1928 Winnipeg had eight teams: North Kildonan All Blacks; Grain Exchange; the Garrison; Hebrews; Wanderers; Collegians; Marlboros and Sherburn Athletic.

In 1936 rugby was in another decline, but it was still strong enough to host a visiting team from Chicago.

By 1939, the beginning of the Second World War, rugby was once again dead in Manitoba. During the war Commonwealth air force trainees played the game at Gimli. Amongst them, legend has it, was an aspiring Welsh actor, Richard Burton.

In 1944, a touring Australian Services team played an exhibition match against a New Zealand Services team at Osborne Stadium.

That was the end of rugby until 1949 when the game was once again reborn. It flourished until 1955, when, with the closing of the NATO training program here, most of the players left and rugby in Manitoba ceased to exist.

In 1960 a group of rugby diehards started a club. It was called the Winnipeg Rugby Club (later to become the Wanderers) and it was to be the only team in the city until the Wasps were formed in 1965. A River Heights team was also born.

In 1965 the Manitoba Rugby Union was re-formed. The union's first president was Derry Newton. The modern era in Manitoba rugby had begun.

By 1973, the rugby union could boast five clubs as members. In that year schools rugby was re-introduced. Also in 1973, Llanelli, the Welsh rugby champions visited the province and played the Manitoba Selects at Winnipeg Stadium.

The 1980s have seen some important advances in rugby in Manitoba. Coupled with the high school infusion into the sport has been the spread of rugby across the province. There are now strong teams in both Portage and Brandon.

In 1983, Bob Moffatt once again brought up the dream of proper rugby fields in Winnipeg. It is a dream which through the work of Gary MacDonald, Martin Waigh, Don Pincock and others has finally become a reality.

The Canadianization of the game, the strong high school program, the growth of the sport across the province and now the Maple Grove Rugby Park ensure that rugby in Manitoba will prosper in its second century.



The Winnipeg Wanderers R.F.C.

Founded in 1926, the Wanderers R.F.C. was one of the first rugby clubs to be established in the Winnipeg area. The original Winnipeg Rugby Football Club was disbanded in 1939, just prior to World War II. Re-established in 1949, the Wanderers R.F.C. now fields three sides, in the Manitoba Rugby Union's first division, second division and women's league. Over recent years the club has welcomed



Wanderers R.F.C. 1974

to its ranks players from England, Wales, Scotland, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia. In 1985, the club has approximately 60 active playing and social members.

During the past five years the club has boasted many under-20 provincial representatives as well as a number of senior provincial team players. The

Wanderers R.F.C. are involved in all levels and aspects of rugby in Manitoba, including coaching, refereeing, administration and schools. The Wanderers maintain a reputation in Western Canada as one of the regions most active local touring clubs, known for fast, entertaining rugby and a hectic year-round social calendar.

In 1983 the Wanderers toured Britain. This was the club's first overseas tour, although several Wanderers have been guest tourists with other local clubs travelling to Hawaii, New Zealand and Britain.

The Wanderers are proud to be part of Maple Grove Rugby Park.

Winnipeg Wasps Rugby Football Club

In 1965, some rugby enthusiasts in Winnipeg felt a second club was needed. Derek Morgan, Ian Williams and Terry Dann were instrumental in organizing the Wasps to compete with the Wanderers. Under the leadership of these players, the Wasps developed quickly into a strong competitive side.

In the early years, the Wasps were largely a club of British immigrants - skilled players who had learned their rugby elsewhere. In the early 1970's most of the British veterans retired or moved, and the club recruited many young Canadians.

Several of the young Canadian members of the Wasps became actively involved in

starting school rugby in Winnipeg. Their contributions were largely responsible for the growth and vitality of school rugby in its early years. People such as Jim Feasby, Garry Nicholson, Ken Pearn and Peter Gudauskas have contributed greatly since 1973 to school rugby.

The Wasps have been the greatest travellers in Manitoba rugby circles. During the late 1970's, the Wasps made major tours almost as annual events - two to Hawaii and two to the British Isles. Tours within North America have occurred regularly, highlighted by the annual visit to Edmonton Rugbyfest. Other regular tour spots include Saskatoon, Regina, Thunder Bay, Toronto plus Grand Forks and Rugby, North Dakota. This year the Wasps will tour in Ireland and Britain.



1985 Manipogo Champions

Championships

Division I	1970
	1977
Division II	1976
	1978
	1979

Saracens Rugby Football Club

The Saracens Rugby Football Club officially came into being in 1968 with the merger of the River Heights Rugby Club and the University of Winnipeg under the leadership of Peter Press. The club is incorporated as a non-profit athletic organization dedicated to the promotion of rugby football.



Saracens R.F.C. 1979 Provincial Champs

The club has been a dominant force in Manitoba Rugby since its birth. Having been blessed with excellent coaching in its history with the likes of Peter Press, Nigel Corser, Jim O'Shea, and Raymond Skett, the Saracens have earned the Provincial Championship in thirteen years since 1968 and have held the same since

1979. The development of its players is paramount and many players who have left the team are currently maintaining their playing status at top caliber levels in other provinces.

The club is noted for its fast paced slashing style of rugby and has played in the western provinces and mid-west and northern United States on an almost perennial basis over the years. In 1980, the club completed a three week tour of New Zealand.

Currently, the club fields three teams in each of three divisions within Winnipeg. The club also maintains a nucleus of "Old Boys" who dust off their boots and sneak away to the rugby pitch on occasion to re-live old vices.

One of the annual club traditions and highlights is the presentation of S.N.A.F.U. tournament on the August long weekend. This tournament has attracted clubs from all the western provinces and several of the mid-west United States.

