



# Breaking the Colour Barrier

## Matériel Pédagogique

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Greater Essex County District School Board

### Les Nombreuses Réussites de Wilfred « Boomer » Harding

- ❖ **Plan de cours de quatrième année**
- ❖ **Arts linguistiques (avec une concentration sur les Études Sociales)**

Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario



University  
of Windsor

CENTRE  
FOR DIGITAL  
SCHOLARSHIP



## Plan de Cours de Quatrième Année

**Cours:** Arts Linguistiques (avec une concentration sur les Études Sociales)

**Niveau d'études:** 4

**Sujet:** Les Divers Exploits de Wilfred «Boomer» Harding

**Temps estimée:** 4 à 5 périodes de 35 minutes

### Attentes du Curriculum

#### Communication Orale

1.2 Les étudiants vont démontrer une compréhension d'un comportement d'écoute appropriée en utilisant des stratégies d'écoute active pour s'adapter à différentes situations, incluant le travail de groupe.

1.3 Les étudiants vont identifier différentes stratégies de compréhension et d'écoute et les utiliser de façon appropriée avant, pendant et après l'écoute pour comprendre et clarifier la signification des textes oraux de plus en plus complexes.

1.4 Les étudiants vont démontrer une compréhension des informations et des idées dans des textes de plus en plus complexes, de manières variées.

1.6 Les étudiants vont améliorer leur compréhension de textes oraux en associant et en comparant les idées et les informations contenues dans leurs propres connaissances, expériences et vécus; à d'autres textes, incluant des textes imprimés et visuels; et au monde qui les entoure.

2.2 Les étudiants vont démontrer une compréhension d'un comportement oral approprié dans différentes situations, incluant des discussions entre les pairs, de grands et de petits groupes.

2.3 Les étudiants vont communiquer d'une manière claire et cohérente afin de présenter des idées, des opinions et de l'information dans une forme qui facilite la compréhension.

2.4 Les étudiants vont utiliser les mots et les phrases appropriés à leur propre vocabulaire, incluant un langage inclusif et non discriminatoire, ainsi que des outils stylistiques appropriés selon la raison et le contexte, pour bien communiquer la signification et engager l'intérêt du public visé.

2.5 Les étudiants vont identifier des effets vocaux, incluant le ton, la vitesse, la hauteur, le volume et une gamme d'effets sonores, et les utiliser de façon appropriée et avec sensibilité envers les différences culturelles pour aider à communiquer la signification.

2.7 Les étudiants vont utiliser différents supports visuels appropriés pour appuyer ou aider leurs présentations orales.

#### Lecture

1.1 Les étudiants vont lire différents textes littéraires et informatifs.

1.2 Les étudiants vont identifier différentes raisons de lire et de choisir du matériel de lecture approprié à ces raisons.

1.3 Les étudiants vont identifier différentes stratégies de compréhension de lecture et les utiliser de façon appropriée avant, pendant et après la lecture pour comprendre les textes.

1.4 Les étudiants vont démontrer une compréhension de différents textes, en identifiant des idées importantes et quelques détails.

1.5 Les étudiants vont faire des références par rapport aux textes en utilisant des idées explicites et implicites du texte comme preuve.

2.3 Les étudiants vont identifier différentes caractéristiques dans les textes et expliquer comment elles aident les lecteurs à mieux comprendre.

3.1 Les étudiants vont lire et comprendre les mots communs, les mots utilisés régulièrement et les mots qui inspirent un intérêt personnel ou une signification immédiate, dans différents contextes littéraires.

3.2 Les étudiants vont prédire la signification des mots et rapidement déterminer la définition des mots non familiers en utilisant des stratégies variées.

### Écriture

1.1 Les étudiants vont identifier le sujet, la raison, le public visé et la forme d'écriture.

1.2 Les étudiants vont générer des idées par rapport à un sujet potentiel, en utilisant différentes stratégies et ressources.

1.4 Les étudiants vont trier des idées et des informations pour leur projet d'écriture de manières variées.

2.1 Les étudiants vont écrire des courts textes en utilisant des formes variées.

3.1 Les étudiants vont bien écrire les mots familiers.

3.2 Les étudiants vont écrire des mots non familiers en utilisant différentes stratégies qui impliquent la compréhension de relations son-symbole, la structure des mots, les définitions des mots et les généralisations de l'orthographe.

3.3 Les étudiants vont confirmer l'écriture et les définitions ou le choix de mots en utilisant diverses ressources.

3.4 Les étudiants vont utiliser la ponctuation pour aider à communiquer la signification voulue.

3.5 Les étudiants vont utiliser des parties de leurs discours de façon appropriée pour clairement communiquer la signification.

3.6 Les étudiants vont revoir et corriger leur écriture.

### **Qu'est-ce que les étudiants vont pouvoir faire?**

Les étudiants vont:

- Utiliser différentes stratégies de compréhension de lecture avant, pendant et après la lecture pour comprendre les textes.
- Démontrer une compréhension de l'histoire.
- Analyser les sources primaires et secondaires.
- Compléter les activités d'enrichissement de vocabulaire.
- Utiliser les nouveaux mots de vocabulaire dans un nouveau contexte.
- Repérer des mots dans le texte.
- Amasser et organiser les informations au sujet de Wilfred «Boomer» Harding.
- Écrire des phrases complètes avec la ponctuation appropriée.
- Communiquer leurs idées et leurs informations d'une manière claire et cohérente.

### **Comment est-ce que les étudiants seront évalués?**

Des listes de vérification vont être utilisées pour évaluer les compétences des étudiants en écriture et en communication orale.

## Matériel/Ressources

- Sources primaires et secondaires (articles et photos)
- Activités imprimables
- Crayons de couleur, marqueurs
- Papier de construction
- Colle

## Connaissances Antérieures et Compétences

Révision:

Qu'est-ce qu'une source primaire? Une source primaire est une trace originale et directe d'un événement ou d'une période spécifique dans l'histoire.

Exemples:

- Photo, enregistrements audio, enregistrements visuels, films
- Journaux, lettres, journal de bord
- Discours
- Albums de photo
- Livres publiés, journaux et articles de revue publiés au temps à l'étude
- Histoires orales
- Traces d'organisations
- Autobiographies et mémoires

Qu'est-ce qu'une source secondaire? Une source secondaire est une trace au sujet d'un événement ou d'une période spécifique de l'histoire qui a été produite après ce fait. Il n'a pas été observé directement.

Il est bénéfique pour les étudiants de savoir que lors des années 1800, cinq familles noires se sont installées le long du Ruisseau McGregor dans le petit village de Chatham, connu sous le nom des «Fourchettes». Le village est aussitôt devenu un abri pour les esclaves échappés qui fuyaient l'esclavage et l'oppression des États-Unis. En 1850, un tiers de la population de Chatham était noire.

Arrivés là, les noirs à Chatham ont réussi dans le domaine du commerce, de l'éducation, de la médecine, dans les sports et dans les arts littéraires et culturels. Des échos de leur succès ont attiré dans la région des noirs en provenance de partout à travers l'Amérique du Nord.

L'histoire des noirs à Chatham est non seulement de signification locale; les années de contribution noire et leur participation dans le Sud de l'Ontario a laissé une impression fondamentale sur le paysage national.

S'il-vous-plaît visitez <https://ckbhs.org> pour d'autres informations au sujet de l'histoire des Noirs à Chatham.

## Stratégies d'Enseignement



## **POUR COMMENCER**

Une fois que les étudiants sont familiers avec les sources primaires, distribuer une photo à chaque groupe. Les étudiants vont examiner leur photo et compléter la feuille de travail «Analyser des photographies». À la fin, les étudiants vont partager leurs photos et leurs réponses avec la classe.

