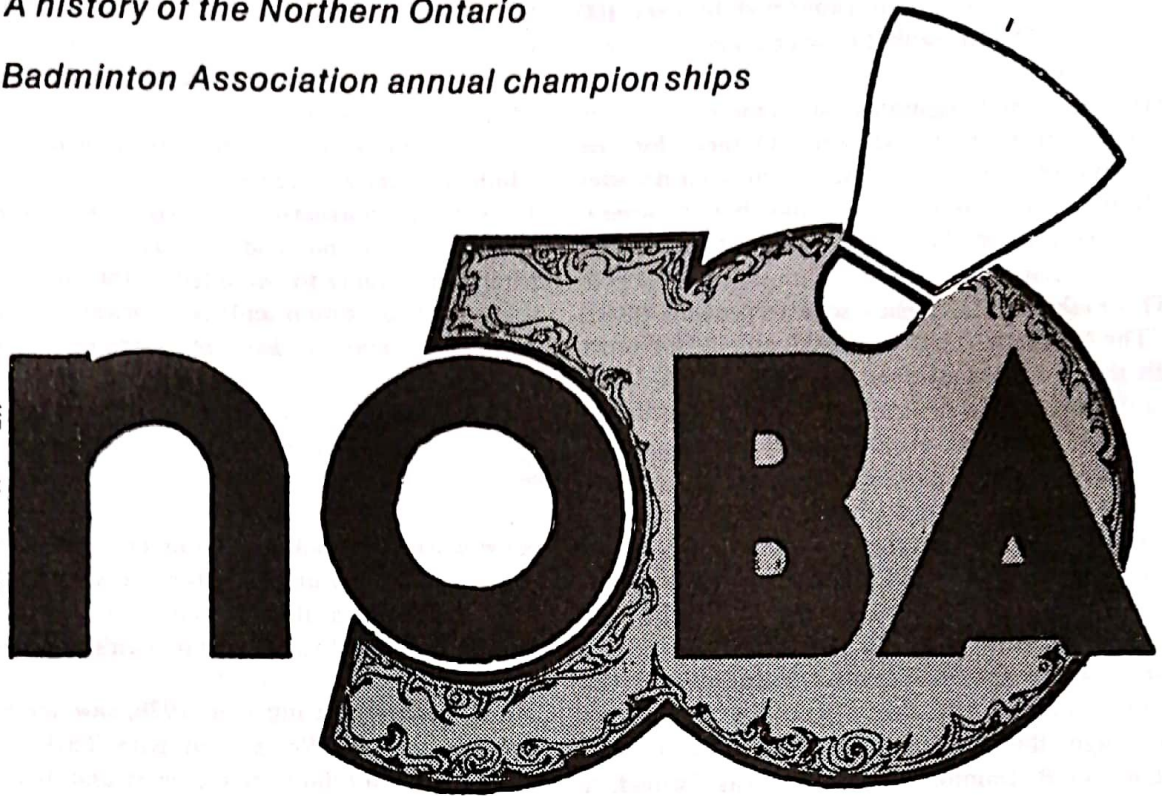


A history of the Northern Ontario

Badminton Association annual championships

"Barry Hope logo"



The Northern

1927 - 1980

By Rosemary Moore and Bev Green

Home Mines Limited

MINE OFFICE

South Porcupine, Ont.

CANADA

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Congratulations to the Northern Ontario Badminton Association on the fiftieth playing of their annual championships.

We are pleased to have played a part in the development of badminton in Northern Ontario.

Best wishes for many more years of keen, friendly competition.

The first Northern Ontario Badminton Association Championships were held in Sault Ste Marie on April 22-23, 1927. Organized by Captain W.R. Griffiths, a newcomer to the area, the event was supported by over 100 players from five clubs in Sault Ste Marie and was pronounced a great success.

From the small beginning has come one of the finest traditions in sport in northern Ontario for the tournament has carried on to this day, spanning six decades and providing a continuous tie that has bound several generations of badminton players spread hundreds of miles apart.

This major annual event - soon to become known simply as "The Northern" - has been held without fail every season with the exception of a short period in the 1940s



Badminton was emerging as a popular sport in Canada during the early 20s, but the drive to organization and promotion of the game in the north was provided by Mr & Mrs Reg Griffiths. They moved to Sault Ste Marie in 1925 from Toronto, where they had played badminton at the Carlton Club. They were both fine players.

Through the leadership of Mr Griffiths, the Northern Ontario Badminton Association was formed, a loose federation of several clubs in Sault Ste Marie of which no records remain. The first association championships were held on April 22-23, 1927. Excerpts from the account in the Sault Daily Star tell the story and give a feeling of the times:

"Brilliant play in the majority of events marked the finals of the championship and consolation events with which play in the first Northern Ontario badminton championships closed on the Duchess courts here on Saturday. The tournament, in which representatives from all five clubs in the Sault played, and which included one hundred entries, reached a climax with the finals on Saturday afternoon and evening, and was one of the most successful first-year tournaments that has ever been run in the history of Sault sportdom.

"The winning of the feature events of the tournament, the men's and ladies' singles, was marked by the play of Mr and Mrs W.R. Griffiths who introduced the game here from Toronto some two years ago with play at the St Luke's Parish Hall, where courts were put in and a club formed. Both were given keen games by the runners-up, Mrs A.H. Woods and H.F. Rowland, and only superior style enabled them to take out wins.

"The most brilliant game of the tournament marked the play of the first game on Saturday evening, when Mrs A.H. Woods and Harold Tolley won from Mr and Mrs W.R. Griffiths 5-4,4-15,15-11. The match was replete with sensational rallies, effective smashing drives and short

owing to the disruption by World War II. Consequently, we marked the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Northern in 1977, but this year - 1981 - is the focus for a major celebration since it will see the 50th actual playing of The Northern. The 50th time the event has been held. How fitting that it should take place in Sault Ste Marie, where it all began in 1927.

The story of the tournament, its champions, administrators and supporters, is the theme of this book. Though The Northern has survived, a record of its glories and drama has not and we hasten to say that there is surely much more to be added to this account. We regard this as a first edition and look forward to receiving additional information and photographs from interested readers.

court work that spoke of the master touch."

Other winners of that very first Northern were Sally Woods and Rita Taylor in women's doubles, and Harold Tolley and Hart Buck in men's doubles.

The following year, 1928, saw some new faces on the scene. Sally Woods and Rita Taylor were the only title-holders to retain their crowns and Jean Rossiter and Bill Wolters became the new singles champions.

NORTHERN NO. 1 April 22-23, 1927

Sault Ste Marie
Duchess courts

Champions

LS - Mrs W. R. Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie
MS - W.R. (Reg) Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Mrs. A.H. (Sally) Woods & Mrs. V.H. (Rita) Taylor,
Sault Ste Marie
MD - Harold Tolley & Hart Buck, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Harold Tolley & Sally Woods, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

LS - Sally Woods, Sault Ste Marie 5,7-11,6
MS - H.F. (Harry) Rowland, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Mrs W.R. Griffiths & Mrs J.D. Jones, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Reg Griffiths & G.W. McLeod, Sault Ste Marie 10,12
XD - Mr & Mrs W.R. Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie 18-17,4-15,11

Consolation round

MS - B.J. Waters d. N.A. Reive

NORTHERN NO. 2 1928

Sault Ste Marie

Champions

LS - Jean Rossiter, Sault Ste Marie
MS - Bill Wolters, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Sally Woods & Rita Taylor, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Bill Wolters & Reg Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Mr & Mrs W.R. Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie

"The 3rd annual Northern Ontario Badminton Tournament (under the auspices of the NOBA) will be held on April 24,25,26,27, 1929 on the court at St Luke's Hall, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario."

This announcement headed the printed invitation card sent out by the tournament committee. The card also informed that the honorary president was George R. Gray and that the executive committee was composed of Reg Griffiths (chairman), Clayton Barber, Tom Chitty and Harry Rowland. Honorary secretary-treasurer was Harold Tolley.

The announcement indicated that entry fees would be 50 cents per event. It was to be a historic tournament, owing to the emergence of The Northern's first superstar: Joe Zaharko.

The feature article in the local Sault Daily Star, written by J. Fraser MacDougall, began:

"Holder of the men's singles badminton championship of Northern Ontario and never owned a racquet. Such is the almost unbelievable achievement of a sixteen-year-old youth who this year carried off the singles crown."

Joe had begun playing badminton four months earlier, under the guidance of Rev I.G. Perkins and Clayton Barber at the All Peoples' United Church Mission. During games in the city league that winter, he had notched some fine wins, notably over Harold Tolley, one of the Sault's top players. Since he owned no racquet of his own, he borrowed racquets from different players during competition, never using the same one twice throughout.

At the 1929 Northern, he was a sensation, working his way through four rounds of upsets to win the singles crown. On May 9 of that year, at the season-closing social evening for the All People's United Church badminton club, Joe was presented with a racquet.

At the 1930 Northern, Joe teamed up with Jim Wilson, a short active man old enough to be his father. He was a war veteran who played with a silver plate in his leg, the result of wounds sustained during the Great War. His mixed partner was Vi Rahilly. The combinations were unbeatable and Joe won his first Northern triple crown. He was 17 years old and "earned for himself the highest regard of the whole sporting world of the Sault for his great ability and his fighting heart."

In 1931, Joe again won the singles and the mixed - this time with Anne Carter - but he and Jim Wilson finished as runners-up in the doubles. Joe had been seriously ill at the start of the season, bed-ridden for six weeks, and it was felt that he never reached peak form during the tournament.

During the next few years, Joe Zaharko perfected his game to the point where he was recognized as the number two player in Canada. He often played Jack Purcell, who was number one, and reached a point where he won as many as he lost to Purcell. During the 1929-30 season, Joe first played against Jack Purcell in both Sault Ste Marie and Blind River, when Purcell was on a tour of the north.

In 1936 and 1937, he won New England tournaments, including one year when he defeated the English champion Ken Davidson and the American champion Walter Kramer. In 1939, he led Purcell 14-11 in the third set at the World Professional championships in Atlanta, before losing.

In 1932, Joe moved from Sault Ste Marie to Toronto to work at Slazenger's Sporting Goods, then entered the USA to attend the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He did, however, return to the Sault for the 1932 and 1933 Northern, winning triple crowns at both. He had played in only 5 Northern, but won 12 out of a possible total of 15 titles. In 1937, he won the Canadian national men's doubles championship in Vancouver, partnered by Jack Sibbald.

**THE FOURTH ANNUAL
NORTHERN ONTARIO
BADMINTON TOURNAMENT**

(Under the auspices of the N.O.B.A.)
Will be held on

APRIL 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th
1930

On the Court at St. Luke's Hall,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Honorary President
GEO. R. GRAY

Executive Committee
W. R. GRIFFITHS, Chairman

M. C. BARBER T. CHITTY
R. H. ELOHE H. ROWLAND D. W. NEILL

HAROLD TOLLEY, Hon. Sec.-Treas.

Court Committee: Official Referee
H. F. ROWLAND W. R. GRIFFITHS
F. A. MacDOUGALL

**The THIRD ANNUAL
NORTHERN ONTARIO
BADMINTON
TOURNAMENT**

(Under the auspices of the N.O.B.A.)
Will be held on

APRIL 24, 25, 26, 27,
1929

On the Court at St. Luke's Hall,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Hon. President
GEO. R. GRAY

Executive Committee
W. R. GRIFFITHS, Chairman

M. C. BARBER T. CHITTY
H. ROWLAND

HAROLD TOLLEY, Hon. Sec.-Treas.

Court Committee: Official Referee
H. F. ROWLAND W. R. GRIFFITHS

When the first Northern were held in Sault Ste Marie, participants received a small printed program that listed past winners and tournament details. These examples have survived among the souvenirs of Verna Lacy, now of New Liskeard. Formerly Verna Robinson, she began her playing career in Sault Ste Marie, moving to Timmins after her marriage. She won 9 Northern titles, from 1934 to 1951!
[Programs are shown at half actual size.]

**NORTHERN NO. 3
April 24-27, 1929**

**Sault Ste Marie
St Luke's Hall**

Champions

- LS - Mary Molony, Sault Ste Marie
- MS - Joe Zaharko, Sault Ste Marie
- LD - Mary Molony & Jean Rossiter, Sault Ste Marie
- MD - Harry Rowland & Reg Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie
- XD - Dr John McDonald & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

- MS - Hugh Gibbs, Sault Ste Marie
- MD - Joe Zaharko & Jim Wilson 15-4, 4-15, 15-10

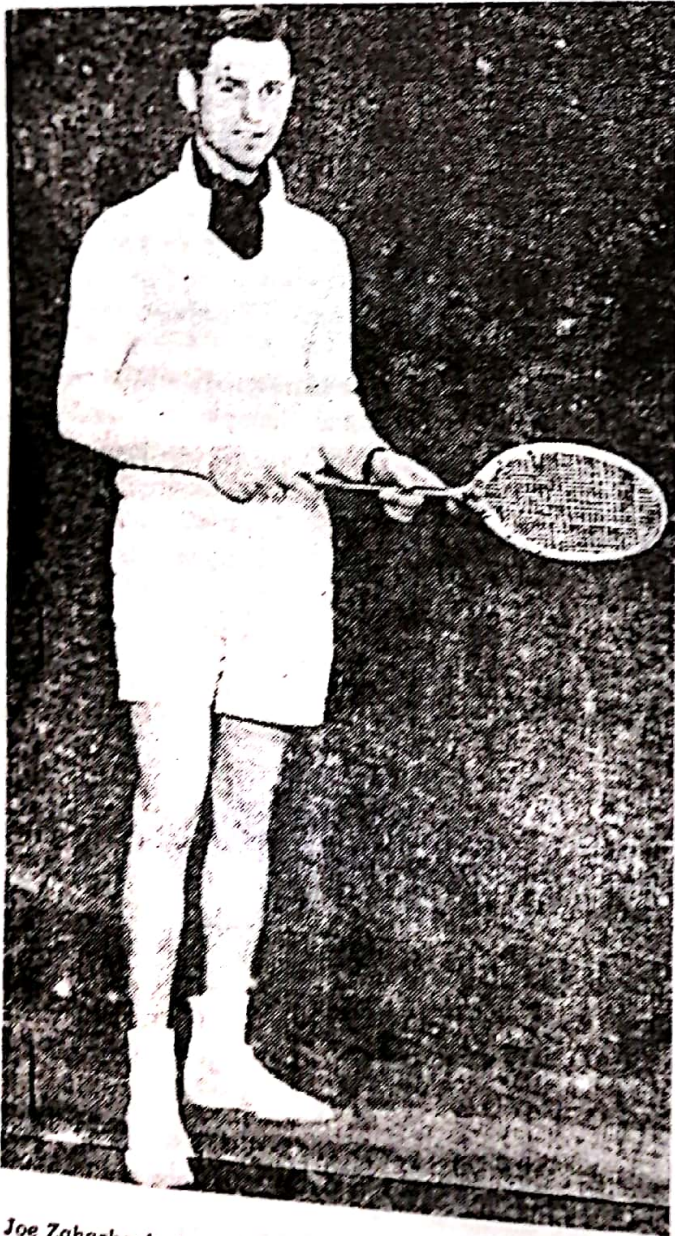
Tournament Chairman: Reg Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie

NOBA President: George Gray, Sault Ste Marie

After graduation, Joe joined Dupont and moved to Wilmington, Delaware (25 miles south of Philadelphia and home town of the 1980 Canadian champion, Pat Tryon) where he has lived ever since. He worked in research with Dupont for 30 years before retiring in 1976, one of his most noteworthy accomplishments being the invention of nylon tennis strings in 1937. More recently, he has developed a new tennis court surface called "Supreme Court" that is being used for top professional play, including the Masters Grand Prix in New York in January, 1981.

