

# Sports

## Boxing | Past

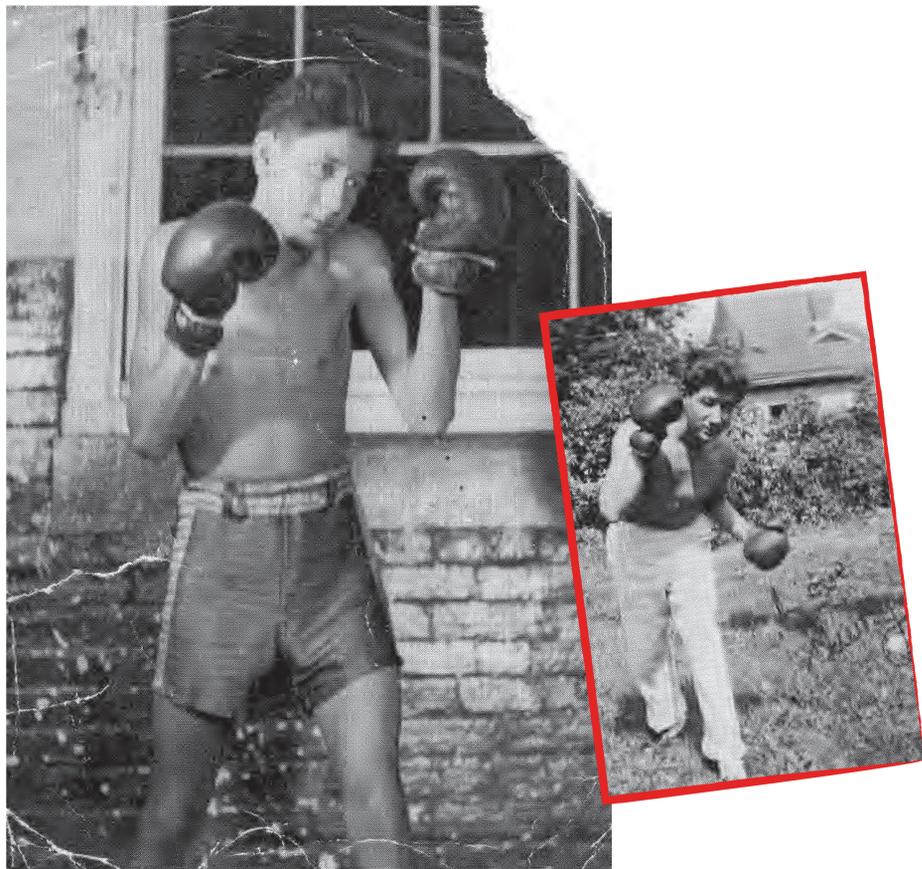
### Amateur Fights Held in Victoria Hall's Beautiful Opera House!

Somehow it's hard to imagine, but some sixty years ago **fight nights were among the entertainment highlights for visitors to Victoria Hall.**

One didn't have to look far for an eager audience or even competitors. **The Market Building next door was home to the Cobourg Boxing Club,** with a legal sized ring for sparring and training. It was a haven for the young men who had grown up with their dads away at war.

**Emerson "Chief" Charles and his younger brother, George "Gung" Charles** were among the best of the local fighters. "Chief" Charles went on to fight out of Patterson, New Jersey, compiling a very respectable record of 15 wins, 10 losses and 3 no decisions from 1948-1953. In one memorable bout he **lost a six round decision to Joey Giardello,** then World Welterweight Champ.

While he was still fighting out of Cobourg, local coverage had this to say about one of the "Chief's" matches:



*Cobourg's new found pugilistic hero invaded the rings of Peterborough last Thursday night and scalped another victim.*



*The day after a fight.*

...and about "Gung":

*Another Indian chap from Cobourg, George Charles, won a decision. He started like a buzz saw with a two fisted attack and showed a lovely left. It was a nice fight.*

Pictures from: Life Was A Game – A Cobourg Story 1942-1952 by George "Gung," Charles & Jack "Darce," Campbell  
All pictures are of "Gung" Charles"