### Vocabulaire Pré-Enseignement

Les étudiants vont compléter l'exercice d'association de vocabulaire.

Distribuer l'article «*Champion du Temple de la Renommée de Plusieurs Sports*» aux étudiants.

### Avant la lecture

- Quel est le sujet de l'article?
- Pourquoi penses-tu?
- Qu'est-ce que tu connais au sujet de l'individu dans l'article?
- Est-ce qu'un détail sur les pages te rappelle quelque chose que tu as fait ou quelqu'un que tu connais?
- Qu'est-ce que tu connais au sujet des images sur ces deux pages?
- Qu'est-ce que tu te demandes?

### Pendant la lecture

- Comment es-tu similaire à Boomer Harding?
- Comment es-tu différent?
- Est-ce que tu te demandes quelque chose à l'instant?
- Pourquoi penses-tu que les Noirs n'avaient pas droit au patinage public?
- As-tu jamais observé du racisme?
- Peux-tu me dire ce qu'on a lu jusqu'à présent?

### Après la lecture

- Quel est le message principal de l'article?
- Quelles questions aimerais-tu poser à M. Harding?
- Peux-tu reformuler l'article dans tes propres mots?
- Quelle est la chose la plus importante à se rappeler au sujet de Boomer Harding?
- Est-ce qu'il te rappelle de quelqu'un que tu connais?
- Comment est-ce qu'on devrait se souvenir de lui?
- Qu'est-ce qui serait arrivé à Boomer Harding s'il n'y avait pas eu de racisme dans les sports à ce moment?

## **AU TRAVAIL**

Les étudiants vont compléter les activités de vocabulaire et les questions.

Lorsque les activités sont complétées, les étudiants vont se faire demander par leur enseignant de repérer des informations sur la page intitulée «*Voici quelques accomplissements de Boomer Harding*». Par exemple, «*En quelle année est-ce que Harding a gagné un championnat avec les Signaux de Vimy?*».

Questions additionnelles:

Qu'est-ce que ces informations nous indiquent?

Dans quel sport est-ce qu'il a gagné le plus de championnats?

Dans quel sport est-ce qu'il en a gagné le moins?

Quel est son plus grand accomplissement? Pourquoi?

Dis-moi trois choses que tu as apprises?

Dis-moi deux choses que tu as trouvé intéressantes?

As-tu encore des questions?

### **ACTIVITÉ FINALE**

Les étudiants vont créer une carte de sport pour Boomer Harding. S'il-vous-plaît revoir les instructions. Les étudiants vont utiliser des articles, des sources primaires et secondaires additionnelles, ainsi que la liste de ses accomplissements pour les aider à compléter la tâche. Ils vont compléter un organisateur graphique avant de créer la carte. Une fois que la copie finale est terminée, les étudiants vont coller la face de la carte sur un morceau de papier construction. À l'arrière, ils vont coller le côté arrière de la carte. Les étudiants vont présenter leurs cartes à la classe.

### **EXTENSION**

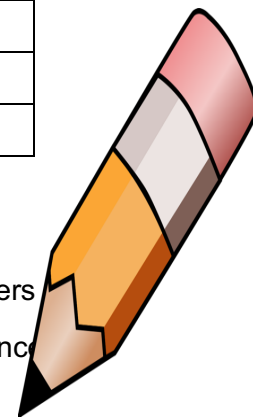
Organiser et analyser plus de sources primaires et secondaires et créer des sous-titres pour eux.

# Boomer savait comment gagner

Nom \_\_\_\_\_

Associe les mots dans la colonne de droite aux définitions dans la colonne de gauche en écrivant des lettres dans la colonne du centre. Utilise différentes stratégies pour t'aider à prédire la définition de chaque mot.

1. précipiter		a) l'habileté de bien faire quelque chose
2. disputer		b) de ne pas bien faire quelque chose
3. officier		c) d'ignorer
4. exceller		d) une personne reconnue à une cérémonie et qui devient partie d'une organisation
5. divers		e) d'être en charge d'un événement sportif
6. conscrit		f) de courir rapidement
7. succès		g) plusieurs
8. insultes		h) un résultat exceptionnel
9. de ne pas en faire		i) de prendre part à un concours
10. une compétence		j) des mots impolis



## B. Utilise les mots de vocabulaire pour remplir les espaces vides.

P    précipiter    disputer    officier/officier    exceller    exceller    divers  
 conscrit    succès    insultes    ne pas en faire    compétence

1. Elle adore les animaux. Elle a \_\_\_\_\_ animaux de compagnie.
2. Il a \_\_\_\_\_ en mathématiques depuis sa jeunesse.
3. Ma voisine était fâchée, car quelqu'un lui criait des \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Mon oncle a une \_\_\_\_\_ spéciale : il peut jongler les yeux fermés.
5. Même si nous sommes meilleurs amis, il faut qu'on \_\_\_\_\_ l'un contre l'autre dans la course.
6. La clé du \_\_\_\_\_ est de faillir parfois.
7. L'écureuil se \_\_\_\_\_ à travers la rue, car une voiture approchait.
8. Ma mère doit \_\_\_\_\_ à ma joute de soccer cette fin de semaine.
9. Le joueur de baseball était \_\_\_\_\_ au temple de la renommée.
10. Pour rester concentré, je dois \_\_\_\_\_ des distractions.



## Hall of Famer champion in several sports

By Mark Malone  
The Daily News

Wilfred (Boomer) Harding could never be pinned down to one sport.

He'd dash from a soccer practice to a baseball game, then manage to fit in a softball game, too, before heading home after dark to his waiting parents.

"They didn't know where he was, but they knew he was playing something," his son Blake Harding said.

That didn't change as the years went by. The elder Harding, who died in 1992 at age 77, gained fame on baseball diamonds, soccer fields and ice rinks across the province.

Perhaps best known as a member of the 1934 Chatham Colored All-Stars — the first all-black baseball team to win an Ontario championship — Harding later starred for several other local clubs.

He competed for an Ontario baseball championship six times and won three. He also won at least two provincial titles in hockey and two more in soccer.

"Every team he played with won," Blake Harding said. "There's a common factor here that they're winners."

"He didn't go to them because they were winners. He went to them and made them winners."

When Boomer Harding grew too old to play, he umpired and refereed. And when he was too old to officiate, he took up darts, later finishing second in Canada behind only a world champion.

"If you beat him, look out," said Blake Harding, 55. "Because that was the only win you were going to get."

Boomer Harding even held the Canadian army record in the pole vault, a mark he set while wearing army boots.

"Every sport he took part in was a passion, and he did it with a passion," Blake Harding said. "And he excelled in every sport..."

"His favourite was whatever he

was playing at the time."

Hockey took him the farthest. He skated alongside NHL players, including Vezina Trophy winner Johnny Mowers, in 1945-46 on an army team touring Scotland and England.

He joined the Windsor Staffords of the International Amateur Hockey League for the 1946-47 season, picking up 10 goals and 20 points in 25 games.

The Staffords played some home games in Detroit, where Harding made history as the first black player at the Olympia.

"I don't think blacks were even allowed at public skating at the time," Blake Harding said.

His father was originally slated to play for Detroit Auto Club, a Red Wings affiliate, before joining the Staffords at a time when teams were gradually offering more opportunities to blacks.

