

THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL
HOCKEY RESEARCH

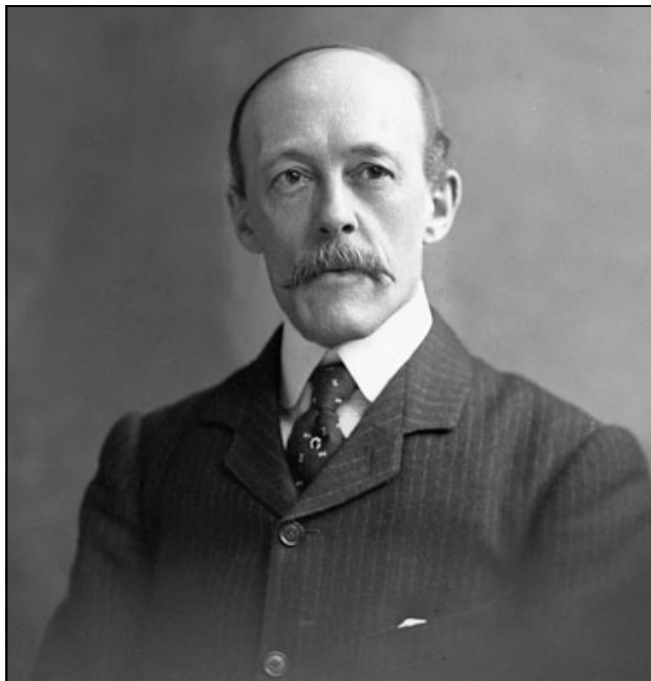


Photo: William J. Topley / Library and Archives Canada

JAMES GEORGE AYLWIN
CREIGHTON

1850 - 1930

PROGRAM

Unveiling ceremony of a gravesite monument
and plaque commemorating hockey pioneer
James George Aylwin Creighton
as a person of national historic significance
Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 2 p.m.

Beechwood, The National Cemetery of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario



J. G. G. Creighton



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

October 24, 2009

James George Aylwin Creighton Monument and Plaque Unveiling

James George Aylwin Creighton was an innovative hockey pioneer and enthusiast, who advanced the status of Canada's National Winter Sport. I am pleased to recognize the accomplishments of this great Canadian as the Society for International Hockey Research (SIHR) and the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation unveil a monument and plaque in his honour.

Creighton's contributions to the game were largely forgotten until SIHR founder Bill Fittsell rescued his remarkable legacy through detailed archival work. Hockey as we know it today was formalized by Creighton's innovations. He brought the game indoors, established fixed teams and played a leading role in standardizing the rules of a distinctive onside game. Creighton worked to promote hockey in Montreal and Ottawa, which led to the popularization of the game through tours of Ontario.

Our government successfully nominated Creighton to receive recognition from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as a Person of Historic Significance. Now, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the SIHR and the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation he will garner another much deserved enduring memorial to his critical role in hockey's history. I want to highlight the generosity of all of the donors who stepped forward to ensure the realization of this project. Your passion for the sport and its remarkable past is indicative of the special place hockey holds in the hearts of Canadians.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to honour the collective efforts of all involved in preserving James George Aylwin Creighton's legacy.

Sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*

MEMORIAL PLAQUE TEXT

James George Aylwin Creighton

1850 - 1930

Hockey Pioneer - National Historic Person

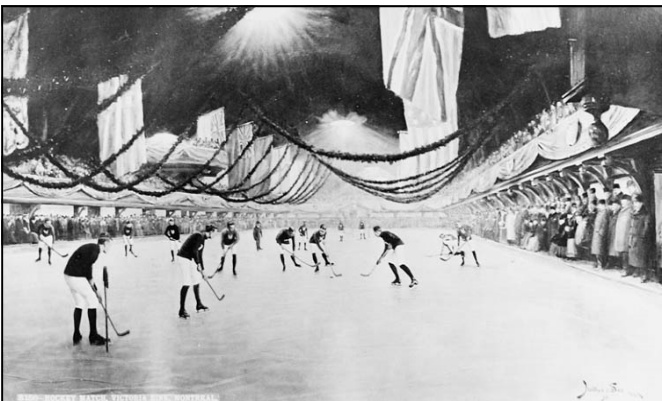
A man of many talents and interests, James Creighton distinguished himself as an engineer, journalist, lawyer and civil servant. He was an avid sportsman who excelled in hockey, both as a player and an innovative organizer during the formative stages of the game. He helped introduce the sport to Montreal in 1875 and captained teams in every recorded game there during the development years. His hockey interest continued in Ottawa during a distinguished career as Law Clerk to the Senate between 1882 and 1930.

