

# Birthplace of Curling

"A meeting was held this evening in the private dining room of the Haileybury Club to consider what action should be taken with regard to the Game of Curling. Those present were: Messrs. Walkinshaw, Way, Craig, Legge, Fred Day, Woodhouse, Stitt, Haentschell, Donnell, Elliott, Weaver, Robertson and Burrows." First entry in the Minute Book of the Haileybury Club, Nov. 25th. 1907.

Many non curlers and particularly curling widows have pondered this same question of what action should be taken about the game of curling but the gentlemen listed above knew what to do. On Nov. 29th. 1907 the Haileybury Curling Club was formed with the following officers:

Hon. President Mr. D. Dunlap, President Dr. Haentschell, V.P. Mr. Bagshaw, Sec. Treas. Mr. Donnell, Com. Members, Messrs. Burrows and Robertson.

Skips appointed were as follows: Messrs. Stitt, Haentschell, N. A. Timmins, Jackson, Stoddart, Burrows, Donnell and others.

First business of the new Club was to secure ice in the Skating rink. The Skating rink which was on the site of the present Curling Rink was owned by the Timmins and they were enthusiastic curlers. (Noah Timmins was one of the original ships and donated the Timmins Cup which graced the curling scene for many years.)

A part of the Skating rink was used during 1908 and 09 but was not available after that and for the next two years Haileybury players curled in New Liskeard where a new rink was in operation.

In April 1911, a committee consisting of E. A. Wright, A. R. Webster, and J. I. Rankin was appointed "to receive moneys, and to make all necessary arrangements and agreements with regard to the proposed rink to be located in the market Building." The new rink was available for play in 1912

a year that saw Haileybury's first Bonspiel. (The Club had joined the Northern International Curling Association in 1908. They had also acquired a Club pin the same year.)

The Haileybury fire destroyed the rink in 1922 and there was no curling in 1923. In 1924 a new rink and market building was ready for use. This served as the home for the Club until 1951 when the present fine structure was built under the guiding hand of Pres. Bill Fleming.

Haileybury was, of course, the birthplace of curling in Northern Ontario and has been noted as a hotbed of curling enthusiasts ever since. The Club has produced many fine curlers and rinks but the name of Emmett Smith stands out as a competitive curler. His name first appears in the membership lists in 1912 but it was in the late 20's and the 30's that he dominated the curling scene in Northern Ontario. His Haileybury rink represented Nor. Ont. no less than four times in the MacDonald Brier Play-Down. Dan Millar, who played on the Smith rink was the only other, and the last, skip to take a Haileybury rink to the Brier. That was in 1939.

With a fine new building housing six sheets of ice and modern commodious Club rooms the Club is now taking steps to secure artificial ice. When that is accomplished the Club will be ready for its second 50 years. A. C. Mosher is the President for the coming season.

Bill Ferguson holds seniority in curling among the present citizenry. He participated in the Skating rink in 1908 or 1909. In the membership lists of 1911 the names of Dr. W. R. Summerville and M. W. Hotchkiss appear. In 1912, W. R. J. Jowsey, Dr. Crawford, Emmett Smith and Milt. Boyd. Among other names in 1914 are A. L. Herbert and

Harry Oakes. Other active participants in the club in the early years were H. C. Durbar, A. J. Carlson, G. A. Bagshaw, W. A. Gordon, D. E. Sutherland, J. E. McCuaig, J. Still, Bob Budd, Bob Wyman and Cliff Moore, Lorne Ferguson, H. Pickard, J. Gowd, Phil Montgomery, Joe Wesley, Joe Branchaud, O. J. Thorpe, Fred

Thompson, Milt Boyd, George Caldbeck, M. J. Conkey.

There was at one time an Anti-Cigarette League in Haileybury. How long it lasted some of the older citizens may remember, but in the autumn of 1908 its members met on

Thursday, July 29, 1954 Page 7 alternate Monday evenings in the public school. Mrs. Jones, wife of S. Alfred Jones, widely-known lawyer of the time and place, was superintendent; president was Master Harry Murdock, who is now a merchant in Englehart, with Roy York the secretary.