"They were looking for the Jackie Robinson of hockey," Blake Harding said. "They wanted someone with not only the skill to play — and, truth be told, he was better



Contributed Photos

**HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE:** Wilfred (Boomer) Harding was a winner, whether it was on the baseball diamond, hockey rink or soccer pitch, in track & field or darts. He will be inducted into the Chatham Sports Hall of Fame on Thursday at the W.I.S.H. Centre.



than Willie O'Ree (who, in 1958, became the first black in the NHL) — but their attitude, how they could take the abuse of 12,000 fans at that time or 10,000 fans calling them names."

However, Boomer Harding wasn't likely to shrug off insults from anyone. Plus, he was older than 30 and had a family in Chatham, so he left the International league after one season to play in leagues around Kent County.

Sports never brought Harding much money but they paid off in other ways. The former hotel bell-

hop used the connections he made through his athletic success to become the first black postal carrier in Chatham.

"There's a lot of good athletes coming out of Chatham, and somebody had to open the doors so they could come out," Blake Harding said. "I think dad and a lot of other guys did it."

Boomer knew how to win

### Class of 2003

#### Modern Athlete

Herb Wakabayashi

#### Old-Time Athletes

Wilfred (Boomer) Harding;  
Arthur Pelkey

#### Builders

Doug Allin, John McKay

#### Team

1953 Branch 431 Legion  
Bantam Baseball Ontario champions



#### Induction Ceremony

Thursday, 6 p.m.  
W.I.S.H. Centre

**C. Réponds aux questions suivantes avec des phrases complètes.**

1. Quel est le titre de l'article?

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2. Quelle est la date de l'article?

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3. Dans quel journal est-ce que l'article est paru?

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4. Parmi tous les sports que Boomer Harding a joués, selon toi lequel a été son préféré?  
Pourquoi?

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**D. Encerle la bonne réponse.**

5. Le \_\_\_\_\_ de Wilfred Harding est Boomer.

- a) Prénom
- b) Surnom
- c) Nom de famille

6. Qu'est-ce que la phrase "Si tu gagnes contre lui, fais attention, c'est le seul succès que tu auras jamais eu" signifie?

- a) Boomer quittera s'il perd.
- b) Si Boomer perd, il travaillera fort pour battre son adversaire.
- c) L'adversaire de Boomer ne voudra pas encore jouer contre lui.



## Voici quelques accomplissements de Boomer:



Commencé en 1933 à l'âge de 17 ans et a joué pour plus de vingt ans  
1934 Chatham Coloured All-Stars (Championnat de l'Ontario-la première équipe entièrement noire à le faire)  
1939 Chatham Coloured All-Stars- finalistes  
1948 équipe championne de Chatham Hadley Lumber  
1957 Blenheim Braves-finalistes  
Entré en compétition pour un total de six championnats de baseball de l'Ontario



1933- École Vocationnelle de Chatham- Champions WOSSAA  
1947- Légion de la Branche 28- Champions de l'Ontario  
1949- Branche 28- finalistes de l'Ontario

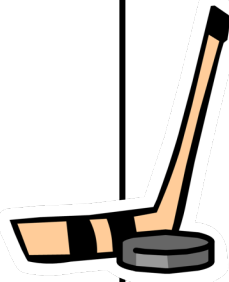
## AUTRES

Balle-molle - a joué de 1930 à 1955

Ballon-panier- 1944- Les Signaux de Vimy- Champions de région

Quilles- Total 661 points après trois joutes, incluant deux joutes simples de 231 et 277

Fléchette- 1962-1988- s'est placé invariablement à de hauts niveaux



Commencé en 1931 pendant le secondaire  
1934-1935 L'école vocationnelle de Chatham- Champions WOSSAA  
1935-1936 L'école vocationnelle de Chatham- Champions WOSSAA  
1943-1944 Équipe de l'Armée de London- Champions intermédiaires OHA  
1945-1946-les Oilers de Petrolia-finalistes  
1946-1947- Les Staffords de Windsor- premier joueur noir à avoir joué à l'Olympia de Détroit  
1950- Chatham Golds- entré en compétition pour plusieurs championnats à l'Olympia de Détroit  
1950- Chatham Golds-entré en compétition pour plusieurs championnats



1929 – KSSAA Champion Garçons Junior  
1934 – KSSAA Champion Garçons Sénior  
1944 – Championnat de l'Armée Canadienne- saut à la perche- deuxième place relais 4x100– première place, champion toutes divisions  
Laisse un record de saut à la perche en portant des bottes



1988 – Olympiques de Calgary- Prix Olympique d'Or en reconnaissance de ses 55 ans d'accomplissements athlétiques (seulement 18 Canadiens sont reconnus)  
2003- Temple de la renommée de Chatham

# Évaluation

Tu vas créer une carte de sport de Boomer Harding. Tu vas décider quel sport sera représenté. Ta carte doit inclure les choses suivantes:

Sur la face avant de la carte:

- son nom
- une photo claire (dessinée et coloriée)

Dessine et colorie une image

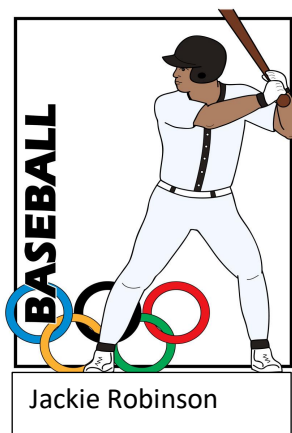
Nom

À l'arrière de la carte:

- sa date de naissance
- l'année de son décès
- sa ville natale
- le nom d'une équipe avec laquelle il a joué
- 5 faits intéressants à son sujet (dans tes propres mots)
- tu vas présenter ta carte à la classe et tu dois expliquer pourquoi tu as choisi ces 5 faits

Année de naissance  
Année de décès  
Ville natale  
Nom d'une équipe  
5 faits intéressants