Plaque and grave marker erected by the Society for International Hockey Research with the help of hockey heritage supporters, Eugene Melnyk, Harley Hotchkiss and Beechwood, The National Cemetery of Canada.

RECOGNITION

HOCKEY—At the (Victoria Skating) Rink last night a very large audience gathered to witness a novel contest on the ice....The game was an interesting and well-contested affair...and notwithstanding the brilliant play of Captain Torrance's team Captain Creighton's men carried the day, winning two games to the single of the Torrance nine.
—*The Gazette, Montreal, March 4, 1875.*

J.G.A. Creighton was responsible for the start of hockey here (in Montreal)...It was Creighton who first suggested that they obtain hockey sticks from Halifax and take up the game...(he) had seen played in his home town.—*Henry Joseph as quoted by D.A.L. MacDonald, The Gazette, Montreal, 1936.*



Hockey Match, Victoria Skating Rink, 1893, where Creighton introduced the game to Montreal in 1875. William Notman.

J.G.A. Creighton is credited with being the author of the rules under which the first game of “true” hockey was played in Montreal in 1875, but evidentially he had merely imported the game he had seen played in his native Halifax.—*Charles Bruce Fergusson, The Chronicle-Herald, Halifax. 1969.*

He took his knowledge of hockey to Ottawa, and by 1888 was the mentor and senior member of a club called the Rideau Hall *Rebels* (sic). ... The influence Creighton had over these men—(government house and parliamentary colleagues) cannot now be measured, but it must have been considerable.—*Canada’s Sporting Heroes, Douglas Fisher and Sidney Wise, 1974.*

His name is not listed among the builders of hockey enshrined at either of Canada’s two hockey halls of fame, and yet this Halifax native had more to do with the coddling of hockey in the embryo state and its step forward into a recognized game than any other puck pioneer.
—*J.W. Fittell, Hockey’s Captains, Colonels & Kings, 1987.*

...the man who taught the participants to play, gained access to the rink, captained the winning team and provided two dozen hockey sticks from Halifax for that all-important first game was James Creighton. In doing so this young Nova Scotian was destined to become a father of organized hockey.—*Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame Citation, 1993.*

Often considered the “father” or inventor of organized ice hockey, Creighton played a functional role in popularizing...the game in the 1870s and 1880s by bringing the game indoors (in Montreal).
—*Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada brochure, 2008.*



J.G. Aylwin Creighton (fourth from left) with 1889 Parliamentarian-Government House team, later known as the Ottawa Rebels. Fittell Collection.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF J.G.A CREIGHTON

- 1850 (June 12)—Son, James George Aylwin Creighton, born to William Creighton and Anna Fairbanks, 45 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 1859 Game of rickets on ice with “hurleys” reported in Nova Scotia.
- 1860 James Creighton enters Halifax Grammar School.
- 1864 First report of Halifax boys playing “hockey on the ice.”
- 1865 Graduated Honours B.A., Dalhousie University, Halifax.
- 1867 Hockey and rickets played side by side on Dartmouth, N.S. lake.
- 1868 Creighton employed on the Intercolonial Railway
- 1872 Employed as assistant engineer on North Shore Railway, Montreal.
- 1874 Employed as engineer on Lachine Canal.
- 1875 Captained 9-man team in first public exhibition of hockey in Montreal. Rickets still played in Halifax.
- 1876 Elected Associate Institute of Civil Engineering.
- 1877 Entered journalism, Montreal.
- 1878 Married Eleanor Platt of Montreal.
- 1879 Captain Creighton’s team loses annual match to McGill. Played on “Benedicts” hockey team against “Bachelors.”
- 1880 Graduated First Class Honours, Bachelor of Civil Law, McGill University.
- 1881 Joined Montreal law firm, Barnard, Beauchamp & Creighton.
- 1882 Published “French Canadian Life and Character,” *Picturesque Canada*. Appointed Law Clerk of the Senate; Master of Chancery.
- 1885 Named commissioner for consolidating Canadian Statutes.
- 1886 Joined Rideau Club, Ottawa.
- 1889 Played for Ottawa “Rideaus” Hockey Club against Montreal.
- 1890 Played for Parliamentary team and against Government House team.
- 1893 Published “The Northwest Mounted Police of Canada” *Scribner’s Magazine*.
- 1908 Returned to Halifax for funeral of father, W.H. Creighton.
- 1930 (June 27) Died of heart attack, Rideau Club, Ottawa.
- 1933 (April 30) Eleanor Platt Creighton died at Ottawa. Interred at Beechwood.
- 1936 British book noted Creighton’s pride in being captain of first regular hockey club formed in Canada.
- 1943 Publicized by an American sports historian as man who introduced hockey to Montreal.
- 1974 Creighton saluted in *Canada’s Sporting Heroes* for “crystallizing” game.
- 1993 Inducted posthumously as “Builder” in Nova Scotia Hockey Hall of Fame.
- 2006 Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. XV, recorded Creighton as “engineer, journalist, lawyer and athlete.”
- 2007 Nominated as pioneer builder for induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame by Society for International Hockey Research.
- 2008 Cited as “Father of Canadian Hockey” on plaque unveiled by Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada at Montreal’s Bell Centre.
- 2009 Gravesite monument and plaque unveiled at Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa, by SIHR.