Joe hasn't played any badminton in 15-20 years, though he keeps very fit and plays squash and tennis every day. He found badminton was too strenuous, and too hard on the knees. He offers these comments on the game:

"The key to good badminton is anticipation. You have to get the step on your opponent. Quickness and coordination are also important, but not as much as anticipation."



Joe Zaharko during the 1930s.

The appearance of such an extraordinary athlete on the badminton scene in Sault Ste Marie had a profound effect on the game locally. A local sports writer commented in 1931:

"The victory of this young Canadian, sensation at the time, did more than any other single happening in recent years to make badminton the popular game it is today. Any who had previously thought it a game for the few, were anxious to try it and the direct result was the swelling of club memberships and the introduction of much new blood into the sport in the city."

Badminton in general was booming, but we have to wonder about women's badminton in particular. The year 1929 was the last time that women's singles was featured as an event at The Northern until 1939. Mary Molony was the champion that year, to be succeeded by Doris Sturgeon after nine Northerns without the event.

From 1929 to 1933, only five women earned Northern titles: Mary Molony, Jean Rossiter, Anne Carter, Mrs. Griffiths and Vi Rahilly. They were completely dominant in their era. The only other man to enter the

NORTHERN NO. 4 April 2-5, 1930

Sault Ste Marie
St Luke's Hall

Champions

LS - not held
MS - Joe Zaharko, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Mary Molony & Jean Rossiter, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Jim Wilson & Joe Zaharko, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Joe Zaharko & Mrs. T. (Vi) Rahilly, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

MS - Jim Wilson 15-8, 15-7
MD - C. Baker & Bill Wolters
XD - Dr John McDonald & Anne Carter 8, 18-14

Semi-finals

MS - Zaharko d. Reg Griffiths 5, 12
MD - Zaharko & Wilson d. Dr John McDonald & Hart Buck
XD - Zaharko & Rahilly d. Jim Wilson & Rita Taylor

Tournament Chairman: Reg Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie

NOBA President: George Gray, Sault Ste Marie

NORTHERN NO. 5 1931

Sault Ste Marie

Champions

LS - not held
MS - Joe Zaharko, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Mrs W.R. Griffiths & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Dr John McDonald & Reg Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Joe Zaharko & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

MS - Nip Greer
MD - Joe Zaharko & Jim Wilson
XD - Zaharko & Carter d. Dr. John McDonald & Rita Taylor
15-8, 8-15, 15-4

Semi-finals

MS - Zaharko d. Reg Griffiths
XD - Zaharko & Carter d. Fred Nattress & Mrs. Griffiths

winners' circle, besides Joe Zaharko, Jim Wilson and Reg Griffiths, was Dr. John McDonald, also a very strong player of the time.

In 1934, two more great Northern stars won their first Northern titles. Bill Plewman won the first of three singles victories, to which he would later add five doubles wins. He has the distinction of being the second of only eight men to win Northern triples (1938) and also holds the record for the longest period of time between championships. His first title was earned in 1934 and his last in 1955, 21 years later, when he won the doubles with Gord Frech.

The other great player to break into the winners'

ranks that year was Verna Robinson Lacy. She won the mixed doubles with Bill Hughes, and later added 8 more Northern titles to her credit. Interestingly enough, Verna holds the record for the longest period of time for a woman between championships, and is second overall only to Bill Plewman. Her first title in 1934 and her last one in 1951 spanned a period of 17 years.

In the 1934 Northern, Bill Hughes was a double winner, teaming up with Art Denning to capture the men's doubles event.

In 1935, Northern No. 9, Bill Hughes retained his doubles crown, this time with Jim Wilson, and Anne Carter and Jean Rossiter won the women's doubles for the third successive time. (It was the 7th consecutive year in which at least one of them had figured in the championship team!) The other titles changed hands, though, as Harold Crowder won the first of his three Northern titles by defeating Harold Tolley in the final. The Sault Daily Star reported:

"Crowder won in straight games but both were bitterly contested and produced brilliant badminton, particularly in the later stages of the nip and tuck second struggle, before Tolley bowed out by scores of 15-11 and 17-16."

NORTHERN NO. 6
April 8-10, 1932

Sault Ste Marie
Sault Club

Champions

LS - not held
MS - Joe Zaharko, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Mary Molony & Jean Rossiter, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Jim Wilson & Joe Zaharko, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Joe Zaharko & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

MS - Reg Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie 8,13
LD - Sally Woods & Rita Taylor, Sault Ste Marie 8,11
MD - Dr John McDonald & Reg Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie 4,9
XD - Harry Rowland & Sally Woods, Sault Ste Marie 7,10

Consolation round

MS - Rod Goodall d. Charlie Drake
MD - Mrs Hamilton & Mrs Lloyd d Verna Robinson & Miss Wilks
MD - Bob Dryborough & Charlie Drake d. Percy Terry & Rod Goodall 11,17-18,9
XD - Johnny Evans & Verna Robinson d. George Westman & Miss Nattress 11,8-15,12

NOBA President: K.G. Ross, Sault Ste Marie

NORTHERN NO. 8
1934

Sault Ste Marie

Champions

LS - not held
MS - Bill Plewman, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Anne Carter & Jean Rossiter, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Bill Hughes & Art Denning, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Bill Hughes & Verna Robinson, Sault Ste Marie

NORTHERN NO. 7
April 5-8, 1933

Sault Ste Marie
Sault Club

Champions

LS - not held
MS - Joe Zaharko, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Anne Carter & Jean Rossiter, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Jim Wilson & Joe Zaharko, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Joe Zaharko & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

MS - W.I. (Bill) Hughes, Sault Ste Marie 3,6
LD - Mrs W.R. Griffiths & Mrs N. McDevitt, Sault Ste Marie 6,9
MD - Dr George Westman & Harry Rowland, Sault Ste Marie 5,13
XD - Reg Griffiths & Mrs. N. McDevitt, Sault Ste Marie 6,18-14

Semi-finals

MS - Hughes d. Grant Hyland 11,12-15,12

Consolation round

MS - Jeff Hall d. D. Robinson 14-18,5,1
LD - Mrs C. Judd & Mrs A. Montcaster d. Miss G. Carter & Miss I. Maki 8,5
MD - C.W. Wales & J.M. Carscadden d. W. Armstrong & H. Drackley 17-18,17-15,8
XD - Art Denning & Mrs C. Judd d. C. Drake & Miss B. Simpson 3,4-15,8

Tournament Chairman: Reg Griffiths, Sault Ste Marie

NOBA President: K.G. Ross, Sault Ste Marie

NORTHERN NO. 9
April 13-15, 1935

Sault Ste Marie

Champions

LS - not held
MS - Harold Crowder, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Anne Carter & Jean Rossiter, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Jim Wilson & Bill Hughes, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Jim Wilson & Mrs G. (Helen) Best

Runners-up

MS - Harold Tolley, Sault Ste Marie 11,17-16
LD - Mary Molony & Lorette Levie, Sault Ste Marie 3,2
MD - Jeff Hall & George Wilson, Sault Ste Marie 18-15,5
XD - Jeff Hall & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie 8,2

Semi-finals

MS - Crowder d. Russell Penhorwood
Tolley d. Jeff Hall
LD - Carter & Rossiter d. Mrs Muncaster & Mrs Judd 8,4
Molony & Levie d. Helen Best & Winn Fisher 12-15,12,12
XD - Wilson & Best d. George Wilson & Lorette Levie 9,8
Hall & Carter d. Harold Tolley & Jean Rossiter 2,8

Consolation round

MS - Mike Novick d. Ed Bondar 18-13,6
MD - T. Chitty & Russell Penhorwood d. R. Blamey & W. Dickson 2,1
XD - Gaston Laplante & Violet McCullough d. H. Belleau & Margaret Flockhart 11-15,10

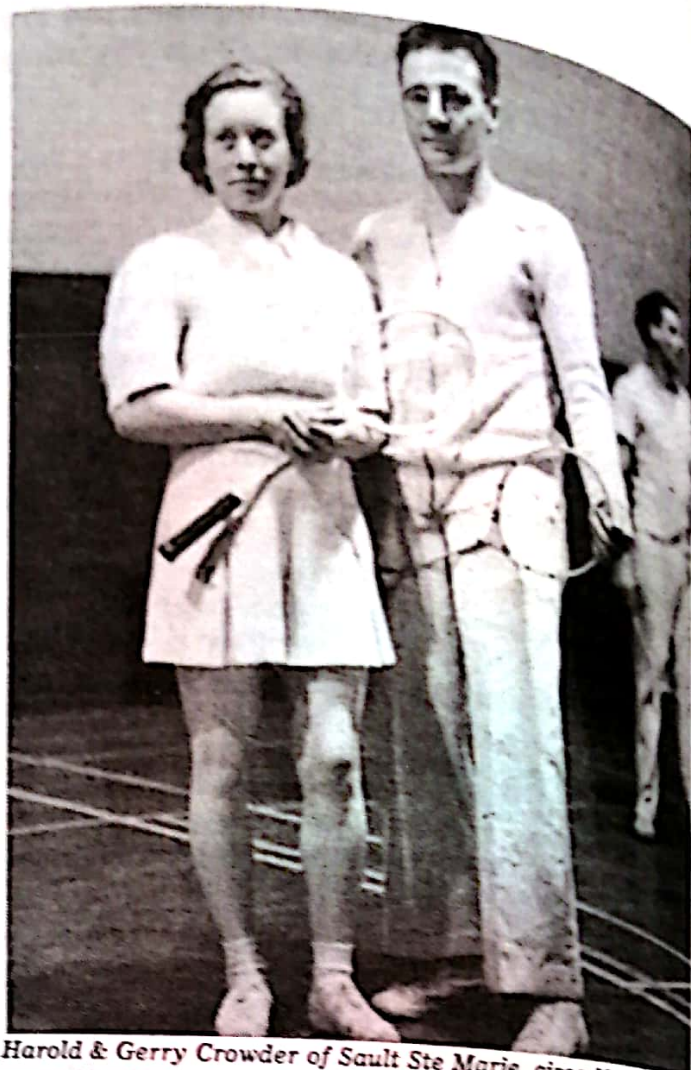
Double winner that year was Jim Wilson who partnered Helen Best to take the mixed doubles. It was the first of five Northern titles for Helen and the team successfully defended the mixed the following year for Wilson to earn his 6th and final Northern doubles crown.

Also repeating as title holder in 1936 was Harold Crowder, who not only defended his singles crown but also won the men's doubles with George Wilson. The latter match was described by the Sault Daily Star as "a somewhat astonishing feat in setting down the veteran team of Jim Wilson and Charles Wales. The winners took the first set after a struggle 15-12, lost the second set 11-15, and then came back to wind up the third going all out 15-5. The large gallery sat silent as the feature battle of the tournament progressed."

Harold Crowder played in most, if not all, of the Northern titles from the very beginning and is still active, in his mid-70s, in the Soo Badminton Club. He certainly qualifies as the Grand Master of The Northern, and we look forward to seeing him on the courts at the special tournament being held in conjunction with the 50th celebrations.

In 1936, Anne Carter won her 5th Northern women's doubles crown, this time with Winn Fisher Myers.

In 1937, there were a record 150 players in The Northern. Bill Plewman won the singles, Helen Best and Lorette Levie won the womens doubles, and Jeff Hall and Anne Carter won the mixed doubles. The men's doubles was noteworthy in that it was the first Northern title ever won by other than Sault Ste Marie players: Bob Kline and Gordon Malcolm of the Michigan Sault.



Harold & Gerry Crowder of Sault Ste Marie, circa 1940. Harold was a Northern champion in 1935 and 1936 and is still active in the Soo Badminton Club in Sault Ste Marie.

1938 saw Bill Plewman achieve the coveted triple crown, only the second player in The Northern to do so. It also saw Anne Carter extend her extraordinary record: she won her 6th mixed doubles title - a record that stands to this day - and her 6th women's doubles title. The latter tied the record set by Jean Rossiter in 1935, a feat that also is unmatched as of this date.

Anne Carter was honored during the closing presentations of the 1938 tournament, the 12th Northern. She was presented with a beautiful gift on behalf of the

NORTHERN NO. 10

April 17-19, 1936

Sault Ste Marie
Sault Club

Champions

LS - not held

MS - Harold Crowder, Sault Ste Marie

LD - Anne Carter & Winn Fisher, Sault Ste Marie

MD - Harold Crowder & George Wilson, Sault Ste Marie

XD - Jim Wilson & Helen Best, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

MS - Harold Tolley, Sault Ste Marie 5,6

LD - Helen Best & Lorette Levie, Sault Ste Marie 6-15,8,11

MD - Jim Wilson & C.W. (Charlie) Wales, Sault Ste Marie 12,11-15,5

XD - Harold Crowder & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie 4-15,8,13

Semi-finals

MS - Crowder d. Mike Novick

Consolation round

MS - Jim Atkin d. Ralph Stone 8,12

LD - Miss M. Graham & Miss A. Taylor d. Miss L. Jean & Miss F. Kelly, Michigan Sault 17-14,17-14

MD - Bill Woolrich & H. Galley d. T. Chitty & Jack Chitty 6,4

XD - Ed Bondar & Miss M. Gourley d. R. Portance & Mrs L. Edwards 9,18-17

NOBA President: Borne Atkin, Sault Ste Marie

NORTHERN NO. 11

1937

Sault Ste Marie

Champions

LS - not held

MS - Bill Plewman, Sault Ste Marie

LD - Helen Best & Lorette Levie, Sault Ste Marie

MD - Bob Kline & Gordon Malcolm, Michigan Sault

XD - Jeff Hall & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

MS - Mike Novick 15-9,17-16

LD - Winnie Fisher & Anne Carter 12-15,15-4,15-10

MD - Bill Plewman & Mike Novick 15-11,15-12

XD - Del Thomas & Alice Edwards, Michigan Sault 15-12,15-8

Sault Club players "in token of their appreciation for her untiring efforts in the interests of the club and more particularly her help to the younger members of the club." She was known for her aggressive style of play, at a time when jobs and net shots were more commonly the order of the day.

That 1938 tournament was significant in many respects as it marked the end of the first phase of The Northern's development. The first 12 Northern's were all held in Sault Ste Marie, consisting only of players from Sault Ste Marie and, occasionally, the Michigan Sault. The following year saw an expansion to Sudbury, then Timmins, and an influx of new players to swell The Northern's ranks.

At the end of the 1938 Northern, a prize called the Tom Chitty Cup was presented to Gordon Frech for being the junior singles champion of Sault Ste Marie. He and his partner Bob Webber had pulled off major upsets to earn a place in the men's doubles final at The Northern, but it was a place that would become very familiar to Gord Frech later as he won 10 Northern championships between 1950 and 1959.

Focus for badminton activity in Sault Ste Marie during the 30s was the Sault Club, later called the Algo Club. It was built and maintained by the Algoma Steel Corporation, but when it was torn down and replaced in later years, no badminton courts were included in the new facility.

A far-reaching and well-balanced badminton program flourished. There were city championships, inter-club league play on a regular basis, development of junior players, and lots of social activity. Out of all this came the outstanding players and dedicated administrators who gave The Northern its great start.