**EXEMPLE**



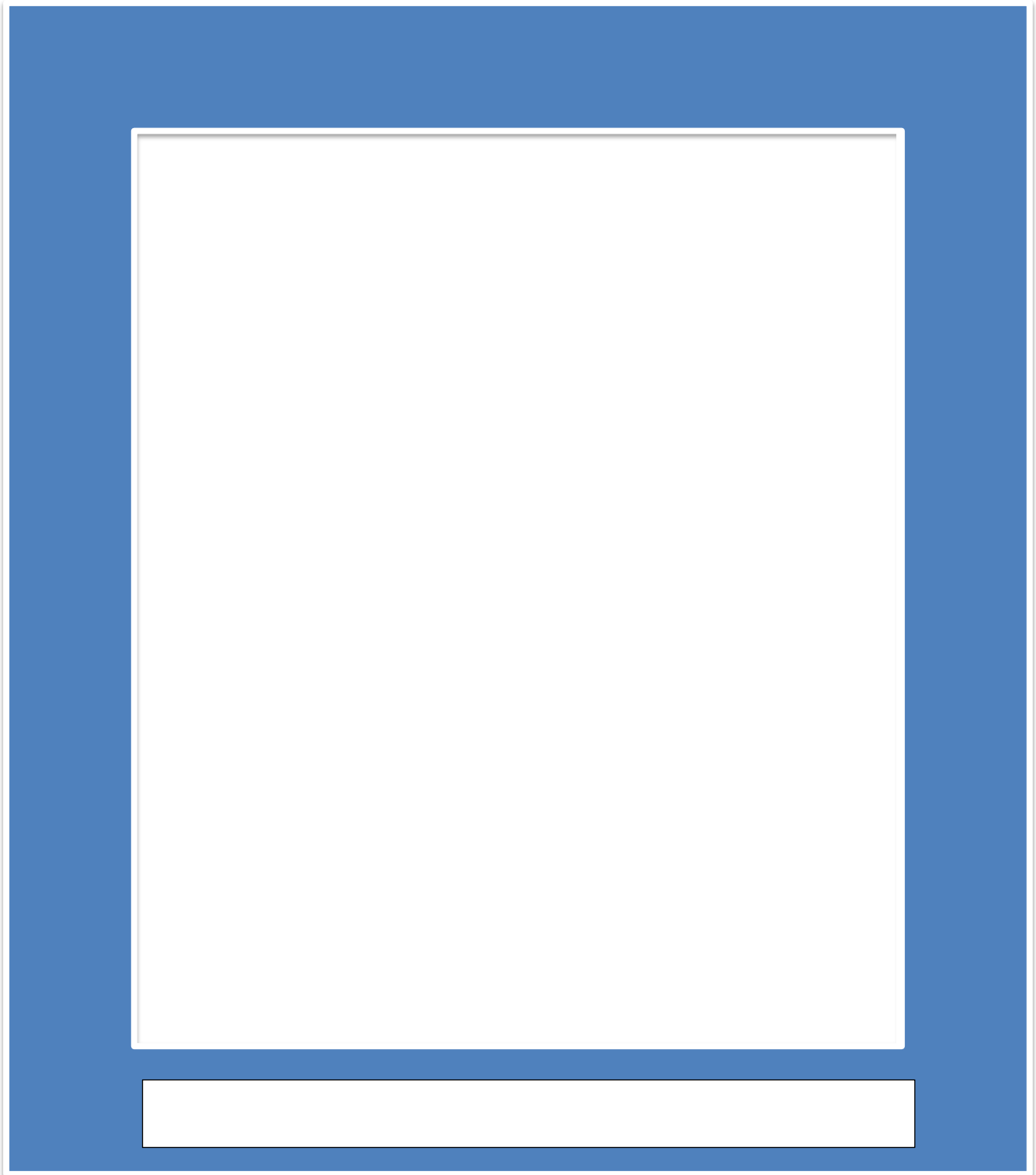
**Wilfred «Boomer Harding» (1915- 1992)**  
**Organisateur Graphique de Carte Sportive**

Nom: \_\_\_\_\_

Nom	
Année de sa naissance	
Année de son décès	
Ville natale	
Nom de l'équipe	
5 faits intéressants	
Pourquoi as-tu choisi ces 5 faits?	







# Boomer Harding

L W A N K L E H D W O O J D W  
N I W B B B L T P Z E S Z S S  
H D N Y O U V R E N N I W O S  
D E V L O N D A D P I L C F E  
B J N F M L T C Z H M A K T C  
B A S K E T B A L L N O Z B C  
Y Y S C R S R S R A Z N C A U  
L E X E P B G F D I E X W L S  
Q E K O B N R I C F O Z V L R  
I D R C I A A E T E L H T A E  
Q T A L O N L C H A T H A M C  
S R W R D H S L T R A C K Z C  
G O S H T O Y T C L L Y T G O  
B B E A Y S A R V Y Y D M Q S  
Y L F W H F P A E W V X A B S

ATHLETE  
BOOMER  
CHATHAM  
EXCEL  
SOCCER  
SUCCESS

BASEBALL  
BOWLING  
COMPETE  
HOCKEY  
SOFTBALL  
TRACK

BASKETBALL  
CANADIAN  
DARTS  
ONTARIO  
SPORTS  
WINNER



## Analyser des Photos

Nom \_\_\_\_\_

<b>1. Qui vois-tu dans la photo?</b>	
<b>2. Qu'est-ce qui se passe dans la photo?</b>	
<b>3. Quels objets vois-tu dans la photo?</b>	
<b>4. Est-ce qu'il y a des sous-titres? Si oui, qu'est-ce qu'ils disent?</b>	
<b>5. Quel temps de l'année est-ce que c'est? Comment le sais-tu?</b>	

<b>6. Quel moment de la journée est-ce que c'est? Comment le sais-tu?</b>	
<b>7. Qu'est-ce que tu penses qui est arrivé avant la prise de la photo?</b>	
<b>8. Qu'est-ce que tu penses qui est arrivé après la prise de la photo?</b>	
<b>9. Où est-ce que la photo a été prise? Comment le sais-tu?</b>	
<b>10. Qu'est-ce que tu vas te souvenir au sujet de la photo?</b>	
<b>11. Quelles questions as-tu encore par rapport à la photo?</b>	

## Niveau 4 Feuille réponses

A.

1. f
2. i
3. e
4. b
5. g
6. d
7. h
8. j
9. c
10. a

B.

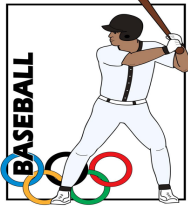
1. divers
2. exceller
3. insultes
4. compétence
5. disputer
6. succès
7. précipiter
8. officier
9. conscrit
10. ne pas en faire

C.

1. Boomer savait comment gagner
2. Mercredi le 10 septembre 2003
3. The Chatham Daily News

D.

5. a
6. b



# Liste de Vérification- Carte Sportive

Nom \_\_\_\_\_

- |   | Oui                      | Presque                  | Non                      |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| J'ai complété mon organisateur graphique.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J'ai dessiné et colorié une photo claire de Boomer Harding à l'avant de la carte <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          |
| J'ai clairement écrit le nom de Boomer Harding à l'avant de la carte.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sur l'arrière de la carte, j'ai inclus:   |                          |                          |                          |
| -sa date de naissance   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| -sa date de décès   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| -sa ville natale  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - un nom d'équipe   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J'ai écrit cinq faits intéressants au sujet de Boomer Harding.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Je me suis exprimé de façon claire.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J'ai parlé avec un volume approprié.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J'ai parlé à une vitesse appropriée.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ma présentation était compréhensible.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J'ai expliqué de façon logique pourquoi j'ai choisi mes faits.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J'ai eu un contact visuel avec mes camarades et mon enseignant(e).  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J'ai utilisé ma carte sportive pour améliorer ma présentation   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

J'aime comment tu...	Je crois que tu devrais...	Prochaines étapes...

The Chatham Daily News Tue. Sept 16, 1958 pg 10



### PANTHERS AFTER SECOND WCBA CHAMPIONSHIP

Seeking their second straight WCBA baseball crown are these Kent Panthers of Chat-

ham. Seated are B. Harding, C. Hurst, K. Calvert, B. Wright, D. Toward, L. Foster, and E.

Chase. Standing, M. Cross, R. Reaume, A. Scott, C. Cooper, B. Selby, H. Chase, D. Baldwin,

B. Gibson and A. Wright.

(Staff)



# "Boomer" Harding Shuts Out Kent Bridge 4-0 For Panthers

"Boomer" Harding put the Chatham Panthers back on the winning path last night as he hurled the Taylor Athletic Club entry in the Kent County Baseball League to a 4-0 shutout over Kent Bridge on the latter's diamond last night.

Harding let the losers down with four hits over the nine inning route, his mates collecting a like number but utilized them to better advantage. Kent Bridge erred four times to three for Panthers.

Armstrong hurled the distance for Kent Bridge.



April 24, 1948

## NEWCOMERS OUT WITH CHATHAM INTERMEDIATE "A" O.B.A. CHAMPS



Chatham Hadley Lumber will be out again this year in an attempt to retain the crown they have won the past two seasons. Replacements are needed and the call is out for all intermediate

players to drop out to Stirling Park for the workouts. This week close to forty players were out for practice. Shown above are newcomers hoping to catch a spot with the team that promises to

carry Chatham colors into the O.B.A. ranks. Kneeling left to right are; Walt Zyburá, Dick Williams, Bern Rivard, Laddie Mikulica, Jug Warren, Billy McAlorum

(By Chatham Daily News Staff Photographer) and Bill Fenton. Standing in back row are; Tony Gazarek, Don Barnwell, Merle Murray, Hank Howard, Boomer Harding, Norm Martin and Reg Swainston.