SUPPORTERS

The Creighton Memorial Committee wishes to acknowledge the generous contributions of Harley Hotchkiss, Eugene Melnyk and the following individuals and groups.

Reid Barry	Pat Houda	Daniel Monahan
Robert Baraszu	Chad Huebner	Monika Moravan
Gaetan Bisson	Gregg Inkpen	David Nabi
Christine Burnside	D'Arcy Jenish	Laurent Paulin
Craig Campbell	Martin Kearns	Philip Pritchard
Benoit Clairoux	Cathy Kinast	Scott Proudfoot
Chantel Cummings	Paul Kitchen	Craig Raaf
Addison Davenport	Lenard Kotylo	Lefty Reid
Lloyd Davis	Eric Knight	Mati Sauks
Evelyne Deslauriers	James Kubus	Scott Seely
Wilbrod Despres	Blaise Lamphier	Jeff Sim
Beverley Farkas	Alex Laney	Stephen Smith
James Finke	Bryan Lawrence	Phil Stamp
J.W. (Bill) Fittsell	Keith Lenn	David Watts
Roger Godin	Alexander MacKay	Glenn Weir
Edward R. Grenda	Remigio Mariano	Steve Williamson
Stephane Harvey	Jean-Patrice Martel	Jerry Winchell
Tom Hawthorn	Al McCallum	Francis.J. White
Paul Henning	Evan Mersel	James Wood
HMCS Vancouver	James Milks	Eric Zweig

Special thanks are also due to Roger Boulton, Vera Yuzyk and Nicole Bedard of The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation, whose expertise and guidance made this day possible.



CREIGHTON MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Edward R. Grenda, Chairman

J.W. Bill Fittsell Paul Kitchen James Milks Lenard Kotylo

ABOUT SIHR

Since its inception in 1991 in Kingston, Ontario, The Society for International Hockey Research has grown to include over 400 members.

SIHR strives to uphold its main objective to promote, develop and encourage the study of hockey and establish an accurate historical account of the game through the years.

The growing network of writers, statisticians, collectors, broadcasters, academics and hockey fans share ideas and produce research in an annual journal, quarterly newsletters and maintain an extensive player statistics database.

For more information please contact President James Milks at james.milks@sihrhockey.org or visit www.sihr.ca.

James Milks, President
Jean-Patrice Martel, Executive Vice-President
Lloyd Davis, Secretary
Paul Bruno, Treasurer



ABOUT BEECHWOOD CEMETERY

Established in 1873, Beechwood is considered to be one of the most beautiful and historic cemeteries in Canada. It is located in the heart of Ottawa on 160 acres of land of which approximately 60 acres are available for future development.

Beechwood was recognized in April, 2009, as the **National Cemetery of Canada** by Parliament. Some of the reasons cited for this designation were that Beechwood is the home of the National Military Cemetery and the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery and is a National Historic Site. It is also the final resting place of 75,000 Canadians of all walks of life, including many prominent Canadians such as Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, Tommy Douglas, Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn and Sir Sandford Fleming to name a few.

Beechwood is owned and operated by The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation, a not-for-profit registered Canadian charity.