**NORTHERN NO. 12
1938**

Sault Ste Marie

Champions

LS - not held
MS - Bill Plewman, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Anne Carter & Mary Molony, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Bill Plewman & Jeff Hall, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Bill Plewman & Anne Carter, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

MS - Jeff Hall 1,13
LD - Gerry Crowder & Mrs L. Edwards 4,8
MD - Bob Webber & Gordon Frech 4,9
XD - Gaston Laplante & Lorette Levie

Semi-finals

XD - Plewman & Carter d. H. Purdy & Mrs L Edwards 6,5
Laplante & Levie d. Hall & Ina Maki 13,8

Consolation round

MS - Dick Elgie Jr d. Mac Hallatt 3,8
LD - Mrs Elgie & Mrs Judd d. Mrs HC Palmer & Miss G Best 8-15,11,17-14
MD - Lawrence Edwards & Edgar Moore d. Jack Barber & Gordon Foucar
11-15,17-18,18-16
XD - Dick Elgie & Betty Buck d. Jim Atkin & Miss M. Graham 4-15,13,8



According to the program issued at the 1952 Northern, players in Sudbury thought they were holding the first northern Ontario championship when they hosted what was, in fact, the 13th Northern in 1939. The program read:

"The origin of the Northern Ontario Badminton Association dates back to the latter part of 1938. Because of zealous enthusiasm on the part of several of Sudbury's players and sparked by George Von Zuban popular tennis, badminton and curling exponent, clubs throughout Northern Ontario were contacted and arrangements were made to stage the first tourney in Sudbury the following March. R.E. "Bim" Sturgeon was elected President and George Von Zuban and Carl Schaeffer headed the first Tournament Committee."

Whether there was any liaison between the Sault Ste Marie and Sudbury groups, we have no way of knowing. However, in retrospect, it seems unlikely that there was not; probably the records had been lost between 1939 and 1952.

The plan was for the tournament to alternate among Sudbury, Timmins and Sault Ste Marie and the arrangement worked quite well through three or four rotations.

All we know of the 1939 Northern are the names of the champions. R. Simms of Copper Cliff won the men's singles and Ann Grady of Schumacher was a winner in both

women's and mixed doubles. Neither name appears in any future Northern's. The other titles were won by four players who were to be dominant forces throughout the 40s: Doris Sturgeon of Schumacher in women's singles and doubles; Ovide Gauthier and George Von Zuban of Sudbury in men's doubles; and Gordon Shields of Schumacher in mixed doubles.

Throughout its history, The Northern has been held in Timmins only four times and the first of those was in 1940. To be precise, it was held in Schumacher on the courts of the Porcupine Badminton Club, in the days before municipal amalgamation included the towns of Schumacher, South Porcupine and Porcupine within the boundaries of the city of Timmins. The three small mining communities

**NORTHERN NO. 13
1939**

Sudbury

Champions

LS - Doris Sturgeon, Schumacher
MS - R. Simms, Copper Cliff
LD - Doris Sturgeon & Ann Grady, Schumacher
MD - Ovide Gauthier & George Von Zuban, Sudbury
XD - Gordon Shields & Ann Grady, Schumacher

Tournament Chalmen: George Von Zuban & Carl Schaeffer, Sudbury

had a reputation for producing outstanding athletes and it certainly held true for badminton.

The results of the tournament were a landslide for the home club with Gordon Shields winning a triple crown and Verna Lacy (formerly Verna Robinson of Sault Ste Marie) winning the women's events. Their partners were Doris Sturgeon, Bim Sturgeon and Betty Shields.

This is the first year in which we have any record of The Northern's first challenge trophies, and the photograph shows that there was a good assortment of more practical prizes as well.

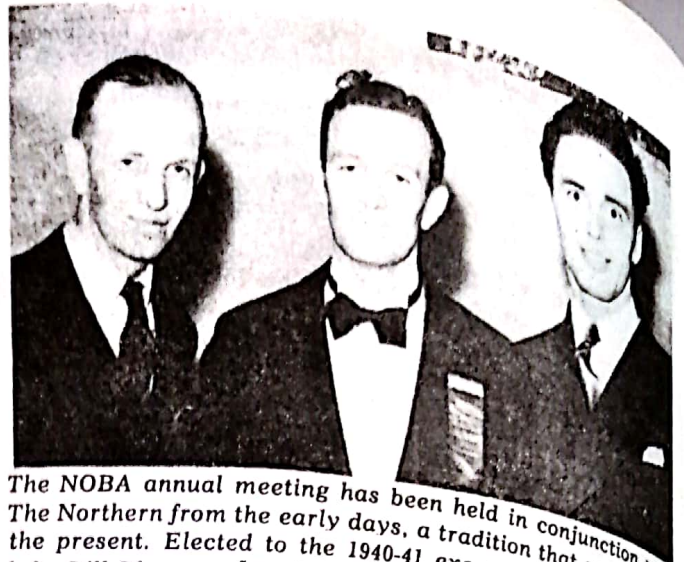
At a meeting held following the tournament, the election of NOBA officers was held. Bill Plewman of Sault Ste Marie became president, Bim Sturgeon of Schumacher vice president, and Gordon Browning from Sault Ste Marie was installed as secretary-treasurer.

In 1941, The Northern returned to Sault Ste Marie and the honors were shared among players from all three NOBA cities. Helen Best of Sault Ste Marie won the women's singles and, with Mrs J Adams, the doubles. Gordon Shields and Bim Sturgeon of Schumacher retained their titles in men's singles and doubles, and Ovide Gauthier and Kitty Young of Sudbury won the mixed.

In 1942, Northern No. 16 was played in Sudbury and local star Ovide Gauthier captured the first of his two Northern triples, partnered by George Von Zuban and Margaret Wilson. The Schumacher women continued to dominate with Doris Sturgeon winning the singles and teaming with Verna Lacy to take the doubles.

All we know of the five-year period from 1943 to 1947 is a further reference in the earlier-mentioned program of the 1952 Northern. It simply states that during those years "championship play was suspended owing to the war years and the post-war readjustments."

When play resumed, it was again in Timmins. Players travelled by plane from Sudbury, an event that was considered newsworthy as seen by the accompanying photo. More northern Ontario clubs came to The Northern for the first time in



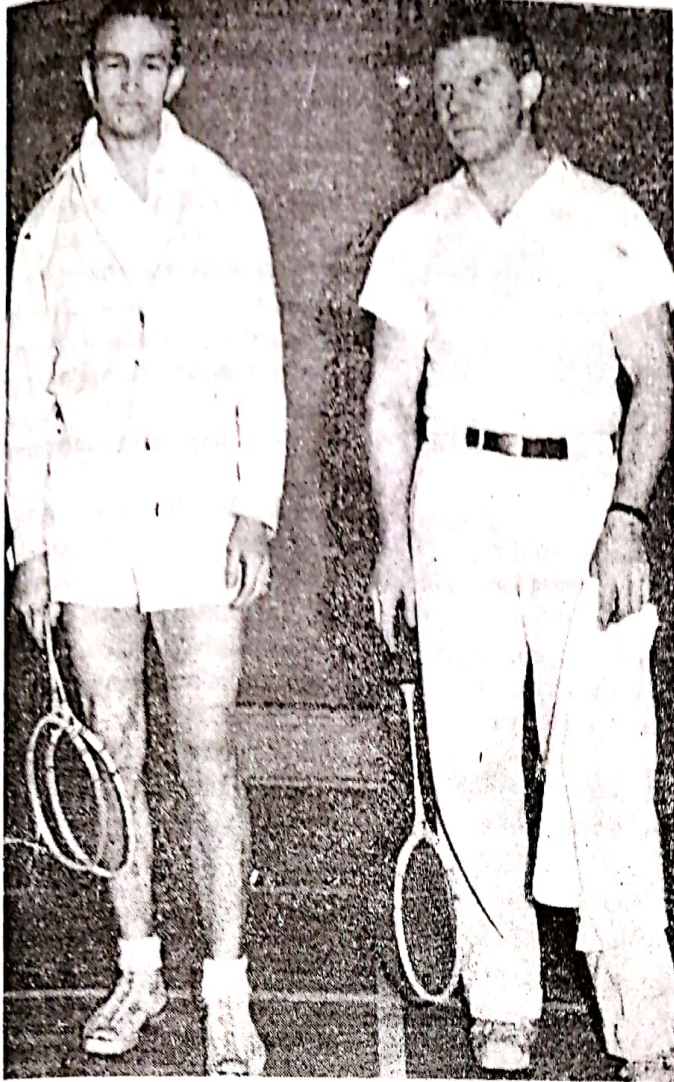
The NOBA annual meeting has been held in conjunction with The Northern from the early days, a tradition that continues to the present. Elected to the 1940-41 executive were, from the left: Bill Plewman [Sault Ste Marie], "Bim" Sturgeon [Schumacher] and Irving Keegan [Sudbury]. "Porcupine Advance" Thursday, Feb 22, 1940

1948 with representatives in attendance from Kirkland Lake, Kapuskasing, Iroquois Falls and Cochrane.

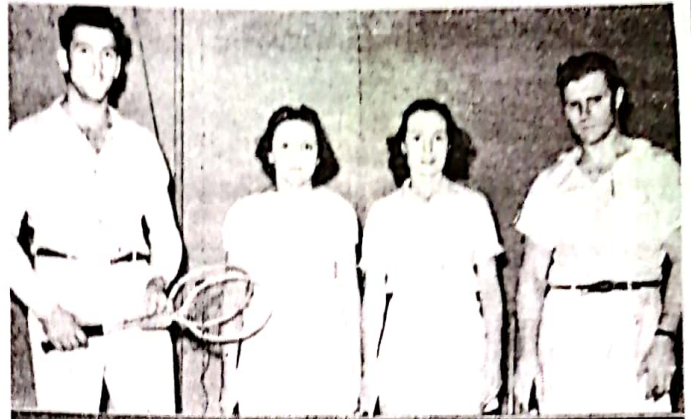
Final results saw Bob Laidlaw of Timmins defeat Ovide Gauthier and Verna Lacy recapture the women's singles crown. In women's doubles and mixed doubles, the defending champions retained their titles and Ovide Gauthier repeated in doubles, this time with his brother Fritz.



Northern No. 17 was held at the McIntyre Arena in Schumacher and several Sudbury players made the trip to Timmins by plane. They are shown here on the runway of the Nickel Belt Airways base on Lake Ramsay. In the front row from left to right are Edna Johnston, Fritz Gauthier, Julie Potvin, Margaret Wilson, Stella Crawford and Gus Adam. Behind them are Willard Evoy, Ovide Gauthier, and Guy Lecoupe. "Sudbury Daily Star" Saturday, March 20, 1948



Gordon Shields [right] and "Bim" Sturgeon of the Porcupine Badminton Club in Schumacher.
 "Porcupine Advance" Thursday, Feb. 22, 1940.



Some of the finalists in Northern No. 14, held in Schumacher in 1940. Top, from the left: Ovide Gauthier, Margaret Wilson, Mrs Shields, Gordon Shields. Bottom, from the left: Verna Lacy, Doris Sturgeon, Jean Des Loges, Mary Byrnes.
 "Porcupine Advance" Thursday, Feb 22, 1940

NORTHERN NO. 14
Feb 16-18, 1940

Schumacher
Porcupine Badminton Club

Champions

- LS - Verna Lacy, Timmins
- MS - Gordon Shields, Schumacher
- LD - Verna Lacy & Doris Sturgeon, Timmins & Schumacher
- MD - Gordon Shields & R.E. (Bim) Sturgeon, Schumacher
- XD - Mr & Mrs Gordon Shields, Schumacher

Runners-up

- LS - Loretta Stirling, Timmins 1,6
- MS - Bim Sturgeon, Schumacher 17-14,8-15,8
- LD - Mary Byrnes & Jean DesLoges, Timmins 11,9
- MD - Ovide Gauthier & George Von Zuban, Sudbury 8-15,17-15,10
- XD - Ovide Gauthier & Margaret Wilson, Sudbury 12,17-14

Consolation event

- LS - Mary Byrnes, Timmins
- MS - Jack Grady, Timmins
- LD - Loretta Stirling & E. Shields, Timmins & Schumacher
- MD - Nazar & Irving Keegan, Sudbury
- XD - Sullivan & Miss Scarcliffe, Sudbury & Timmins

NOBA President: Bim Sturgeon, Schumacher



Prizes awarded for Northern No. 14 in Schumacher.
 "Porcupine Advance" Thursday, Feb. 22, 1940.

The 1949 Northern was played at the Inco Employees Club in Sudbury and received excellent publicity in the Sudbury Daily Star. The newspaper account of the finals tells the story in the style of the day:

"Big Ovide Gauthier stole the spotlight at Sunday's concluding day of play in the Northern Ontario Badminton Association championships as he annexed three crowns, duplicating the triple-winning act he staged when the championships were last held in Sudbury in 1942. The starry Ryan Club court performer won the singles title, paired with his brother, Fritz, to take the doubles crown and teamed with Mrs Margaret Wilson of Copper Cliff to capture the mixed doubles. The other two titles went to the Porcupine Badminton Club of Timmins, as Mrs Verna Lacy retained her singles title and teamed with Mrs Jean Scott to win the ladies doubles.

"The 1949 championships were decided before the largest gallery to ever witness a badminton tournament in Sudbury. Brilliant play featured all championship finals at the Inco Club Sunday afternoon and although some of the scores were lopsided, play was much closer and keener than they might indicate. Trophies and prizes were presented to winners and runners-up at the conclusion of play, G.S. Jarrett of Copper Cliff, honorary president of the association, making the presentations.

"In scoring his triple triumph, Ovide Gauthier again demonstrated that he is still "Mr Badminton" in

Northern Ontario, a king of the courts to be reckoned with in any style of play. His smashing drives seemed to lack some of the steam of years ago, but they still packed enough punch to send many a title aspirant into the discard. His cool court experience stood him in good stead when he tired, his cross-court firing being particularly effective in wearing down a fresher or younger opponent. He was outstanding in this department in the second game of the singles when he drubbed the younger Gord Frech of the Sault 15-1.

"Mrs Verna Lacy, of Timmins, was the other outstanding star of the tournament. Perennial Northern champion, Mrs Lacy still rules as queen of the show in the Northland. Her deceiving wrist action sent all opponents to the sidelines as she raced back and forth across the court with apparently no effort. Her play was outstanding throughout the three days."

A highlight of the tournament was the number of younger players who were either upsetting established players or giving them excellent matches. Among the names of up-and-comers that were mentioned: Fritz Gauthier, Julie Cayen, Jerry Myers and Harvey Nadeau. Other Sudbury clubs that participated in the tournament, besides Inco and Ryan, were YMCA and CYO.