# Hall welcomes six members

## Newest inductees enjoyed success around the world

By Mark Malone  
The Daily News

They left their mark around the globe.

Now they'll be permanently honoured in their home town.

The Chatham Sports Hall of Fame announced its six newest inductees Friday, a list which includes an Olympian, a world titleist, a Canadian Hall of Famer and a handful of provincial champions.

The honourees are hockey player Herb Wakabayashi, baseball player Wilfred (Boomer) Harding, boxer Arthur Pelkey, minor baseball organizer and former mayor Doug Allin, figure skating official John McKay and the 1953 Chatham Legion Branch 431 bantam baseball team.

They'll be saluted at an induction dinner and ceremony Sept. 11 at the W.I.S.H. Centre.

Wakabayashi went from the Chatham Maroons to an award-filled career at Boston University, which later inducted him to its Athletic Hall of Fame.

He earned All-America honours in his final two seasons. He left as the second all-time leading scorer at Boston, where he also played baseball and was named the school's athlete of the year.

Wakabayashi later played and coached hockey in Japan.

He competed at the Winter Olympics in 1972, '76 and '80, when he carried the Japanese flag during the opening ceremonies at Lake Placid, N.Y.

He now lives in Richmond, B.C.

Harding, who died in 1992, is already in the Hall of Fame with the 1934 Ontario champion Chatham Colored All-Stars baseball team.

It was the first of several provincial baseball titles for Harding, who also excelled at track and field.

Less well-known is his hockey career. Harding played for more than 20 years and won an Ontario intermediate championship with the London Army team in the 1943-44 season.

He toured Scotland with the 1945-46 Canadian Army Group 'D' Red Wings and played in the International Amateur Hockey League with the Windsor Staffords in 1946-47.

Pelkey fought Luther McCarthy in Calgary for the world white heavyweight championship in 1913. McCarthy died in the ring from what were later found to be injuries he suffered two days earlier by falling off a horse.

Pelkey was never the same again. He lost his next fight — and the title — in 1914, then lost nine more in a row including a bout against Jack Dempsey.

He hung up his gloves in 1920 and died the following year.

Allin helped found the Chatham Minor Baseball Association in 1946 and worked for the next 25 years as an executive and coach.

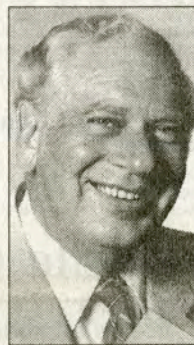
His coaching highlights include five consecutive Ontario peewee titles from 1957-61. He later won three more provincial baseball ban-



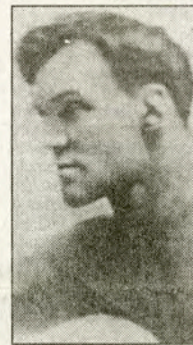
DOUG  
ALLIN



WILFRED  
HARDING



JOHN  
McKAY



ARTHUR  
PELKEY



HERB  
WAKABAYASHI

ners, in addition to coaching tennis and girls' basketball.

He'll enter a Hall of Fame he helped organize in 1984. He's been on the board of directors since the project was revived in 1998.

McKay, who died in 1994, was a director of the Chatham Figure Skating Club for more than three decades.

He was also a director at the sectional and national levels, then became president of the Canadian Figure Skating Association in 1971-72. He also was the chairman of several CFSA committees.

McKay represented Canada as a judge, referee and team leader at meets around the world. He was inducted to the Canadian Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 1997.

The 1953 bantam baseball team was Chatham's first minor ball club to win an Ontario Baseball Association championship. Their feat came before the OBA made divisions based on population, so Chatham had to defeat the province's biggest and best teams to claim the title.

Chatham eliminated Sarnia, Windsor, London, Hamilton and finally Oshawa for the championship.

Jack Fairs was hired to coach the

bantams, and their success convinced the Chatham recreation department to continue hiring a full-time coach for many years to follow.

The other nominees were: Jamie Jefferson, Dennis McCord and Randy Rybansky as modern athletes; Max Lenover and Wilson (Copper) Leyte as old-time athletes; Ross Babcock and Bob Weedon as builders; and the 1937-38 Chatham Senior Maroons, the 1974-75 McGregor Panthers senior boys' basketball team and the 1982-85 Hendricks and Panic racing team in the team category.

Hall members elected one person or team per category. The board of directors then chose two more inductees — Pelkey and McKay — who may not have been known by the voters, either because they competed too long ago or participated in a lower-profile sport.

Tickets for the induction dinner cost \$30 for Hall of Fame members and \$35 for non-members. They're on sale at the W.I.S.H. Centre and Legion Branch 628.

Tickets are also being sold by Hall of Fame directors.

Call Jay Teetzel at 354-2333 or Frank Burgess at 352-0569 for details.



# Hall of Famer champion in several sports

By Mark Malone  
The Daily News

Wilfred (Boomer) Harding could never be pinned down to one sport.

He'd dash from a soccer practice to a baseball game, then manage to fit in a softball game, too, before heading home after dark to his waiting parents.

"They didn't know where he was, but they knew he was playing something," his son Blake Harding said.

That didn't change as the years went by. The elder Harding, who died in 1992 at age 77, gained fame on baseball diamonds, soccer fields and ice rinks across the province.

Perhaps best known as a member of the 1934 Chatham Colored All-Stars — the first all-black baseball team to win an Ontario championship — Harding later starred for several other local clubs.

He competed for an Ontario baseball championship six times and won three. He also won at least two provincial titles in hockey and two more in soccer.

"Every team he played with won," Blake Harding said. "There's a common factor here that they're winners.

"He didn't go to them because they were winners. He went to them and made them winners."

When Boomer Harding grew too old to play, he umpired and refereed. And when he was too old to officiate, he took up darts, later finishing second in Canada behind only a world champion.

"If you beat him, look out," said Blake Harding, 55. "Because that was the only win you were going to get."

Boomer Harding even held the Canadian army record in the pole vault, a mark he set while wearing army boots.

"Every sport he took part in was a passion, and he did it with a passion," Blake Harding said. "And he excelled in every sport..."

"His favourite was whatever he

was playing at the time."

Hockey took him the farthest. He skated alongside NHL players, including Vezina Trophy winner Johnny Mowers, in 1945-46 on an army team touring Scotland and England.

He joined the Windsor Staffords of the International Amateur Hockey League for the 1946-47 season, picking up 10 goals and 20 points in 25 games.

The Staffords played some home games in Detroit, where Harding made history as the first black player at the Olympia.

"I don't think blacks were even allowed at public skating at the time," Blake Harding said.

His father was originally slated to play for Detroit Auto Club, a Red Wings affiliate, before joining the Staffords at a time when teams were gradually offering more opportunities to blacks.

"They were looking for the Jackie Robinson of hockey," Blake Harding said. "They wanted someone with not only the skill to play — and, truth be told, he was better



Contributed Photos

**HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE:** Wilfred (Boomer) Harding was a winner, whether it was on the baseball diamond, hockey rink or soccer pitch, in track & field or darts. He will be inducted into the Chatham Sports Hall of Fame on Thursday at the W.I.S.H. Centre.



than Willie O'Ree (who, in 1958, became the first black in the NHL) — but their attitude, how they could take the abuse of 12,000 fans at that time or 10,000 fans calling them names."

However, Boomer Harding wasn't likely to shrug off insults from anyone. Plus, he was older than 30 and had a family in Chatham, so he left the International league after one season to play in leagues around Kent County.

