

Albert McCormick



Albert McCormick began his hockey career in Waterloo on an outdoor rink at St. Louis Parish. It was a magical place for Catholic boys who shoveled the snow before each practice while dreaming of the big leagues.

McCormick played on the team and was later asked to coach what was known as the St. Louis Holy Name Society minor hockey team. It was a post that inspired Albert McCormick to become one of the most respected hockey volunteers in Waterloo.

The St. Louis team also created the likes of David and Bobby Bauer. Both brothers went on to make a lasting mark in the world of hockey – Reverend David Bauer as the coach of Canada’s Olympic team, and Bobby as an NHL star for several years, including two Stanley Cup winners with the Boston Bruins.

In 1948, McCormick was asked to represent the St. Louis team at the Waterloo Minor Hockey Association. He remained involved with the association for seventeen years, acting as a convener for the pee wee association and a manager and coach of the pee wee all star team. His role as a convener meant McCormick had to be in the arena every Saturday morning at 6 a.m. during hockey season. McCormick’s teams won three championships and in the early 1950s won the grand championship two years in a row.

The son of Mr. And Mrs. John McCormick and a native of Macton, Ontario, McCormick became a long-time parishioner of St. Louis Church where he served as an usher. His family of twelve children lived near the church at 91 Willow Street. After McCormick’s first wife Hattie Grossman died in 1942, he was married a second time to Helen Koebel. McCormick worked as a shipper at Sunshine Office Equipment Ltd. for thirty-three years.

In 1973, an arena and community centre in northwest Waterloo were named in his honour. Albert McCormick, devoted countless volunteer hours during the 1950s and 1960s to the development of young hockey players. He was also the founding chairman of the Waterloo Recreation Commission in 1960.

Photo courtesy of the Waterloo Public Library