The NOBA election of officers was held at a luncheon meeting before the Sunday finals. Charles Wales of Sault Ste Marie was elected president, with David

**NORTHERN NO. 15
1941**

**Sault Ste Marie
Sault Club**

Champions

LS - Helen Best, Sault Ste Marie
MS - Gordon Shields, Schumacher
LD - Helen Best & Mrs J. Adams, Sault Ste Marie
MD - Gordon Shields & Bim Sturgeon, Schumacher
XD - Ovide Gauthier & Kitty Young, Sudbury

NOBA President: Bill Plewman, Sault Ste Marie

**NORTHERN NO. 16
1942**

Sudbury

Champions

LS - Doris Sturgeon, Schumacher
MS - Ovide Gauthier, Sudbury
LD - Doris Sturgeon & Verna Lacy, Schumacher & Timmins
MD - Ovide Gauthier & George Von Zuban, Sudbury
XD - Ovide Gauthier & Margaret Wilson, Sudbury

**NORTHERN NO. 17
March 18-20, 1948**

**Schumacher
Porcupine Badminton Club**

Champions

LS - Verna Lacy, Timmins
MS - Bob Laldlaw, Timmins
LD - Doris Sturgeon & Verna Lacy, Schumacher & Timmins
MD - Ovide Gauthier & W. (Fritz) Gauthier, Sudbury
XD - Ovide Gauthier & Margaret Wilson, Sudbury & Copper Cliff

**NORTHERN NO. 18
March 4-6, 1949**

**Sudbury
Inco Club**

Champions

LS - Verna Lacy, Timmins
MS - Ovide Gauthier, Sudbury
LD - Jean Scott & Verna Lacy, Timmins
MD - Ovide Gauthier & Fritz Gauthier, Sudbury
XD - Ovide Gauthier & Margaret Wilson, Sudbury & Copper Cliff

Runners-up

LS - Stella Crawford, Sudbury 8,13-10
MS - Gord Frech, Sault Ste Marie 18-15,1
LD - Stella Crawford & Edna Johnston, Sudbury 18-15,5
MD - Bim Sturgeon & G. Richardson, Timmins 6,6
XD - Fritz Gauthier & Julie Cayen, Sudbury 7,5

Semi-finals

LS - Lacy d. Jean Scott 8,4
Crawford d. Edna Johnston 12-10,10-12,4
MS - Gauthier d. Gallagher, Sudbury 6,9
Frech d. Bim Sturgeon, Schumacher 7,8
LD - Lacy & Scott d. Byers & DeSoto, Copper Cliff 2,1
Crawford & Johnston d. Lynott & Hodge, Falconbridge 8,7
MD - Gauthier & Gauthier d. Fortin & G. Gauthier, Sudbury 4,10
Sturgeon & Richardson d. Bill Plewman & Gord Frech, Sault Ste Marie 10,17-14
XD - Gauthier & Wilson d. Bill Plewman & Dolly Edwards, Sault Ste Marie 11,8
Gauthier & Cayen d. Gallagher & Edna Johnston, Sudbury 10,12-15,13

Consolation event

LS - Monica Coules d. Miss D. Caverson 3-11,7,13-11
MS - L. Fortin d. Willard Evoy 7,10
LD - C. Medina & M. Thachuk d. Miss H. McCrea & Mrs L. Brooks 2,18-14
MD - G. Adam & J. Charon d. G. Lecoupe & M. Lecoupe 9-15,9,8
XD - J. Myers & Miss Nellie Smith d. George Gauthier & Miss C. Medina 8,8

NOBA President: George Von Zuban, Sudbury

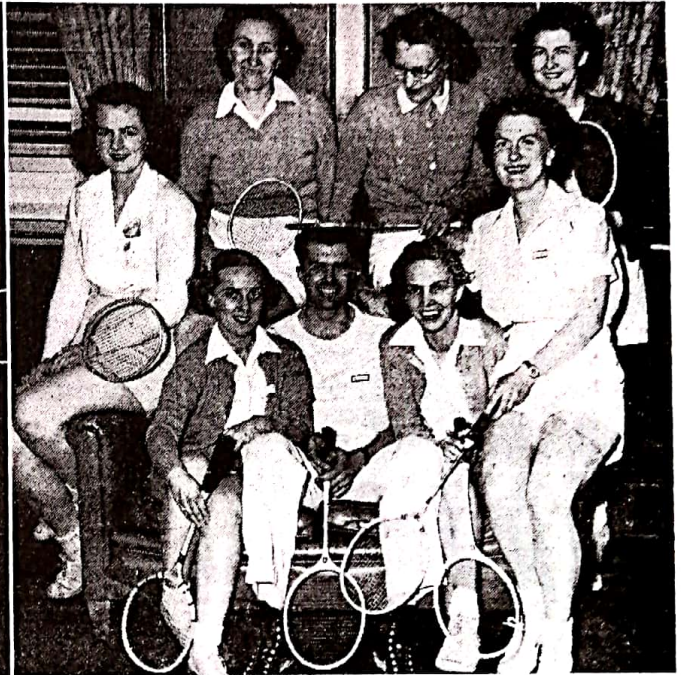
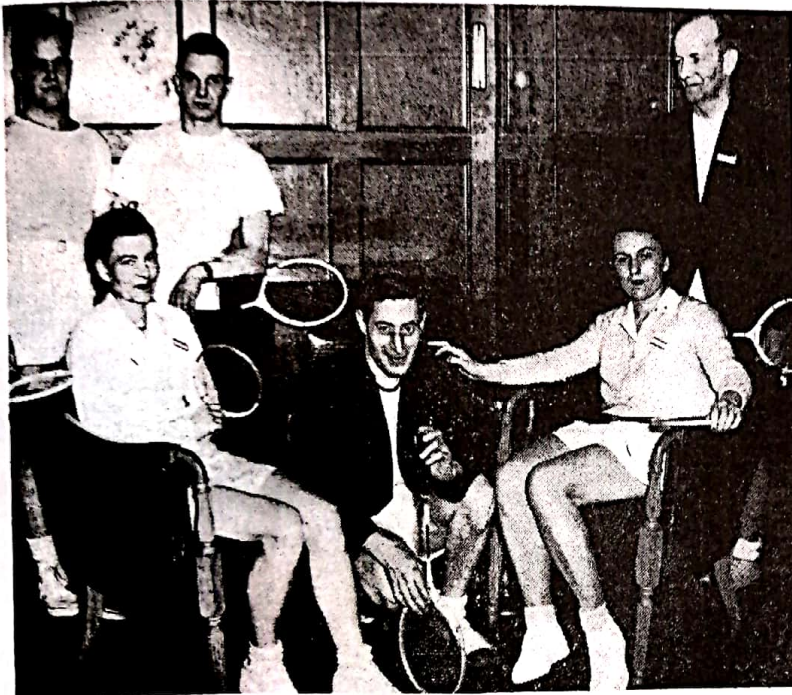
Honorary President: G.S. Jarrett, Copper Cliff

Holdbrook of the Sault chosen as honorary president. George Von Zuban, the outgoing president, became vice president and Bill Plewman was elected secretary-treasurer. There was considerable discussion regarding the question of affiliating with the Ontario Badminton Association, but it was finally decided "to hold this in abeyance for at least a year".

Three trustees were named for the association trophies: Kitty Young, Charles Wales and Bob Laidlaw. The financial statement showed a balance of \$86.54.



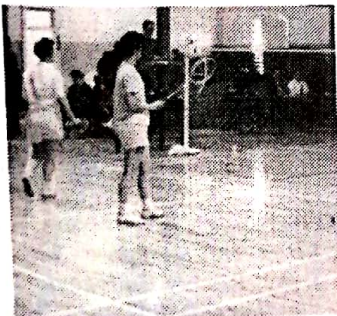
Champions of Northern No. 18. From the left: G.S. Jarrett, honorary president of NOBA; Fritz Gauthier, Verna Lacy, Jean Scott, Ovide Gauthier, and George Von Zuban, NOBA president. "Sudbury Daily Star" March 7, 1949.



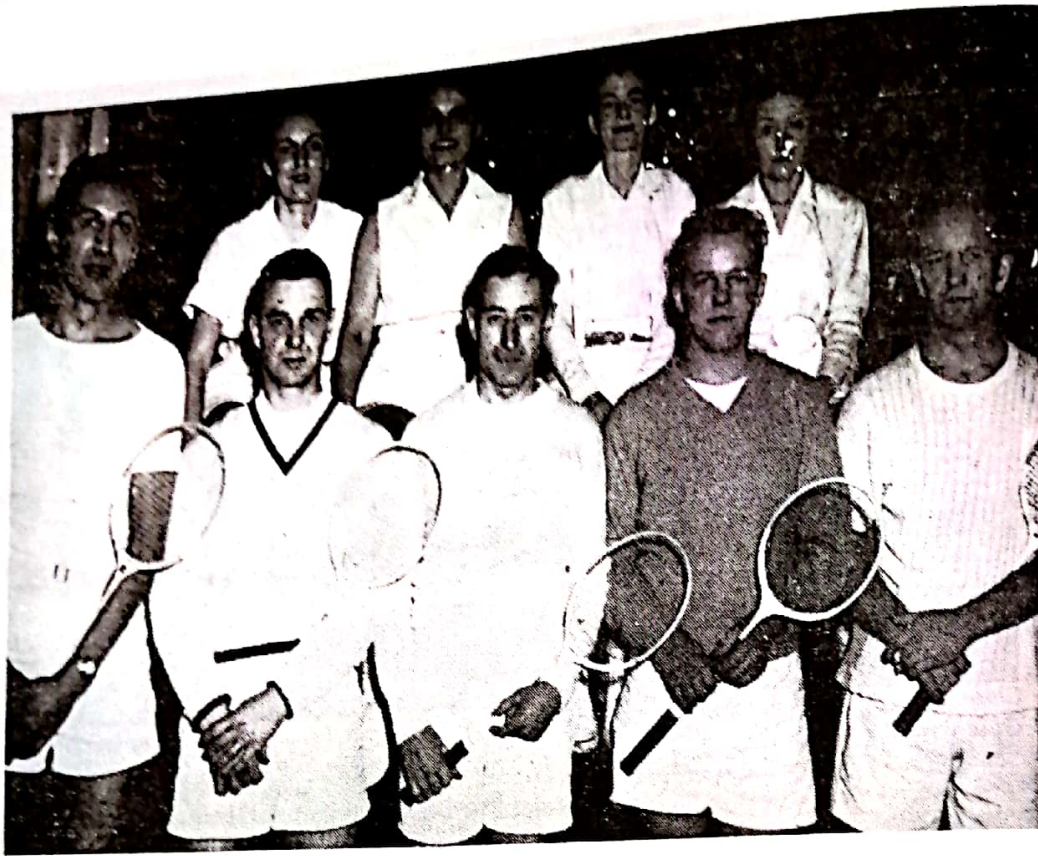
Pictured here are fourteen of the participants in Northern No. 18, held at the Inco Club in Sudbury in 1949.

On the left is a group from Sault Ste Marie. Seated, left to right, are Mrs L. Edwards, L. Edwards and Jean Frech. Standing are Doug Erkkila, Gord Frech and Bill Plewman.

On the right are some of the 20 players who travelled from Timmins for the tournament. Standing, from the left: Jean Scott, Verna Lacy, Ora Kulju. Front row, from the left: Jean McChesney, Shirley McDivitt, Eric Arnott, Flo McKerrow, Marion McKee. "Sudbury Star" Saturday, March 5, 1949.

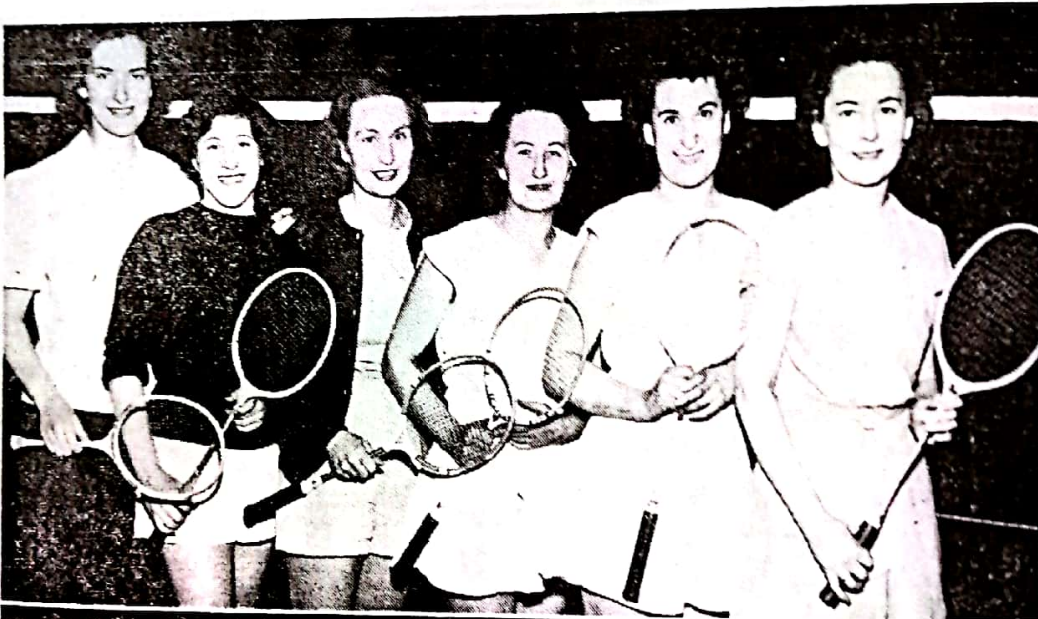


McIntyre Arena in Timmins, home of The Northern in 1940, 1948 and 1951.



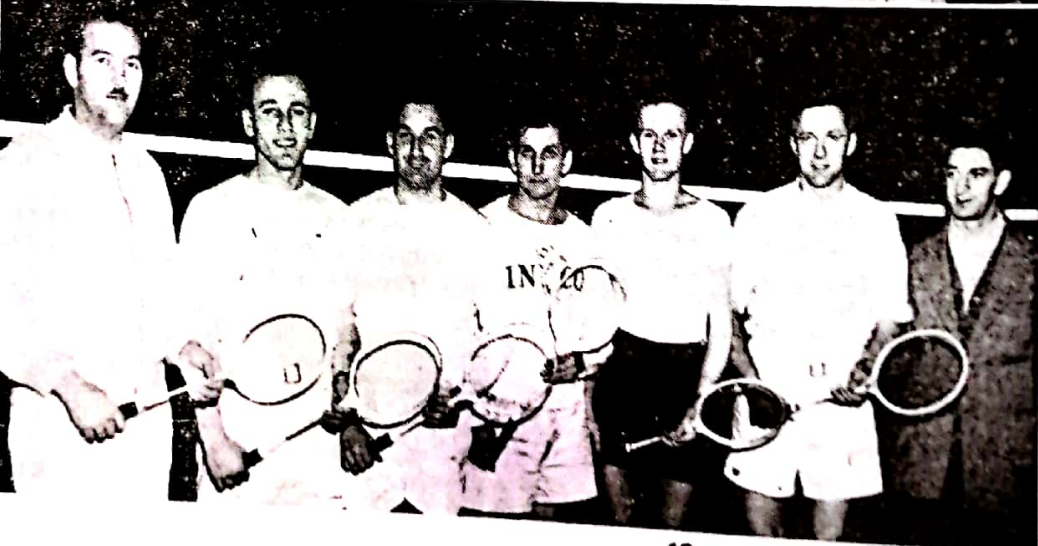
In 1950 The Northern was again held in Sault Ste Marie. It marked the end of the Ovide Gauthier era and the start of the Gord Frech era. The two met in the singles final for the second year in a row and the Sudbury Daily Star reported the result this way:

"Frech supplied the upset of the tournament by knocking off the burly Sudbury detective in a marathon men's singles final. The trim Lock City swatter toppled the champion 15-9 in the first game, dropped the middle stanza by the same score, and then rallied to win another 15-9 victory in the saw-off game."