Sports never brought Harding much money but they paid off in other ways. The former hotel bell-

hop used the connections he made through his athletic success to become the first black postal carrier in Chatham.

"There's a lot of good athletes coming out of Chatham, and somebody had to open the doors so they could come out," Blake Harding said. "I think dad and a lot of other guys did it."

## Class of 2003

### Modern Athlete

Herb Wakabayashi

### Old-Time Athletes

Wilfred (Boomer) Harding;  
Arthur Pelkey

### Builders

Doug Allin, John McKay

### Team

1953 Branch 431 Legion  
Bantam Baseball Ontario cham-  
pions



### Induction Ceremony

Thursday, 6 p.m.  
W.I.S.H. Centre

Boomer knew how to win





PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

FORM 26

THE VITAL STATISTICS ACT, 1948

**BIRTH CERTIFICATE**



ONTARIO

NAME

Harding, Wilfred

DATE OF BIRTH

Aug. 6. 1915

SEX

M

PLACE OF BIRTH

Chatham, Kent Co.

REGISTRATION

Sept. 3. 1915

15-T5-13-173

(DATE)

(NUMBER)

ISSUED AT TORONTO, ONTARIO.

THE 25 DAY OF

Aug.

19

49

(REGISTRAR GENERAL)

Chatham Daily News, Wed., May 15, 1974

## Legion Player Dart Champion

GALT (Staff) — Singles champion Allan Heyninck of Branch 28 Royal Canadian Legion Chatham joined a doubles group to earn top places in two events at the all-Ontario Legion Dart Championships at Galt Saturday.

Cliff Scott and Wilfred "Boomer" Harding who copped the doubles crown combined with Heyninck and George Moore and Remi Heyninck for a fourth place finish in the five man team competition.



ONTARIO . TEAM CHAMPS

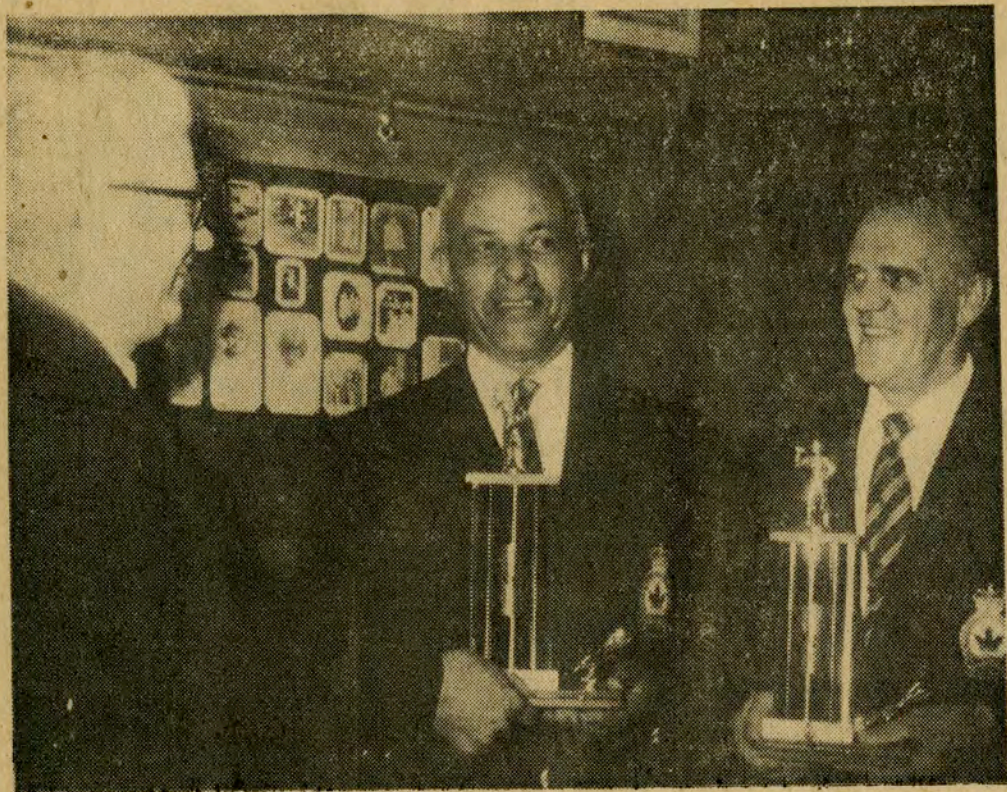


ONTARIO DOUBLES

CHAMPS







## PLACE SECOND IN CANADA

Chatham's Wilfred Harding and Cliff Scott teamed up May 24 in Lachine, Quebec to place second while representing Ontario in the annual First Annual Royal

Canadian Legion National Dart Championships. The Branch 28 duo lost out to the Alberta team. Scott had the honor of having the high score

for the day, 171. Above from left are Ontario Provincial Publicity and Public Relations chairman Charlie Moon, Harding and Scott. (Staff)



March 22, 1983



## CITY MAN DISTRICT 'A' DART CHAMPION

Chatham Branch 28 Legion hosted the District A Darts tournament recently with a Windsor squad winning the team competition, a London pair taking the doubles event a Chatham man taking the singles title. Wilfred "Boomer" Harding, front row left, of Chatham Branch 628 was the singles winner, while Dave Green and Dave Couper of Branch

2 London took the doubles crown. In back, district sports officer Sam Westbury, left, and deputy district sports officer Ken Dixon, right, congratulate the winning team from Branch 578 Windsor comprised of Skip McMahon, Bill Messenger, Greg McMahon, Pete Smallman and Bob Marshall. All the winners advance to the provincial competition in London this April. (Staff)

*Chatham Daily News Aug 16, 1958*

# Panthers Host Royals: Soccer Finals Tonight

City and County sport representatives will face the busiest and most crucial weekend of sports since the summer season opened two months ago.

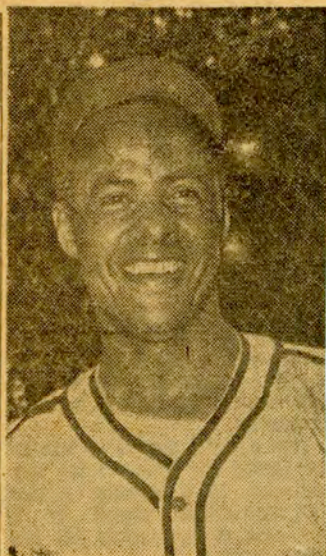
Today, Chatham's three minor baseball representatives open the first round of Ontario playoffs, two of them away from home.

Moose Midgets all stars host Kitchener Midgets in the first of the best-of-three Midget quarter-finals playoff at Rotary Park. Game time is 3 p.m. Larry Myers or Dennis Roebuck are expected to handle the pitching for Chatham. Midgets eliminated Sarula recently for the Western Counties crown.

Klasmen Pee Wee all stars are in Kitchener this afternoon for the first of their best-of-three series with Kitchener Pee Wees. Second game of the series is expected to be back in Chatham Tuesday.

Branch 431 Legion Bantams journey to Brantford for their first taste of OBA playoffs today. Game time in Brantford is 5 p.m. Date of the second game to be played in Chatham has not yet been announced. The series is a best-of-three affair with the winner advancing to the semi-finals. Herb Wakabayashi or Wayne Tulloch will pitch today's opener.

Chatham's Kent Panthers tackle Strathroy Royals in the final regularly-scheduled game in the WCBA Intermediate League on Sunday at Stirling Park. Game time in 3 p.m. Panthers rest in a fourth place tie with Corunna. They face Moore Centre at Moose Centre today. Earl Chase is scheduled to pitch today's game with righthander Robert Wright going to the mound in Sunday's encounter with the Royals at Stirling Park.