Championships

Division I 1969, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84

The Assassins Rugby Football Club

The Assassins Rugby Football Club Inc. was founded in 1968. It was an offshoot of the Wasps RFC, with the majority of the players coming from Churchill High School's football team. The originators of this new club were Jim Platt, Clint Evans, Bob Rialland and Rod Kachulak.

As the years progressed, members were recruited from all over Winnipeg. Today, the Club has representation from every part of the city, and from several rural areas. The Assassins have retained their link with Churchill High School, drawing many players from the school as well as providing coaching for Churchill's rugby team.



Assassins R.F.C.

In 1976, the Club formed a Second Team, and this year it entered a team in the Third Division for the first time.

Two prominent Assassins, Don Pincock and Dwight Evans, have been key figures in developing the Manitoba Rugby Union. Both served two-year terms as president of the Union. Don has been on the board of the Canadian Rugby Union since 1984.

The Club's financial status has been steadily improving over the last eight years through socials, bingos and other fund raising activities.

These efforts have enabled the Assassins to become the major financial contributor to Maple Grove Rugby Park from within the rugby community.

The Assassins have also provided a number of key organizers in the planning and building of Maple Grove. The Club looks forward to developing the game of rugby further through continuing support of the rugby park.

Championships

Keystone Cup - 1984

The University of Manitoba Rugby Football Club

The U of M club was formed in August, 1973 by Tom Millar and Larry Cherrett two members of the Winnipeg Wanderers who were studying at the university.

Within a few days of its formation, Desmond Walton of the Wasps, who was also at the university, joined the club. He was the first president and through his many contacts with the International Centre for Students and in residences, provided the club with a continuous stream of recruits.



Manitoba Select XV vs Lansdowne R.F.C. Ireland, 1974

In 1974 a solid base for the fledgling club was established. On a rainy day at Lipsett - the first game of the season - nine members of the university side showed up to play eight players from the newly-formed Manitoba Irish. The game was abandoned and both sides sensibly retired to a nearby licensed establishment where

the Irish agreed to amalgamate under the banner of the university.

Soon after the amalgamation, the club's first coach Barry Camac was recruited.

Since those early days the university has ebbed and flowed in size and success. Being a university club players from many countries have worn our jersey. Unfortunately, after graduating most have returned to their homes or gone on to other parts of Canada.

In 1977 the club helped host visiting Irish teams from Galway and the New University of Ulster. In that year the university also won its first, Second Division Championship. A dry period followed but in 1980 the university once again reached the second division final and since that time, particularly with the arrival of coach Sean Sykes, it has met with considerable success both on and off the field. Much of that success lies in the fact that the university has been able to recruit native Winnipeggers. This, and inroads into the high schools, should ensure the future success of the University of Manitoba Rugby Football Club.

Championships

**1977 - Second Division 1983 - Second Division 1984 - Second Division
1984 - Second Division league champs**

Women Wasps Athletic Association

The Wasps Women's team first came into being in the summer of 1978. In the club's first year of existence it consisted mainly of the wives and girlfriends of the men's Wasp team. Over the years, however, the women's team has grown to now encompass numerous players who have been independently attracted to the club and to rugby.

The club's early years were difficult. It took time to be recognized as a team that took the game seriously, and there were the usual problems of invading a male domain. And of course, there was the ever present difficulty of finding other women's teams to play. Those problems have been largely overcome and our entrance into the rugby park project as a full member is a measure of our success and acceptance.

We have twice attended the Ontario Sevens in Toronto. We have been to tournaments in Calgary and Edmonton and this summer we undertook a very successful tour of Montreal.

We are now completing our eighth year of rugby and have about twenty-five keen and well-coached players. We look forward to many years of success and hope the rugby facility will help advance rugby in Manitoba for both men and women.



The Wasps Women's Team

Championships

Women's Rugby Division - 1985

Wasps Super Sevens - 1979, 80, 81, 82, 85

Manipogo - 1980, 84, 85

Snafu - 1980

Grand Forks - 1979

Rugby, N.D. - 1979

Winnipeg Griffons Rugby Club

The Griffons were formed in the spring of 1985 through the amalgamation of the St. James and St. Vital rugby clubs. The marriage has been successful and the Griffons are now one of the strongest clubs in the province.

The St. Vital club was founded in 1974. It was made up of players from the Wasps, Wanderers and Assassins. In 1978 it won a First Division Championship.

The St. James Club grew from a nucleus of graduates of St. James Collegiate. Its fairly short history was marked by a great deal of on-the-field success... as the team twice reached the provincial finals.

By 1984 both St. Vital and St. James were struggling, but the amalgamation this spring has created the on-field strength and the organizational know-how to make the new club - the Griffons - contenders in their first year.

The Griffons are proud to be part of Maple Grove Rugby Park and look forward to the higher levels of competition the facility will no doubt produce.



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Maple Grove Rugby Park ...the end of the beginning

The fields and clubhouse being opened today are the result of enormous work by many people. While each individual contribution was vital there are four people without whom the rugby park would never have been built. They are Bob Moffatt, who dreamed the dream; Martin Waigh who started the project; and Don Pincock and Gary MacDonald who made it a reality.

Why not make your tax deductible donation to keep Maple Grove Rugby Park growing.

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All donations are tax deductible.

Please make cheques payable to: Canadian Rugby Union

Donations not requiring a tax receipt, please make cheques payable to Maple Grove Rugby Park I
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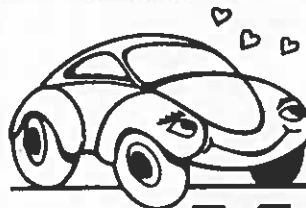


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