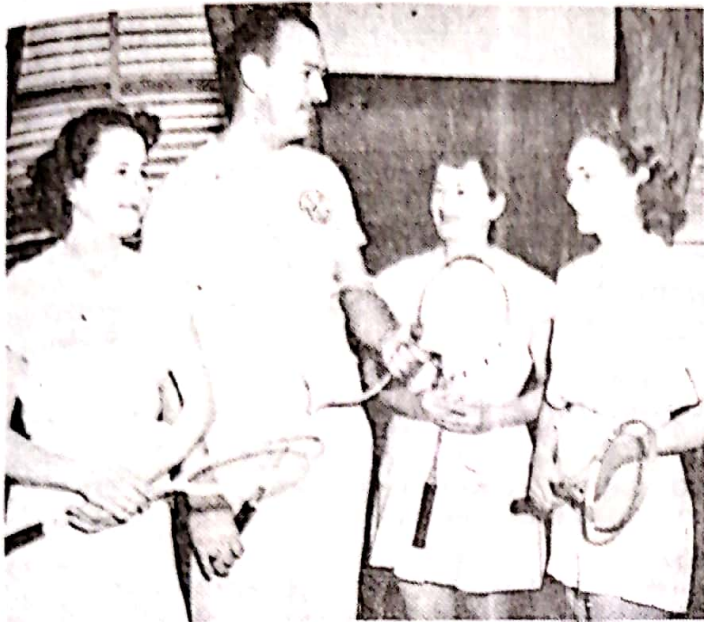
This photo appeared under the caption "Sudbury shuttlers shade Sault, 6-5" and is a reminder that Sudbury and Sault Ste Marie used to play an annual inter-city team match.

The Sault team was composed of: front row [from the left] Mike Novick, Gord Frech, George Edwards, Doug Erkkila, Bill Plewman. Back row: Jean Frech, Helen Best, Dolly Edwards, Lorette Levie.



The Sudbury team consisted of: top [from the left] Maureen Pappin, Chea Midence, Edna Johnston, Stella Crawford, Jean McCrea, Flo McCrea. Bottom: Ovide Gauthier, John Saganiewic [Hartman], Jerry Myers, Wilf Biron, Ian Sheppard, Willard Evoy, Ritchie Gallagher. "Sudbury Daily Star" Saturday, Jan 21, 1950 and Monday, Jan 23, 1950.

Ovide Gauthier did win the doubles with his brother Fritz, in what was to be their last appearance in a Northern final. Gord and Jean Frech won the mixed and Jean Scott of Timmins won the women's singles. A "ladies trophy" went to Sudbury for the first time in the history of The Northern when Stella Crawford and Edna Johnston defeated Jean Frech and Dolly Edwards in the doubles final.

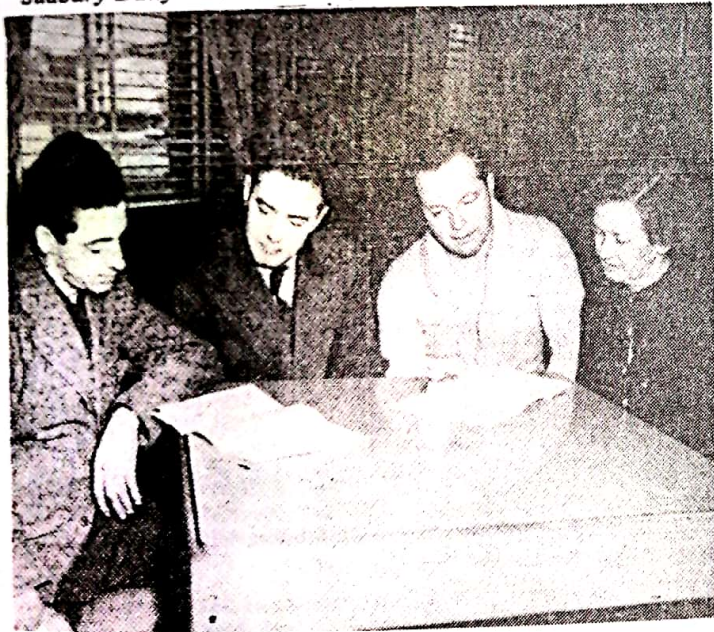


Those photos were featured in pre-tournament publicity for Northern No. 18, held at the Inco Club in Sudbury in 1949.

Above, Northern star, Ovide Gauthier is shown talking to [from the left] Rose Polano, Stella Crawford and Edna Johnston.

Below, the tournament committee goes over last minute details. From the left: Richard Gallagher, Ev Staples, Andy Wynn, Kitty Young.

"Sudbury Daily Star" Thursday, March 3, 1949.



Jean Scott [left] and Verna Lacy, at the 1949 Northern. Timmins Press photo

NORTHERN NO. 19
March 17-19, 1950

Sault Ste Marie

Champions

- LS - Jean Scott, Timmins
- MS - Gord Frech, Sault Ste Marie
- LD - Edna Johnston & Stella Crawford, Sudbury
- MD - Ovide Gauthier & Fritz Gauthier, Sudbury
- XD - Gord & Jean Frech, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

- LS - Jean Frech, Sault Ste Marie
- MS - Ovide Gauthier, Sudbury 9,9-15,9
- LD - Jean Frech & Dolly Edwards, Sault Ste Marie 10,18-17
- MD - Gord Frech & Bill Plewman, Sault Ste Marie 7-15,12,9
- XD - Ovide Gauthier & Margaret Wilson, Sudbury

Semi-finals

- LS - Scott d. Stella Crawford, Sudbury
- Frech d. Edna Johnston, Sudbury

Consolation round

- MS - Harry Naresnek, Creighton d. Doug Erkkila, Sault Ste Marie 12-15,13,4
- LS - Jennie Kowanez, Sault Ste Marie d. Maureen Popplin, Sudbury 0,9
- XD - Doug Erkkila & Jennie Kowanez, Sault Ste Marie d. Wilf Biron & Hattie McCrea, Sudbury
- LD - Sheila Keegan & Nellie Smith, Sudbury against Rose Polano & Monica Coules, Sudbury, result unknown
- MD - Harry Haresnek & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine against Willard Evoy & Ev Staples, Creighton Mine, result unknown

NOBA President: Charlie Wales, Sault Ste Marie

Honorary President: David Holdbrook, Sault Ste Marie



In 1951, The Northern returned to Timmins and two more great stars of the 40s said their farewells. Doris Sturgeon of Timmins and Verna Lacy, this time playing out of New Liskeard where she still makes her home, won the women's doubles to top their long careers. Among them, Ovide Gauthier, Verna Lacy and Doris Sturgeon collected 27 Northern championship titles even though their playing period crossed the five years in which no Northern were held. They certainly would have rewritten the record book if circumstances had been different.

As has always been the case in The Northern, new stars were rising as old ones were setting, and the new star in 1951 was undoubtedly Sault Ste Marie's Gord Frech. He won a convincing triple victory, partnered by Bill Plewman and Jean McLeod, and followed up the following year with two more titles for a total of 7 out of a possible 9 championships in three years! He won the singles again in 1953 to set a standard that is surpassed only by Joe Zaharko and Ed Hreljac, and topped off his career with another doubles title in 1956.

Nan Stronach of Schumacher won the women's singles in 1951, in what appears to be her only Northern appearance.

The 1952 Northern was held at the Inco Club in Sudbury and a very nice tournament program was produced. It listed John Saganiewicz (Hartman) as the NOBA president, Bim Sturgeon as past president, Gord Frech as vice-president and Collette Potvin as secretary-treasurer. George Jarrett of Copper Cliff was once again honorary president.

The tournament committee comprised 16 people to organize play, 12 people on the social committee, 3 on the publicity committee, and 4 to take registrations. Badminton was starting to boom in Sudbury, with a Nickel Belt Association that held regular inter-club play and other events. It would soon start to show up in The Northern's results!

Sudbury captured three of the Northern titles in 1952 as Mary Terrell won the women's singles, Edna Johnston and Stella Crawford won the women's doubles, and Gerry Myers and Harvey Nadeau won the men's doubles. They could not yet, however, stop Gord Frech of Sault Ste Marie, who retained his titles in both singles and mixed.

In 1953, The Northern returned to the Algo Club in Sault Ste Marie and the Sault Ste Marie-Sudbury rivalry continued. A feature of the tournament was the first Northern appearance of Helen Forbes, a young physical education teacher who had just moved to Sault Ste Marie and would become the dominant woman in The Northern during the 50s. She got off to a great start by winning the singles and, with Bill Plewman, the mixed.

Gord Frech won his fourth successive singles title, as mentioned earlier, but the other two events went to

NORTHERN NO. 20 1951

Timmins

Champions

LS - Nan Stronach, Schumacher
MS - Gord Frech, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Doris Sturgeon & Verna Lacy, Timmins & New Liskeard
MD - Gord Frech & Bill Plewman, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Gord Frech & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

LS - Edna Johnston, Sudbury
MS - Bill Plewman, Sault Ste Marie 7,6
LD - Stella Crawford & Edna Johnston, Sudbury
MD - Bob Laldlaw & Bim Sturgeon, Timmins
XD - John Saganiewicz & Collette Potvin, Sudbury

NOBA President: Bim Sturgeon, Schumacher

NORTHERN NO. 21 Feb 22-24, 1952

Sudbury
Inco Club

Champions

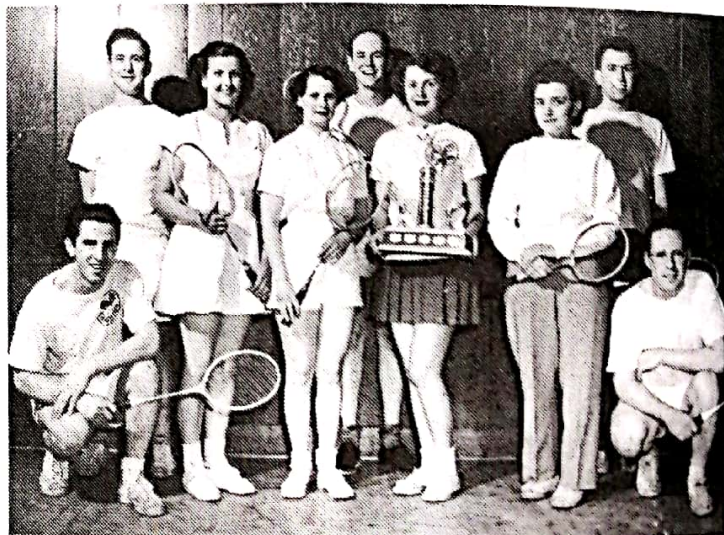
LS - Mary Terrell, Sudbury.
MS - Gord Frech, Sault Ste Marie
LD - Edna Johnston & Stella Crawford, Sudbury
MD - Gerry Myers & Harvey Nadeau, Sudbury
XD - Gord Frech & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

LS - Helen Best, Sault Ste Marie
MS - John Saganiewicz, Sudbury

NOBA President: John Saganiewicz, Sudbury

Honorary President: George Jarrett, Copper Cliff



Sudbury Players in the early 50s when there was an active "Nickel Belt Association" with regular competitions. Standing [left to right]: Ev Staples, Pat Cayen, Pat Staples, John Dingwall, Stella Koraluk, Elaine McMahon, Elfo DeFillippo. In front: Frank Pruskoski, Gino Gonnella.

Sudbury. Sheila Keegan and Collette Potvin won the women's doubles while John Hartman and Gino Gonnella won the men's doubles. For all four, it was their first Northern title.

Gino Gonnella, from Creighton Mine near Sudbury, also earned honorable mention in the Sault Star for his singles play:

"The men's singles saw two dazzling exhibitions. Sudbury's Gino Gonnella knocked off A. Robertson of the Sault and Sudbury's Bub Jewitt edged Terry Corbett of the Sault in nip-'n-tuck affairs that proved crowd-pleasers of the best kind."

1954 saw The Northern broadening its horizons once again by finding a new home at the Noranda Recreation Center in Noranda, Quebec. With both north-eastern Ontario and northwestern Quebec effectively isolated from the mainstream of activity in the southern parts of their provinces, this marked the beginning of a long association that would be of mutual benefit to clubs in both areas. The border between the provinces seemed less significant than the invisible border separating north from south.

Most of the strong competition came from Sudbury, but Helen Forbes made the 400-mile trek from Sault Ste Marie to successfully defend her women's singles title. The new men's singles champion was Gerry Myers of Sudbury and his win was reported in the Sudbury Daily Star:

"A surprised Gerry Myers defeated Gino Gonnella of Creighton Mine in a comeback win after dropping the first game of the match. Myers smashed back to take the set 6-15,15-6,15-3.

**NORTHERN NO. 22
1953**

**Sault Ste Marie
Algo Club**

Champions

- LS - Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie
- MS - Gord Frech, Sault Ste Marie
- LD - Sheila Keegan & Collette Potvin, Sudbury
- MD - John Hartman & Gino Gonnella, Sudbury & Creighton Mine
- XD - Bill Plewman & Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

- LS - Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie 6-11,4,12-11
- MS - Harvey Nadeau, Sudbury 8,4-15,8
- LD - Helen Smith & Jean McCrea, Sudbury 11,18-15
- MD - Harvey Nadeau & Gerry Myers, Sudbury 11,6-15,18-16
- XD - Gord Frech & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie 10-15,6,9:

Semi-finals

- LS - Forbes d. Jean McCrea, Sudbury 9-12,2,4
McLeod d. Sheila Keegan, Sudbury 7,9-11,6
- MS - Frech d. Bud Myers, Sault Ste Marie 7,7
Nadeau d. John Hartman, Sudbury 13-18,17-14,6
- LD - Keegan & Potvin d. Helen Forbes & Barbara Plewman, Sault Ste Marie 8,14-18,9
- MD - Hartman & Gonnella d. Bill Plewman & Gord Frech, Sault Ste Marie 8,4
Nadeau & Myers d. Mike Novick & Bud Myers, Sault Ste Marie 0,2
- XD - Plewman & Forbes d. John Hartman & Collette Potvin, Sudbury 10,12
Frech & McLeod d. Harvey Nadeau & Sheila Keegan, Sudbury, 8,4

Consolation round

- LS - S. Graham, Sudbury d. Edna Evoy, Sudbury 15-11,11-3
- MS - S. Robertson d. Terry Deluzio, Sault Ste Marie 3,4
- LD - S. Graham & Monica Coules, Sudbury d. Edna Evoy & Ev Pawson, Sudbury 5,11-15,4
- MD - Rene Deluzio & Terry Deluzio d. B. Caldwell & N. Jago, Sault Ste Marie 7-18,11,12
- XD - M. Coules & Edna Evoy, Sudbury d. Bub Jewitt & Ev Pawson, Sudbury 3,5-15,4

"Both Myers and Gonnella had provided the upsets of the tournament. Gonnella knocked off top-seeded Harvey Nadeau 15-11,15-7, Myers downed second-seeded John Hartman 15-12,14-18,15-4 to enter the finals."

Gerry Myers became a double winner when he and Harvey Nadeau defeated Tom Stefanko and Harry Narasnek by the narrow score of 15-12,18-15. "The 19-year-old Stefanko's smashing play was the talk of the tournament."

Collette Potvin and Sheila Keegan repeated their 1953 win in women's doubles, and Collette became the tournament's second double winner as she and John Hartman captured the mixed doubles.