**BOOMER HARDING**  
... With Panthers





BOOMER HARDING, MEL CROSS

## Panthers Host Strathroy; Minors Tackle Riverside

A tie game separates Chatham's Kent Panthers from a playoff spot in the Western Counties Intermediate League. Today, Panthers will get a chance to gain a share of the fourth position when they host Strathroy Royals at Stirling Park.

Fresh from two weekend victories over Sarnia and Corunna Panthers seek their third straight win and fifth victory in seven games when they host the league leading Royals today at Stirling Park. Game time is 5 p.m.

Moore Centre and Chatham are tied in the league basement one point back of fourth place Corunna. All teams have won six games with Corunna holding a one-point edge by virtue of a tied game. Strathroy leads with pack with a respectable 10-wins three-losses record.

Manager Allan Wright is confident his charges can come up with a win today. He will send ace righthander Bob Wright to the mound in an attempt to stop the front runners who have captured 3 of their 10 victories against Panthers.

Wright, however, has yet to be beaten in three games played to date. A member of the local detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, he came here mid-way through the season after a brief stint with Harrow of the Essex Senior League.

Mel Cross or Boomer Harding

will handle the catching duties in today's contest. Horace Chase Abie Scott, Lorne Foster, George Montague, and Leroy Turner will make up the other infield positions.

Hard-hitting Charlie Cooper Bob Provost and Chuck Hurst will be in Panthers' starting outfield. Cooper recently hit two homeruns in Sarnia only to be called out for failing to touch base on each occasion. Cooper belted a solo homer the following day at Stirling to give the Panthers a 14-4 decision over Corunna.









# City of Chatham

OPERATING UNDER COUNCIL MANAGER GOVERNMENT  
ONTARIO CHARTER

DEPARTMENT OF

City Clerk-Treasurer.

CHATHAM, ONT., May 7th, 1929.

To be used for School purposes only.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

1915

The records in my office show that Wilfred Harding was born in the City of Chatham, Ontario, Canada, on the 6th day of August, 1915. Father's name, Andrew Harding. Mother's maiden name, Sarah Holmes. Physician's name, Dr. J. W. Rutherford, and the said birth was registered in this office on September 3rd, 1915.

*Com Foreman*

City Clerk-Treasurer.

ADDRESS ALL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY MANAGER





1ST CPL. HARDING



# Chatham Army Camp Track Team Ready for Meet



**M**EMBERS of the track team of Number 12 Basic Training Centre, Chatham, shown above, are confident of victory in the district track meet to be held at London July 10. Shown are, front row, left to right: Pte. H. A. Edwards of Windsor, Pte. T. Marucci of Guelph, Pte. G. Cochrane of St. Marys, Lieut. Ken Porter of Galt, who is coach as well as a member of the team, Pte. E. Hodges of Windsor, Pte. M. Robinson of Detroit, and Pte. J. Wyse of London. Back row, left to right: Pte. W. Harding of Chatham, Lance-Corporal Harry McLean of Toronto, Cpl. Harry Morgan of Windsor, Cpl. Charles Wills of Windsor, Cpl. Jack Heydon of Windsor, and Cpl. George McCurdy of Amherstburg. Absent from the picture are Sgt. Harry Brewer of Parkhill and Lance-Corporal William Pillsworth of London. *(By Staff Photographer.)*



# Adanacs Lead Chatham City Hockey League



THE "Adanacs," sponsored by the Canada-Dominion Sugar Company, who are now leading the Chatham City Hockey League. They have developed splendidly within the past few weeks and form a powerful unit in the league. From left to right are: J. Lacey, sub-goal; W. Walters, forward; E. Lett, defense; E. Smith, defense; W. Fleming, defense; W. Harding, forward; G. Kistler, forward; C. Dawson, forward; R. Hales, forward; E. Smith, defense; T. McKie, forward; J. Borman (captain), goal; P. R. Parliament, manager.

—Photo by Westlake especially for The Border Cities Star.







LONDON ARMY HOCKEY CHAMPS



Intermediate "A" OHA CHAMPS



DETROIT



Bromer  
Detroit

OLIMPIA /46



PAGE SIXTEEN

THE MICHIGAN CHRONICLE

# 'Boomer,' Harding Makes

\*

DETROIT



OLYMPIA

1946

*Boomer Harding*

RELIABLE INDEPENDENT WEEKLY

# Hockey

# History

# At Olympia

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1946

Windsor Staffords



# 'Boomer' Harding Makes Hockey History At Olympia

## BECOMES FIRST NEGRO TO PLAY ON LOCAL RINK

By **BILL MATNEY**  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Wilfred "Boomer" Harding, a strapping 30-year-old Chatham, Ont., youngster, made hockey history in Detroit last Monday night when he skated onto the ice at Olympia at the left wing position with the Windsor Stafford team in an International Amateur League game against the Spitfires.

Harding, who had originally been scheduled to play with Auto Club, defending champions, was switched at the last minute to the Stafford aggregation by rules of the league which state that extra players will participate with teams needing personnel.

Although "The Boomer" was not in the best condition (he had only three days to practice), he exhibited speed, power, graceful skating ability, and potential shot-making prowess. The Stafford team lost, 6-1.

### Played In Canadian Army

According to scouts who saw Harding play in the Canadian army, the young forward is a better than average player and employs hard-driving, slashing offensive tactics.

Through the years, hockey has never had a "color line," as such. In the Quebec Senior league, three of the most outstanding players in the loop are Negroes — the famous Carnegie Brothers, and McIntyre, who play on the forward line of the Shawnigan Falls outfit.

### Started In 1934

Harding is no newcomer to hockey circles. The 26-year-old star first hit the ice in 1934-35 in Chatham at Western Ontario Secondary school, where his team copped the title two years in a row.

He played in the Intermediate Ontario Hockey association from 1936 through 1943, at which time he joined the Canadian army. But "Boomer" did not let the fact that he was in service interrupt his hockey playing—for he promptly became a member of the army hockey squad playing out of London, Ont.

### Joins Kingston Team

The following year found Harding fast at keeping up his prowess at his favorite pastime, this time on the Kingston Army Hockey association team. The "Boomer" remained on the Kingston team through 1945, and then went overseas.

But once again the name Harding popped up again, and as usual, it was in connection with hockey. For in England, Harding found hockey quite popular, and lost no time getting back in gear.

### Red Wings Interested

Right now, the Detroit Red Wings have a protective eye cast toward Harding, who is training daily to whip himself into shape so that he may get into the thick of the fray in the International Hockey loop.

The only question remaining now is just how soon the Chatham youth can toughen up for the puck wars. Hockey history should be made within the next few weeks.

## MAY BE 'FIRST' IN PRO HOCKEY



"THE BOOMER"—That's the nickname Wilfred Harding, above, earned during his hockey playing days around Chatham, Ont., where he spent his childhood and learned the rough game of hockey. Now "Boomer" is bidding for a position on the Auto Club hockey squad, one of the Detroit Red Wings' subsidiaries. Harding is a forward, and according to those who have seen him in action, is an excellent one.





### Leafs Bright Stars in County League

Chatham Maple Leafs have been stamped as the team to beat after their convincing 11-1 win over Erieau earlier this week. Seen above the

Maple Leafs are, left to right, front row, Murray Williams, Bucky Robertson, Wilfred Harding, Al Shackleton, Bill MacAlorum, John Colby and

Mac Hall. In the rear row are left to right, Lloyd Bathurst, Lloyd Walker, Os Suitor, Laddie Mikulica, Bill Schram and Maurice Dozois. Missing when

the picture was taken were Bob Andison, Bob Males and Doug Parry. County League teams will be in action again

tonight with a double-headed night of hockey slated for 7:30 at the Memorial Arena.