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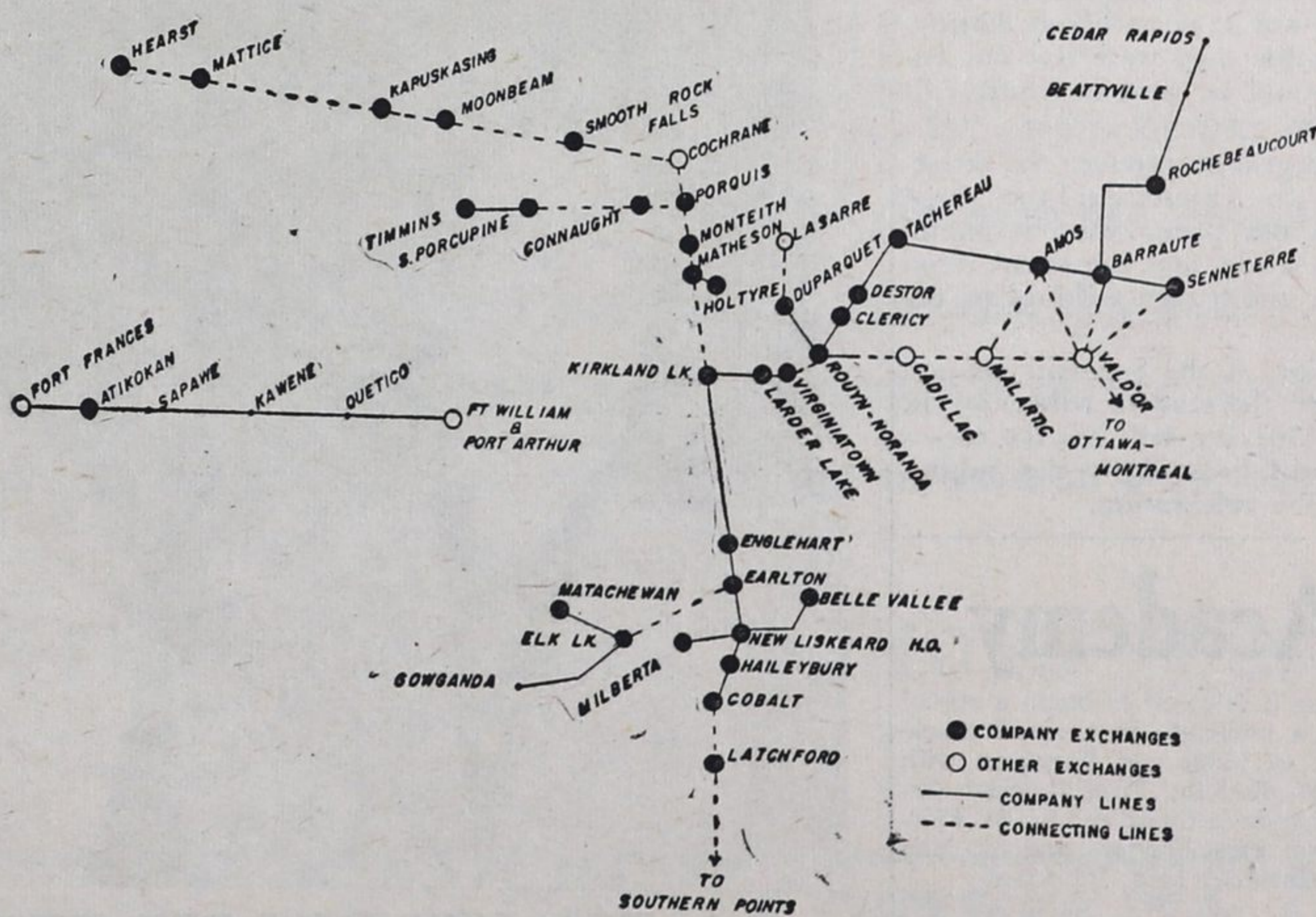
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Place	Phones
Timmins & Sch.	8,292
Noranda & Ryn.	6,570
Kirkland & Swast.	5,131
Kapuskasing	2,271
New Liskeard	2,197
Amos	1,848
South Porcupine	1,534
Atikokan	1,030
Cobalt	966
Haileybury	935
Englehart	838
Hearst	641
Senneterre	595
Smooth Rock Falls	475
Virginiatown	433
Matheson	363
Larder Lake	327
Duparquet	268
Barraute	266
Earlton	187
Matachewan	184
Taschereau	173
Moonbeam	145
Elk Lake & O'Brien	132
Clericy	130
Holtyre	109
Rochebeaucourt	78
Mattice	54
Monteith	52
Latchford	52
Porquis	49
Destor	42
Connaught	42
Sundries	53

Total .....36,462



Growth of Systems	
1905	125
1907	447
1910	888
1915	1,282
1920	1,921
1922	1,683
1924	2,128
1926	2,447
1928	4,500
1930	4,922
1931	5,338
1932	5,488
1933	5,905
1934	6,601
1935	7,402
1936	8,586
1937	10,305
1938	11,788
1939	12,926
1940	13,506
1941	14,189
1942	13,910
1943	15,017
1944	17,060
1945	20,190
1946	22,771
1947	24,211
1948	25,651
1949	28,382
1950	29,082
1951	31,803
1952	34,260
1953	35,164
1954 (June 30)	36,462

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