**NORTHERN NO. 23
Feb 19-21, 1954**

**Noranda
Noranda Recreation Centre**

Champions

- LS - Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie
- MS - Gerry Myers, Sudbury
- LD - Collette Potvin & Sheila Keegan, Sudbury
- MD - Harvey Nadeau & Gerry Myers, Sudbury
- XD - John Hartman & Collette Potvin, Sudbury

Runners-up

- LS - Kay Blatchford, Noranda 10,2
- MS - Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 8-15,8,3
- LD - Freda Douglas & Kay Blatchford, Noranda 9-15,3,17-18
- MD - Tom Stefanko & Harry Narasnek, Creighton Mine 12,18-15
- XD - Gino Gonnella & Sheila Keegan, Creighton Mine & Sudbury 9-15,9,5

Semi-finals

- LS - Forbes d. Nellie Smith, Sudbury 8,2
Blatchford d. Jean McCrea, Sudbury 1,3
- MS - Myers d. John Hartman, 12,14-18,4
Gonnella d. Harvey Nadeau, Sudbury 11,7
- LD - Keegan & Potvin d. Focotnoir & J. Bolduc, Noranda 3,4
Blatchford & Douglas d. Nellie Smith & Jean McCrea, Sudbury 10,3-15,13
- MD - Myers & Nadeau d. J. Marshall & E. Truskoaki, Sault Ste Marie 10-15,18-17,12
Stefanko & Narasnek d. John Hartman, Sudbury & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 11,8
- XD - Hartman & Potvin d. Gerry Myers & Jean McCrea, Sudbury 4,4
Gonnella & Keegan d. Doug Erkkila & Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie 11,8

Tournament Chairman: Roch Grignon, Noranda



Northern regulars [left to right] Harvey Nadeau, the late Mrs Harvey Nadeau, Rene Paquette, Gino Gonnella.

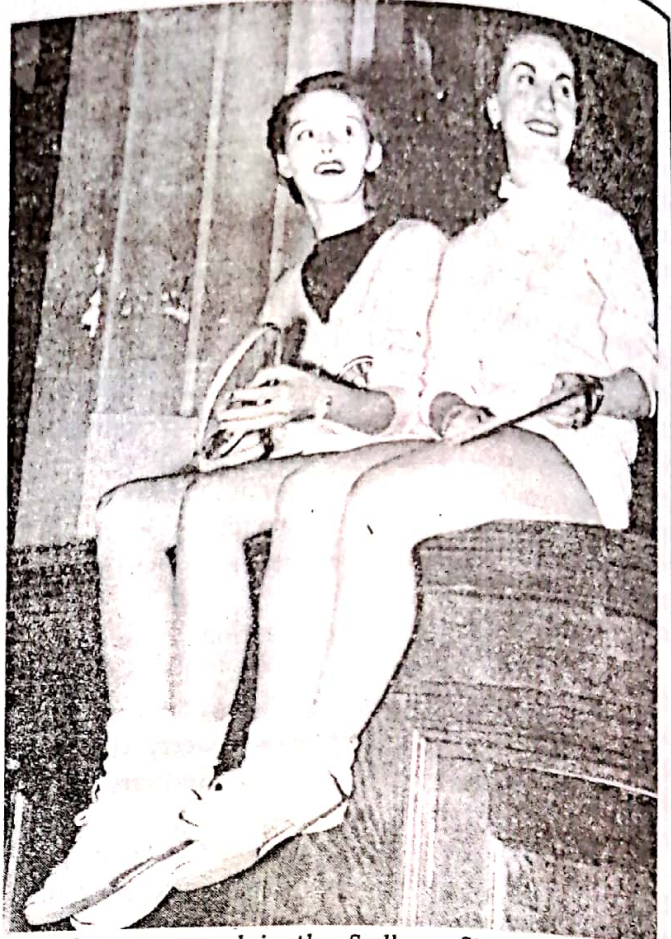
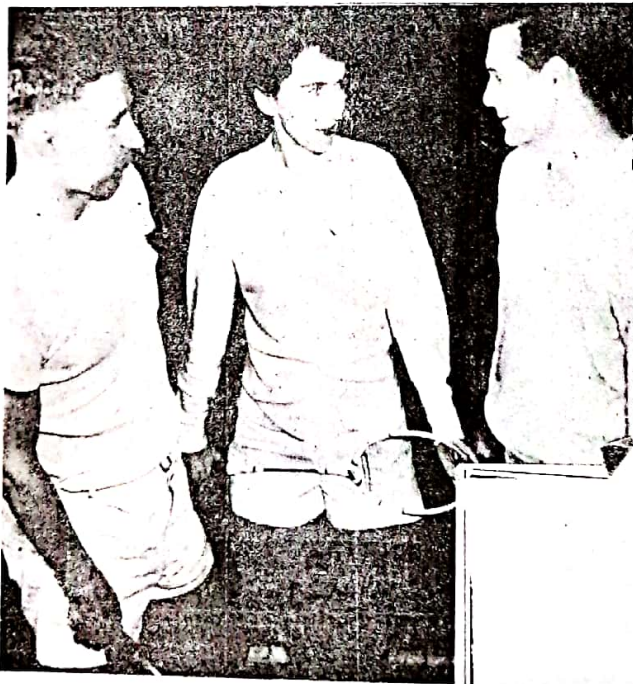


Bill Plewman [left] and Gord Frech of Sault Ste Marie, winners of 17 Northern titles between them. Bill Plewman holds the record for the greatest number of years spanned by his titles: 21 years, from 1934 to 1955!

"Sault Star" around March, 1954.

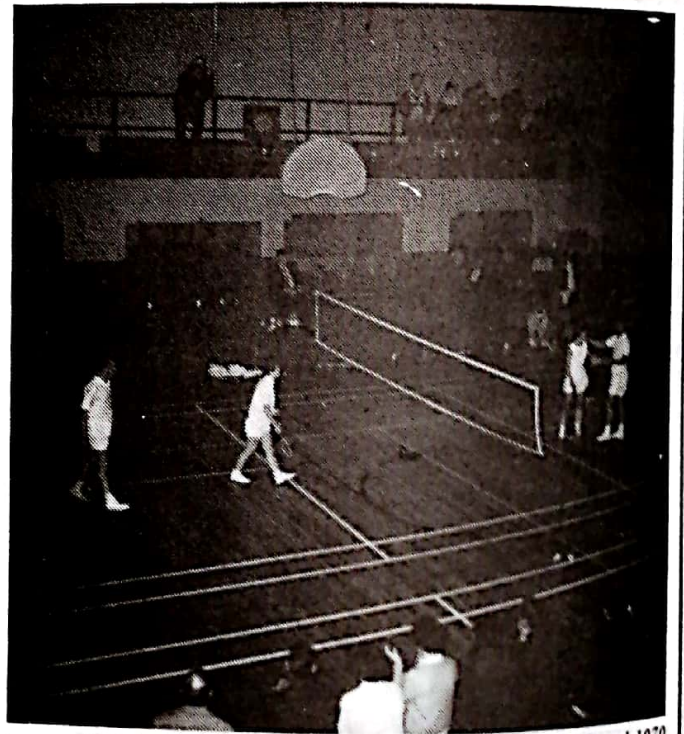
Sault Ste Marie produced many strong players during the 50s. Among them were, from the left: Bud Myers, Jean McLeod and Sandy Robertson. An annual Sault Ste Marie city championship was held and hotly contested.

"Sault Star" around March, 1954.



This photo appeared in the Sudbury Star over the caption "Dazzling from, wot?" in some pre-tournament publicity for Northern No. 23 in Noranda. On the left is Emerilda Spencer, and on the right is Collette Potvin [now Hartman] who was a double winner in the tournament.

"Sudbury Star" around Feb 15, 1954.



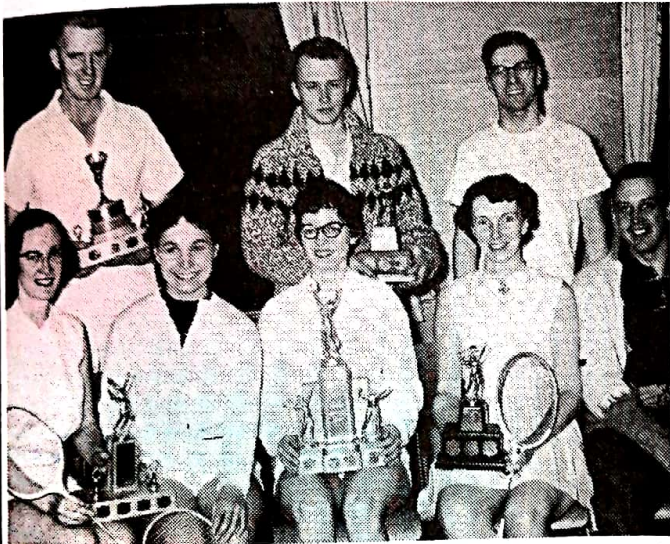
Noranda Rec. Center, home to The Northern in 1954 and 1970.



1952: John Hartman, Collette Potvin, Gino Gonnella, Sheila Keegan, Harvey Nadeau.



Northern No. 22, held in Sault Ste Marie in 1953. Left to right: Jean McCrae, Jean McLeod, Helen Forbes, Nellie Smith.



Above: some of the TBA players who were familiar faces at The Northern. Standing [left to right]: Red Lafoy, Bill Scott, Ernie Presse. Front: Hilda Ross, Lillian Williams, Bev Green, Jean Lafoy, Don MacKenzie.

Below: [left to right] Dennis Miller, Dorothy [MacDonald] Lamothe, Bev Green, Hilda Ross, Lillian Williams, Ray Belanger, Kiki Arsenault. Gerry Sigouin is in front.



Northern No. 23, held in Noranda in 1954. Gino Gonnella [left] of Creighton Mine and Gerry Myers of Sudbury.



The year 1955 will be remembered always as the year that Ed Hreljac arrived at The Northern, the player who was to become the most dominant in its history to this date. Between 1955 and 1971, Ed Hreljac won 12 men's singles crowns, a record that comes into perspective when you realize the the next highest totals ever achieved were by Joe Zaharko with 5 and Gord Frech with 4. He added to this, 9 men's doubles titles, second only to the record of his partner Gino Gonnella who won 11; together they formed the most successful team in the history of The Northern. Occasionally, Ed also dabbled in mixed doubles, winning 4 titles in the event - enough to earn him triple crowns in both 1958 and 1964. Other great Northern champions amassed 11, 12 or 13 titles during their careers; Ed Hreljac won an awesome 25.

It therefore seems fitting to set the scene by back-

tracking a little before looking at what actually happened at Northern No. 24 in 1955.

In January, 1952 two carloads of badminton players from the Sudbury area drove to the Strathgowan Badminton Club in Toronto to see "the two best singles players that ever played": Ethel Marshall of Buffalo, and Dr Dave Freeman of San Diego. Before the finals were run, Willard Evoy and John Hartman, members of the Nickel Belt BA executive, were invited to the Ontario Badminton Association annual meeting and the machinery was set in motion to eventually affiliate NOBA with the OBA.

An equally significant development was an invitation to bring some of the young Sudbury players to the Ontario Junior Championships at the Carlton Club in Toronto later in the month. The man who took them was Ev Staples and the players were Phyllis (Hughes) Crang, Jeannie Anderson, Tom Stefanko and Ronni Bryan. In Ev's



1952, the start of the junior program in Creighton Mine that made a lasting mark on The Northern and in badminton throughout Ontario and Canada. At the top [left to right]: Bob Seawright, Allan Massey, Ed Hreljac, Larry Gonnella, Eugene

Bryan, Walter Saftic. Front: Marie Barbe, Elvie Skonen, Lillian Hreljac, Carole Staples, Joanne Delaney, Julie Cayen, Bev Cassell [kneeling], Maureen Sharpe, Arlene Koshela. Showing them the way it's to be done is coach Ev Staples.

words, "our kids took an awful beating and I decided then and there that they could not do that to our northern juniors."

It occurred to Ev that badminton would be a fine game to get going among the teenagers at the Creighton Mine Employees Club, Creighton Mine being a community of 1,000 people a few miles outside the city of Sudbury. During the next few months Ev kept returning to Toronto on weekends - five times in all - learning how to teach badminton. All-time greats like Jack Purcell and Don Smythe liked his interest and enthusiasm, and gave him lots of help and encouragement. The Creighton Mine Junior Badminton Club was born.

What happened next is recounted in an "Inco Triangle" feature article in 1958:

"Ev got his teenagers started at the game the next fall, 1952. In his first class was a little kid, four or five years younger than most of the others, but already on fire with an intense ambition to be the best. That was Eddie Hreljac.

"Within a year he was a semi-finalist in the Ontario junior B (under 16) singles at Stratford. The following year he won it. Before he had played three years he became the first triple champion in Ontario junior badminton. He repeated his triple smash in 1956, won two out of three in 1957, won all three again in 1958. Out of 12 possible Ontario junior A (under 19) championships, he won 11. And it was a clubmate of his, Allan Massey, who took care of the 12th.

"Eddie went to Baltimore in 1956 and won the eastern United States open junior title. That same year he played for Canada against the USA in the international matches and won three of his country's six points. He was blazing.

"Although he broke an ankle playing football at Copper Cliff High School in the fall of 1957, Eddie was back knocking at the door of the big trophy room this year. Despite trouble from the ankle he seared his way through to the Canadian junior finals, then won the Molson's trophy as Canadian junior singles champion with a brilliant demonstration of skill and speed in Victoria, British Columbia on March 5, 1958.

"The Creighton teenagers are the enfants terrible of the Ontario junior badminton world. Of the 36 people in the final matches last year at the Granite Club in Toronto, 23 were from Creighton Mine. That's saturation.



Members of the Creighton Mine Junior Badminton Club, following the Ontario junior championships in 1955 at the Strathgowan Club. Front: Albert Barbe, Ken Smith. 2nd row: Dan Mitroff, Pete Olexiuk. 3rd row: Walter Saftic, Allan Massey, Ed Hreljac, Marie Barbe. Top: Harry Narasnek, Ev Staples.

"Eddie and his pals have worked this thing up by themselves, with the devoted help of fellows like Harry Narasnek and Keith MacNaughton, and many others who dug down to assist with the finances.

"They couldn't practise under championship conditions, and they had no pros to polish up their playing. But they had spirit, and they had Ev Staples.

"One of them became a Dominion champion.

"It's really quite a story, isn't it?"

In 1952, Ev Staples had seemingly "overnight" turned himself into one of the most effective badminton coaches in Canada. Drawing from a small population, playing in a facility that had slippery floors and inefficient lighting, and training with plastic birds when all the competitions were played with feather birds, he proved that the coach can be the deciding factor. Without doubt, Ed Hreljac was an extraordinary athlete and it was an almost "star crossed" circumstance that put he and Ev Staples in the same place at the same time. But there were many more young Creighton Mine players who were headliners in their own right, and as a result The Northern would never be the

same again.

The 1955 Northern was played at the Inco Club in Sudbury. Don Mackintosh, sports editor of the Sudbury Star, reported on the finals:

"A record entry and some of the best competition on record highlighted this year's Northern Ontario badminton championship tourney, which wound up at the Inco Employees Club courts yesterday.

"But the 1955 edition of this annual event will be better remembered as the year a 15-year-old kid named Eddie Hreljac trimmed some of the best men's singles players in the district.

"The Ontario junior champion and Dominion finalist from Creighton Mine never lost a game in blasting six opponents on his way to the title.

"The list of victims included defending champion Gerry Myers and seeded players Harvey Nadeau and Johnny Hartman.

"Hartman, who reached the finals in three events, never had a chance in yesterday's singles event. Hreljac ran through him 15-1 in the first game. He had his man down 12-0 before a wood fault permitted Hartman to score.