(Staff Photo)



# COMMUNITY SPORTSMAN

OF THE

# WEEK



## BOOMER HARDING

A prominent figure in the sporting realm, Boomer, noted for his enthusiasm and ability, has piled up an impressive number of firsts in various fields of sport.

● **HOCKEY** — while in Vocational School Boomer was centre man on two WOSSA Championship Hockey teams. He played hockey with the Canadian Army team in Scotland and with the "Golds" in Chatham.

● **BASEBALL** — catcher on Intermediate OBA pennant winning teams; on Hadleys and the Chatham Seniors who were also OBA title holders.

● **SOCCER** — on two WOSSA Soccer teams in Vocational School, played centre on the championship soccer team of the Legion Command.

Retired from active participation Boomer now umpires softball games and successfully manages the Coloured Baseball team in the Intermediate "C".

We salute Boomer Harding as the Community Sportsman of the week.

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# LEGION SOCCER







Branch 28 Legion soccer team brought new honors to Chatham Saturday afternoon when they travelled to Brantford and defeated Branch 57 Peterborough 4-1 from the Provincial Legion title. To reach the finals the Maple City Legionnaires defeated the

Guelph semi-finalists in two games for the right to advance into the final round. Shown above are the members of the team at the reception held for them at Legion headquarters last night. Front row, left to right are Johnny Burke, Bill Harper, John

Skolnik, Charles Gibson and H. T. "Red" Harwood, Branch 28 Legion sports committee chairman; Centre row left to right: A. F. Davidson, president Branch 28 Canadian Legion, Vic Jewiss, Joe Baker (captain), Roy Kilt, Wilfred Harding and George Orr,

(By Chatham Daily News Staff Photographer). (Coach). Back row, left to right; Joe Day, Legion District "A" Deputy Commander, Albert Adcock (trainer), Pete Browning, Rudy Rybansky, Jack Howard, Bill King Legion District "A" Sports Director.



# Boomer Harding Scores Three Goals As Legion Wins, 3-2

Branch No. 28 Canadian Legion soccer eleven edged Wallaceburg, 3-2 in Chatham and District Football activity at Tecumseh Park.

It was "hat trick" performance for veteran star "boomer" Harding who tallied all three Legion goals. Jim Martin notched two for the losing 'Burgmen.



# Chatham man recognized for 55 years of athletic achievement and ability



A LIFETIME OF SPORTS ACHIEVEMENT — is evident everywhere in the home of Wilfred "Boomer" Harding, 72. His recent "Olympic gold" award was just another addition to his trophy collection which points to a lifetime of

accomplishments in a variety of sports from hockey to darts. Boomer is one of the only 18 recipients of the Olympic award in Chatham Township.

## Peter Epp

For Wilfred "Boomer" Harding, it was a proud moment. He was among those individuals who received an Olympic-type award in early February, a tribute to his athletic accomplishments over the years.

The gold-coloured medallion, strung with a red ribbon, hangs proudly in the Harding household in Chatham Township, flanked by dozens and dozens of other trophies the 72-year-old has been awarded with during his lifetime. They point to his athletic prowess in baseball, soccer, hockey and darts.

Of the latter, Boomer still throws darts; and almost every gleaming trophy in the Harding showcase is a tribute to an accomplishment associated with that sport.

But Boomer is perhaps best known for baseball and hockey. He was a member of the Chatham Coloured All-Stars when they won the Ontario Baseball Association's Intermediate 'B' championship in 1934. Not only was the team the first black baseball team to win the title, but the Coloured All-Stars were also the first Chatham team to bring a provincial title back home to the Maple City.

Boomer easily recalls those days. The Coloured All-Stars were organized in 1933 at Sterling Park in the city. They played softball, but then switched to baseball. Boomer played first base, but on occasion played outfield. In later years he also played the catcher's position, and managed the team.

In the provincial championship game, the Coloured All-Stars were pitted against a baseball team from Penentang, Ont., whose pitcher, Phil Marshaldon, later threw for the Philadelphia Phillies. Penentang's pitcher, however, couldn't keep back the Chatham squad.

Boomer played with the All-Stars for about three seasons.

He was born in

Chatham, and at an early age developed a keen interest in all types of sports. His nickname came from a popular newspaper comic character at the time. Boomer says almost nobody knows him as Wilfred.

He married a Dover Township girl in 1940, Joy Handsor, but soon joined the war effort. However, Boomer's war career is unlike most

other veterans'; he played sports.

"I signed up at Chatham, but some major from a London regiment saw my name, and soon I was playing hockey in London for an army team there. Later, I was stationed at Kingston and played hockey there."

During his Kingston days, Boomer played against many of the hockey pros, including Syl Apps. Although it

has been over 45 years, Boomer easily describes a particular play during a hockey game. "You can't forget playing the professionals," he explained.

Boomer was overseas in Britain for about two years, but found that he played baseball and hockey for the Canadian Army. He was given preferential treatment by the commanders so he could play hockey,

sometimes as much as six nights a week.

"I loved it," he says today. "It was sports all the time."

However, Boomer did put down his stick long enough to be part of the occupational forces in Holland following the Allies' victory. He returned to Canada in 1946.

It wasn't too long after his return that Boomer played soccer for a team sponsored by Br. 28 of the Royal Canadian Legion. The team beat a Brantford squad one year to win the Ontario soccer title.

During those post-war years, Boomer also played hockey, and was a centre forward for the Windsor Staffords for two seasons. The Staffords played home games in both Windsor and Detroit. During one of these two seasons, Boomer's team won the season but lost the Ontario-Michigan amateur hockey title.

Over the years Boomer has also been involved with track and field, basketball, as well as coaching and umpiring.

In recent years, however, his focus of attention has been drawn to darts, an activity he's been involved with for over 40 years. As a member of the Legion-sponsored team, he's thrown darts at tournaments in Las Vegas, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and Florida.

As for the Olympic award he received in early February, Boomer was one of 18 Chatham Township residents recognized by the municipality for their contribution to the community, either through athletics or through other achievements.

A retired postman these days, Boomer and Joy live in a comfortable mobile home located in Chatham Township's St. Clair Estate, immediately north of the North Maple Mall. They have one son, as well as two grandchildren. And Boomer happily acknowledges that his grandson is active in Chatham's minor hockey league.



# Chatham

Sports  
Hall of Fame

Ticket Prices  
\$30.00 ~ Members  
\$35.00 ~ Non Members

## 5th ANNUAL DINNER AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

Thursday, September 11, 2003  
6:00 p.m. Social      6:45 p.m. Dinner  
7:45 p.m. Ceremony



**Herb Wakabayashi**  
*Athlete ~ Modern*



**"Boomer" Harding**  
*Athlete ~ Old-timer*



**Arthur Pelkey**  
*Athlete ~ Old-timer*



**Doug Allin**  
*Builder*



**John McKay**  
*Builder*



**1953 Legion Br. 431 Bantam Baseball**  
*Team*

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE WISH CENTRE**  
*or by calling*

**Frank Burgess**  
**352-0569**

**Jay Teetzel**  
**354-2333**



**ADO**



**AWARD**

presented to

*Boomer Harding*

in recognition of a

**'PERFECT SCORE'**

**in sanctioned ADO competition**



*(Chicago)*

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*LS Windy City*

*Open*

*John Fleetwood*

GENERAL SECRETARY