1958: the "growing up" Creighton Mine club. Standing [left to right]: Ev Staples, Hilary McIsaac, Fred Roy, Dan Mitroff, Ed Hreljac, Walter Saftic, Red McDonald, Tom "Stuff" Stefanko.

Front: Marie Barbe, Irene Cimmerman, Pat Staples, Carole Staples, Helen Cavrak, Marlene McCormick, Arlene Koskela, Bev Cassell.

"In the second game Hartman got off on the right foot to lead 6-1. Then the serve came back to Hreljac and the kid rattled off 10 straight points. It finished 15-8.

"He's terrific," was Hartman's terse comment after the pummeling was over."

Mackintosh later added: "And beaming like a kid at a circus from the sidelines was veteran Ev Staples. No doubt Ev remembered less than three years ago when 12-year-old Eddie walked into the club at Creighton and asked how to hold a racquet."

In the other events, Jean McCrea of Sudbury was a popular winner as she upset title-holder Helen Forbes of Sault Ste Marie. The victory for Jean denied Helen her triple crown as she went on to win the women's doubles with Jean McLeod and the mixed doubles with Bill Plewman.

John Hartman was runner-up in singles and mixed, but he and Gino Gonnella repeated their 1953 victory in doubles.

In 1956, The Northern had its silver anniversary, though nobody knew it at the time. The tournament was held, appropriately enough, in Sault Ste Marie and a Creighton Mine bid to sweep all the events was stopped by only the narrowest of margins. In the mixed doubles final, the last of the day, Gord Frech and Jean McLeod defeated Ed Hreljac and Marie Barbe by the scores of 15-12, 15-17, 15-9.

Of the 1966-67 season, the "Inco Triangle" had this to say:

Long a hotbed of junior badminton, Creighton Employees Club has just had probably the biggest season in its history, winning 19 championships out of a possible 40 in three junior and three senior tournaments.

Its seven-player team, coached and managed by Ev Staples, with special instruction in tournament play by the Northern Ontario champ, Ed Hreljac, brought home the bacon from the Kitchener International junior tourney, the Ontario juniors, the Nickel Belt seniors, the Garson open seniors, the Temiskaming open seniors, and the Northern Ontario high school championships."



Three of the young stars, Gienek Ksiazkiewicz, Linda Fabris and Ed Hreljac Jr, pose on the left with coach Ev Staples. On the right are Ivan McFarlane, Carmen Cozzarini, Joanne Mitroff and Bob Pilon.

NORTHERN NO. 24
March 11-13, 1955

Sudbury Inco Club

Champions
 LS - Jean McCrea, Sudbury
 MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
 LD - Helen Forbes & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie
 MD - John Hartman & Gino Gonnella, Sudbury & Creighton Mine
 XD - Bill Plewman & Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up
 LS - Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie 5,12-11
 MS - John Hartman, Sudbury 1,8
 LD - Jean McCrea & Nellie Smith, Sudbury 7,8-15,18-17
 MD - John Masih & Bub Jewitt, Sudbury 17-18,5,9
 XD - John Hartman & Collette Potvin 18-17,4-15,11

Semi-finals
 MS - Hreljac d. Harvey Nadeau 17-14,1

Ed and Marie were in contention for the first ever double triple in Northern history since both had earlier won the singles and doubles events. Marie's partner was Bev Cassell, also of Creighton Mine, and Ed teamed with Gino Gonnella for the first of their 8 Northern victories together. Ed and Marie's wins were no pushovers, as partner Gino Gonnella extended Ed to the limit before going down 17-15, 17-16 and in the doubles events, both matches went to



Altogether they won 50 trophies. There were over 75 boys and girls under 16 taking instruction in the Creighton club's booming badminton group last season, auguring well for future triumphs.

three games with three of the six games going into extra points.

Marie Barbe, now Gonnella, was the brightest light among the girls in Ev Staples' early Creighton Mine program. She was the Ontario junior singles champion in 1957 and 1958, and reached the Canadian junior finals in both 1956 and 1957.

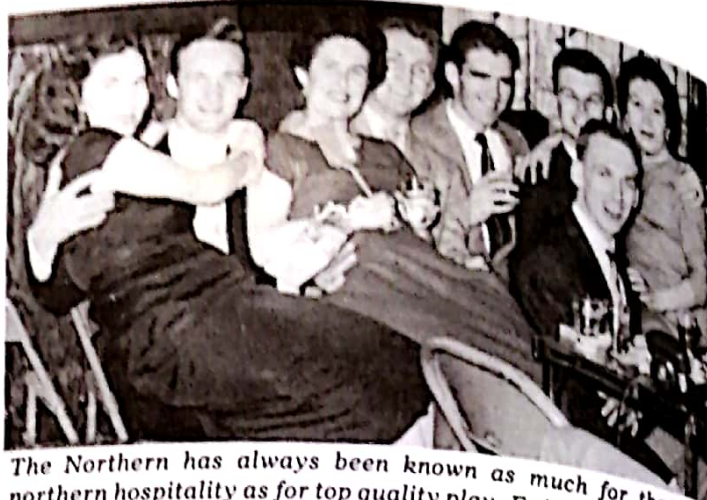
The 1956 Northern had close to 200 participants and was described as "one of the most successful in the history of the Northern Ontario Badminton Association". Main center of play was the Algo Club, but courts at the Sault Armoury were pressed into service in the early stages to handle the great number of matches.

The 1957 Northern was scheduled for Sudbury, but eventually ended up being played in Orillia as its history took another interesting little twist.

While Ev Staples was travelling the junior tournament circuit, he met the late Cyril Vincent of Gravenhurst, another enthusiastic badminton coach whose daughter Nancy (now Nancy Lynch) was an Ontario junior champion. For about fifteen years, from the mid-fifties to the late-sixties, there was an informal liaison between the Northern Ontario BA and the Georgian Bay District BA that saw Georgian Bay players welcomed in the annual Northern and the tournament actually played in Orillia on two occasions, even though the southern boundary of NOBA is the French River near North Bay.

In 1957, there were just over 100 players in the tournament and they came from Sudbury, Sault Ste Marie, Noranda, Kapuskasing, Owen Sound, Barrie, Huntsville, Midland and Lindsay. Play was on the Garrison Club's home courts in the Orillia Armoury, and at the Ontario Hospital School.

Ed Hreljac won his third singles title and Helen



The Northern has always been known as much for the fine northern hospitality as for top quality play. Enjoying the fine at the McIntyre in Timmins are [left to right]: May Othmer, Lawrence Othmer, Terry Sullivan, Mac Johnson, Sam Sullivan, Guy Camberlain, Evelyn Larabie. Jack Chivers is in front.

Forbes reasserted her supremacy by defeating defending champion Marie Barbe 11-7, 11-4. Helen had not played in the previous Northern as she had spent a year teaching in a "camp" school in New Zealand and a mission school in the foothills of the Himalayas in India.

Both singles champions became double winners by taking the doubles events with their regular partners, Gino Gonnella and Jean McLeod, but the now married team of John and Collette (Potvin) Hartman took the mixed doubles title they had first won in 1954.

In 1958, Helen Forbes battled for her last try at a Northern triple crown, but was foiled again as Ed Hreljac won his first. They both successfully defended their singles

NORTHERN NO. 25
Feb 22-24, 1956

Sault Ste Marie
Algo Club and
Sault Armoury

Champions

- LS - Marie Barbe, Creighton Mine
- MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
- LD - Marie Barbe & Bev Cassell, Creighton Mine
- MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
- XD - Gord Frech & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

- LS - Bev Cassell, Creighton Mine 11-8, 11-6
- MS - Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 17-15, 17-16
- LD - Helen Best & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie 12-15, 17-15, 15-12
- MD - John Hartman & John Masih, Sudbury 17-14, 15-17, 15-10
- XD - Ed Hreljac & Marie Barbe, Creighton Mine 15-12, 15-17, 15-9

Consolation round

- LS - Eve Thompson, Huntsville d. N. Nicolet, Sudbury
- MS - Milan Kubic d. Terry Deluzio
- LD - M. Brown & D. Jenner, Huntsville d. B. Cove & L. Zarrattini, Sault Ste Marie
- MD - C. Vincent & J. Vincent, Gravenhurst d. Ev Staples & A. Massey, Creighton Mine
- XD - A. Massey & B. Cassell, Creighton Mine d. Sandy Robertson & M. Forrester, Sault Ste Marie

Tournament Chairman: Bill Plewman, Sault Ste Marie



Canadian Champion Ed Hreljac [1958] with some of the people who helped him get there: [left to right] Harry Narasnek, Keith McNaughton, Ev Staples.

and doubles titles as all four of those events went to the 1957 winners. The saw-off came in the mixed doubles, reported in the Sault Star:

"Teaming with Sudbury's Bub Jewitt in the mixed doubles, Miss Forbes then came very close to gaining a third championship for the Sault. Going into the game as extreme underdogs against highly-touted Creighton juniors Ed Hreljac and Miss Barbe, the Sault-Sudbury duo won the first game 15-13, drove the favorites to points before losing 17-18 in the second game, then fell away to 7-15 in the deciding game.

"Few mixed doubles matches in the recent history of the Northern Ontario tourney have been as exciting as this year's. It looked, during the second game, as if the underdogs would wrap it up."

The tournament was played at the Inco Club in Sudbury and there were 101 players from Orillia, Gravenhurst, Timmins, Sudbury, Creighton Mine, Sault Ste Marie, Barrie, Cobalt and Levack.

Ed Hreljac left the courts to go directly to the airport for his flight to Victoria and the Canadian junior championships, which he won as mentioned earlier.

It was the final Northern for left-handed Helen Forbes who had collected no less than 9 Northern titles from the five tournaments in which she participated. Now Helen Swing, she lives in Thunder Bay where she is a reigning NWOBA seniors and masters champion.

Northern No. 28, in 1959, was back on the familiar Algo Club courts in Sault Ste Marie with neither Ed Hreljac or Helen Forbes in attendance.

Marie Barbe won the singles and, with Marion Masih of Sudbury, the doubles, while John Masih and John Hartman won the men's doubles. Gord Frech proved he was still tops in mixed doubles as he won his 10th and final Northern title, the fifth in that event, with Jean McLeod. It was Jean's final Northern also as she ended a career in



Northern No. 26 was held in Orillia and featured special guests and exhibition matches. From the left are Cyril Vincent of Gravenhurst, NOBA president; Bill Dunn of Gravenhurst, NOBA secretary; Dick Birch of Montreal, former Canadian doubles champion; Norm Dobbie, president of the Orillia Garrison Club who hosted the tournament and Peter Ferguson of Toronto, ranked second in Canada in singles. Ferguson played several exhibition matches against The Northern's best. "Orillia Packet & Times" Monday, Feb. 25, 1957.

which she had collected 7 doubles victories.

The men's singles was interesting in that Creighton Mine players who had been overshadowed by Ed Hreljac and Gino Gonnella were able to step into the spotlight. Tom Stefanko won the championship by defeating Ken Smith; both were from Creighton.

There were many other outstanding players from the Creighton club who had champion stature in their own right, among them Allan Massey, Walter Saftic, Peter Olexiuk (Alexander) and Dan Mitroff. It seemed to outside observers that every one of the Creighton youngsters had a perfect grip, classic overhead strokes and intense concentration in match play. On top of that, their demeanor both on and off court, was beyond reproach. They were super kids with a super coach: Ev Staples.

A total of 110 competitors gathered in Sudbury for the 1960 Northern, and witnessed dramatic wins in both singles events. The tournament report in the Sudbury Star was written by Paul Rimstead:

"A sprightly young miss and a balding veteran, representing the Orillia Badminton Club, came to Sudbury this weekend and returned home with the Northern Ontario ladies' and men's singles badminton titles.

"The ladies champ is 17-year-old Nancy Vincent of Gravenhurst, still a junior-age competitor, and Jack Moon of Bracebridge who said, "Just say veteran player" when asked his age, is the men's champ.



In 1958, at Northern No. 27, Helen Forbes [now Swing] won the last of her 9 Northern titles. She is pictured here with the annual trophies for singles and doubles, which she won with Jean McLeod. Both played out of Sault Ste Marie, but Helen now lives in Thunder Bay. "Sudbury Star" 1958.

"The Sudbury Inco Club played host to the event and courts at Sudbury YMCA and the Creighton Inco Club were also used.

"The tournament started Friday night and the energetic performers played until 5 a.m. Saturday then started Saturday's schedule three hours later.

"Eddie Hreljac and Gino Gonnella captured the



Players from the Algo Club in Sault Ste Marie played a prominent role in *The Northern* during the 50s. Five of their members are shown here. Front, from the left: Helen Forbes, Jean McLeod, Jean Frech. Back: Gord Frech [left] and Joe Gregorini. "Sault Daily Star" Monday, Apr 15, 1957.



Gord Frech [right] and Jean McLeod are congratulated by Bill Plewman on their mixed doubles win in Northern No. 28 held at the Algo Club in Sault Ste Marie in 1959. It was the fourth time the team had captured the title. "Sudbury Star" 1959.

NORTHERN NO. 26
Feb 22-24, 1957

Orillia
Armoury and
Ontario Hospital School

Champions

- LS - Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie
- MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
- LD - Helen Forbes & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie
- MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
- XD - John Hartman & Collette Hartman, Sudbury

Runners-up

- LS - Marie Barbe, Creighton Mine 4,7
- MS - Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 10,3
- LD - Nellie Smith & Jean McCrea, Sudbury 8,17,14
- MD - John Hartman & John Masih, Sudbury 8,11
- XD - John Masih & Nellie Smith, Sudbury 11,10-15,5

Semi-finals

- XD - Hartman & Hartman d. Jim Abbotts & Isobel Agnew, Owen Sound

Consolation round

- LS - Irene Cimmerman, Creighton Mine d. Sylvia Larable, Cobalt 9,9
- MS - Walter Saftic, Creighton Mine d. Fred Town, Orillia 12,2
- LD - Heather Beers & Pam Shier, Bracebridge, d. Nancy Vincent, Gravenhurst & Irene Cimmerman, Creighton Mine 4,17-16
- MD - Fred Town & Harold MacDonald, Orillia d. Bob Buchan & Clive Barrett, Sudbury 9,2
- XD - Nick Georgas, Owen Sound & Heather Beers, Bracebridge d. Rene Paquette & Sylvia Larable, Cobalt 15-18,11,13

Tournament Chairman: Norman Dobbie, Orillia

NOBA President: Cyril Vincent, Gravenhurst

NORTHERN NO. 27
1958

Sudbury
Inco Club and YMCA

Champions

- LS - Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie
- MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
- LD - Helen Forbes & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie
- MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
- XD - Ed Hreljac & Marie Barbe, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

- LS - Marie Barbe, Creighton Mine 7,7
- MS - Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 5,3
- LD - Nellie Smith & Jean McCrea, Sudbury 11,13
- MD - Walter Saftic & Tom Stefanko, Creighton Mine 10,4
- XD - Bub Jewitt, Sudbury & Helen Forbes, Sault Ste Marie 12-15,18-16,10

NORTHERN NO. 28
Feb. 27 - March 1, 1959

Sault Ste Marie
Algo Club

Champions

- LS - Marie Barbe, Creighton Mine 5,7
- MS - Tom Stefanko, Creighton Mine
- LD - Marie Barbe & Marion Masih, Creighton Mine & Sudbury
- MD - John Hartman & John Masih, Sudbury
- XD - Gord Frech & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

- LS -
- MS - Ken Smith, Creighton Mine
- LD - Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie & Judy Scott, Sudbury
- MD - Gord Frech & Joe Gregorini, Sault Ste Marie
- XD - John Hartman & Nellie Smith, Sudbury

Consolation round:

- LS - Kathy Naphan, Sault Ste Marie
- MS - Henry Tebby, Huntsville
- LD - Jane Rodgers & Mary Holgate, Sault Ste Marie
- MD - Terry Corbett, Sault Ste Marie & Ev Staples, Creighton Mine
- XD - Terry Deluzio & Lee Landreville, Sault Ste Marie

men's doubles crown and Collette Hartman and Marie Barbe (the only defending champion to retain a title) took the ladies doubles honors.

"Collette Hartman was the only double-winner as she added the mixed doubles title to her collection teamed with her husband John Hartman.

"Jack Moon defeated former Canadian junior singles champ Ed Hreljac in the finals 15-3 and 15-12. On his march to the title he also downed defending champ Tom Stefanko, Gino Gonnella, Rene Paquette and Jim Derhak.

"I beat Eddie today but he'd be a lot tougher if he was playing more regularly," said Moon. "He just wasn't running."

"Nancy was thrilled with her win. "It's the first singles title I've ever won," she said breathlessly after the match. "I've always seemed to peter out before the finals."

"Nancy downed defending champ Marie Barbe and also eliminated Alice Jamieson, Carol Staples and Lois McNally.

"The singles champs were part of two parent-children combinations. Jack Moon, a left-handed player incidentally, had his 15-year-old son Doug in the tournament. Nancy teamed with her father, Cyril Vincent - former mayor of Gravenhurst, in the mixed doubles."

It was a transition year for Ed Hreljac and for The Northern. Ed was pursuing the serious business of starting a family and a career. He and his wife, Pauline, were expecting the first of their four children and Ed had four more years of training ahead before becoming certified as a chartered accountant. Being about 20 pounds over his former playing weight didn't help his badminton!



Entertainment at the 1958 Northern in Sudbury was provided by a group of young songsters from Creighton Mine. The five vocalists are Hilary McIsaac, Fred Roy, Marlene McCormick, Helen Cavrak and Carole Staples. They are led by Gino Gonnella.

The wins by the Hartmans were their last in Northern competition. Stalwarts of the tournament throughout the 50s, John and Collette assured their place in the record book with a total of 12 doubles titles over the years.

1961 saw The Northern played in Orillia for the second and final time, as the Garrison Club were again most gracious hosts.

Nancy Vincent, 18, retained her singles title with a 12-9,12-9 win over Pat Ryan while Jack Moon, 44, successfully defended the men's singles by defeating 18-year-old Peter Olexiuk of Creighton Mine. Peter had been a finalist of the Canadian junior championships in 1960.

Nancy Vincent and Pat Ryan, from Bracebridge, won the women's doubles and John Masih of Sudbury took care of the other two doubles events with partners Walter Saftic and Nellie Smith.

In the consolation round, there were some matches of interest involving players who would figure substantially in The Northern's future. Bev Hassett (Green) of Cobalt and Lois McNally (Urwin) of Sault Ste Marie locked horns in two epic consolation finals, the singles going to Bev 11-6,8-11,11-8 and the doubles going to Lois and Betty Cloutier over Bev and Terry Sullivan 15-9,8-15,15-8.

In 1962, The Northern found a new home once again. Previously played only in Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury, Timmins, Noranda and Orillia, it this time went to the "tri-towns" of New Liskeard, Haileybury and Cobalt. A



CFB North Bay, home to The Northern from 1965 to 1969, thanks to the efforts of Jack Illing.

total of eight courts spread throughout the three communities were pressed into service, necessitating some fancy footwork on the part of the organizing committee.

The tournament saw the return to dominance of the Creighton Mine players as their sweep of all events, and indeed, of all the positions in the finals, was stopped only by defending women's doubles champions Nancy Vincent and Pat Ryan.

Newcomer Helen Cavrak won the women's singles while Ed Hreljac won the 5th of his 12 singles crowns. Helen became a double winner, as did Walter Saftic, when she and Walter won the mixed doubles and he and Ed Hreljac took the men's doubles. Helen had been a triple-finalist but she and Carol Staples were defeated by Nancy Vincent and Pat Ryan in the only three-game match of the finals.

With each of the challenge trophies went something a little unusual. All of the winners received trophies of polished highgrade silver, donated by the Langis Mine, worked by Arnold Todd of Cobalt and mounted on stands. No photos are available unfortunately; it would be interesting to see the trophies today, when the price of base metals is so high.

Speaking of high prices, an interesting footnote to the 1962 tournament was that the shuttles cost over \$300!

NORTHERN NO. 29
March 4-6, 1960

Sudbury
Inco Club, YMCA, and
Creighton Inco Club

Champions

- LS - Nancy Vincent, Gravenhurst
- MS - Jack Moon, Bracebridge
- LD - Marie Barbe & Collette Hartman, Creighton Mine & Sudbury
- MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
- XD - John & Collette Hartman, Sudbury

Runners-up

- LS - Marie Barbe, Creighton Mine 9,7
- MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine 3,12
- LD - Carol Staples & Marlene McCormick, Creighton Mine 6-15, 18-13, 8
- MD - Pete Olexiuk & Ken Smith, Creighton Mine 3,3
- XD - John Masih & Nellie Smith, Sudbury 8-15, 7, 10

Semi-finals

- MS - Moon d. Tom Stefanko, Sudbury 4,6
- LD - Hartman & Barbe d. Jean Lafoy & Bev Hassett, Cobalt
- MD - Hreljac & Gonnella d. Walter Saftic & Tom Stefanko, Creighton Mine & Sudbury 8,8
- Olexiuk & Smith d. John Hartman & John Masih, Sudbury 15-17, 7, 5
- XD - Hartman & Hartman d. Tom Stefanko & Marie Barbe, Sudbury & Creighton Mine 10,5
- Masih & Smith d. Cyril Vincent & Nancy Vincent, Gravenhurst

Consolation round

- LS - Marlene McCormick, Creighton Mine d. Jean Lafoy, Cobalt 7,1
- MS - Albert Barbe, Creighton Mine d. Doug Moon, Bracebridge 7,9
- LD - Hickling & Carruthers, Barrie d. T. Carroll & E. Jones 9,7
- MD - Albert Barbe & Fred Roy, Creighton Mine d. Tebby & Thomson, Utterson 7,4
- XD - Bill Thompson & E. Thompson, Utterson d. Jack Strickland & Bunny Green, Parry Sound 11,6

Tournament Chairman: John Masih, Sudbury

It was fitting that the tri-towners should host The Northern as they had been enthusiastically supporting it for a number of years. Though there were as yet no Northern headliners among their ranks, the clubs were well-organized and, through the Temiskaming Badminton Association, provided leadership for the development of badminton in the northeast portion of NOBA.

1963 was Gino Gonnella and Helen Cavrak Year at The Northern as play returned to Sault Ste Marie and the only double-triple in Northern history was recorded. In addition, it was the first time a triple had ever been won by a woman.

Helen and Gino won the singles, teamed up to win the mixed, and partnered Vivian MacKenzie of Sudbury and Tom Stefanko of Creighton Mine to complete the sweep.

Runners-up in the three doubles event were all from Sault Ste Marie as Gord Frech and Jean McLeod showed their masters touch again. They nearly foiled the bid for triples by pushing the mixed doubles final to the limit: 15-13 in the third.

Bev Green of Cobalt made her first appearance in a Northern final, losing to Helen Cavrak 11-0, 12-10.



Northern No. 29, held in Sudbury in 1960. The champions: standing [left to right] John Hartman, Jack Moon, Gino Gonnella. In front: Collette Hartman, Marie Barbe, Nancy Vincent.

The Sudbury newspaper account reported that "Gonnella defeated clubmate Tom (The Chair) Stefanko in the men's singles in straight games."

The 1964 Northern was played in Sudbury and had Helen Cavrak as a triple-finalist for the third consecutive year. However, it was Ed Hreljac who was to become the tournament's triple champion - his second Northern triple - as he won the singles then teamed with Gino Gonnella and Helen Cavrak to take the doubles events.

Helen won her second crown of the day when she and Marie Gonnella (formerly Marie Barbe and now married to Gino Gonnella's brother, Larry) captured the women's doubles, but she lost to her partner in straight games in the women's singles final. Helen had won 7 titles out of a possible 9 in three years! Retiring from Northern competition following the 64-65 season, except for a comeback appearance in 1970, she is now Helen Resetar and lives in Schumacher.



1965: a new page was started in The Northern's story when the tournament was played, for the first of five consecutive years, at the Canadian Forces Base in North Bay. Tournament chairman throughout that period was Jack Illing, a badminton enthusiast stationed at the base, who gave The Northern its only "temporarily permanent" home in all its first 50 years.

There were 89 entries that year, from clubs in Kapuskasing, Noranda, Timmins, North Bay, Deep River, Orillia, Midland, Garson, Gravenhurst and Sudbury.

NORTHERN NO. 30
Jan 27-29, 1961

Orillia
Orillia Garrison

Champions

- LS - Nancy Vincent, Gravenhurst
- MS - Jack Moon, Bracebridge
- LD - Nancy Vincent & Pat Ryan, Gravenhurst & Bracebridge
- MD - Walter Saftic & John Masih, Creighton Mine & Sudbury
- XD - John Masih & Nellie Smith, Sudbury

Runners-up

- LS - Pat Ryan, Bracebridge 12-9, 12-9
- MS - Peter Olexluk, Creighton Mine 4, 6
- LD - Carol Staples & Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine 18-13, 9
- MD - Gino Gonnella & Tom Stefanko, Creighton Mine 1, 6
- XD - Paul Christiansen, Sudbury & Vera Smith, Owen Sound 1-15, 4, 10

Consolation round

- LS - Bev Hassett, Cobalt d. Lois McNally, Sault Ste Marie 6, 8-11, 8
- MS - George Tolman, Sudbury d. Fred Roy, Creighton Mine 9, 8
- LD - Lois McNally & Betty Cloutier, Sault Ste Marie d. Bev Hassett & Terry Sullivan Cobalt 9, 8-15, 8
- MD - Henry Tebby & Bill Thompson, Utterson d. Rene Paquette & John Warrend, Sudbury 9-15, 4, 7
- XD - George Tolman, Sudbury & Rusty McFarlane, Owen Sound d. Henry & Jean Tebby, Utterson 10, 13

Tournament Chairman: Cyril Vincent, Gravenhurst

NOBA President: Bob McClelland, Orillia



Northern No. 32, held in Sault Ste Marie in 1963. Gino Gonnella [left] was a triple winner. Nellie Smith is in the center, Neil McLeod on the right.

NORTHERN NO. 31
Feb 23-25, 1962

Cobalt, Halleybury,
New Liskeard

Champions

- LS - Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine
- MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
- LD - Pat Ryan, Orillia & Nancy Vincent, Gravenhurst
- MD - Walter Saftic & Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
- XD - Walter Saftic & Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

- LS - Pat Ryan, Orillia 9, 4
- MS - Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 5, 1
- LD - Carol Staples & Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine 7, 12-15, 5
- MD - Gino Gonnella & Peter Olexluk, Creighton Mine 18-14, 11
- XD - Peter Olexluk & Carol Staples, Creighton Mine 6, 6

Consolation round

- LS - Myfanny Jenkins, Timmins d. Shirley McNaughton, Deep River
- MS - Don MacKenzie, New Liskeard d. Bob Molr, Garson
- LD - Terry Sullivan & Bev Green*, Cobalt d. Hilda Ross & Myfanny Jenkins, Timmins
- MD - Bob Seawright & Earl Amero, Sudbury d. Ormond Birch & Red Lafoy, Cobalt
- XD -

NORTHERN NO. 32
March 1-3, 1963

Sault Ste Marie
Armouries and Algo Club

Champions

- LS - Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine
- MS - Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
- LD - Helen Cavrak & Vivian MacKenzie, Creighton Mine & Sudbury
- MD - Tom Stefanko & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
- XD - Gino Gonnella & Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine

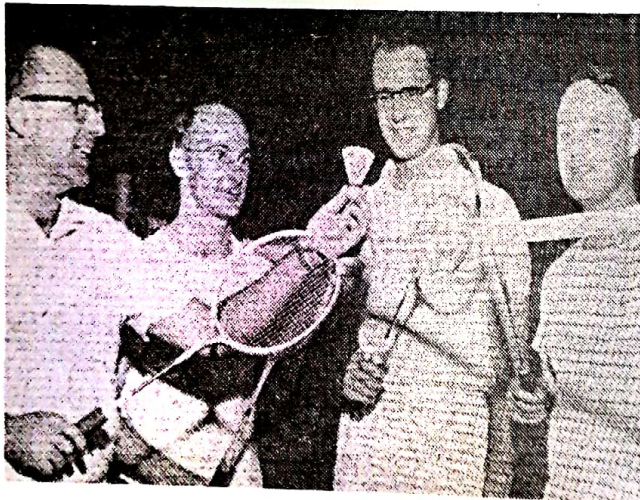
Runners-up

- LS - Bev Green, Cobalt 0, 12-10
- MS - Tom Stefanko, Creighton Mine
- LD - Jean McLeod & Joyce Armstrong, Sault Ste Marie
- MD - Gord Frech & Joe Gregarini, Sault Ste Marie
- XD - Gord Frech & Jean McLeod, Sault Ste Marie



1962: Gino Gonnella [left] of Creighton Mine and Jack Moon of Bracebridge.

The Inco Badminton Club in Sudbury was a powerful force in NOBA during the 50s and 60s. Four of the members are shown here. From the left: Gino Gonnella, Wayne Milburn, Clive Barrett and Jim Balleny.
 "Sudbury Star" Saturday, Oct 5, 1963.



This photo appeared in the Sudbury Star over the caption "Three Birds Prepare New Nest". The three local stalwarts who were making plans for the new season at the Inco Club and the "Y" were, from the left: Tom Stefanko, Bub Jewitt and Gino Gonnella. One of the activities that resulted was a match on ice skates, between Gino Gonnella and Bub Jewitt, followed by a skating party for all members.
 "Sudbury Star" November, 1962.



Nancy Vincent [now Lynch] and Pat Ryan, of Gravenhurst and Bracebridge, won the Northern ladies doubles in 1961 and 1962. Pat also won the title in 1966 and 1967 with Nancy's sister, Penny. Nancy and Penny combined to win it in 1965.
 "Kirkland Lake Northern News" Tuesday, Feb 27, 1962.



Northern No. 33, held in Sudbury in 1964. The champions [left to right]: Ed Hreljac, Helen Cavrak, Marie Gonnella, Gino Gonnella.

An interesting blend of new and old players made for a fine tournament. Ed Hreljac met a young newcomer from Capreol who played with Ev Staples' Creighton Mine club, John Gilbert, and was pushed to 17-16 in the second game of their final. John had won the Ontario under 19 mixed doubles championship in 1964. Ed and Gino Gonnella were extended to three games before winning the men's doubles over another Creighton pair, Tom Stefanko and Ken Smith.

Another newcomer, 17-year-old Penny Vincent, came close to a triple win as she defeated her sister in the women's singles final, paired with Nancy to win the women's doubles over defending champions Helen Cavrak and Marie Gonnella, and partnered Bill Dunn of Gravenhurst to the mixed doubles final. They lost that match in three games to a smooth team from Deep River, Chris and Betty Harvey.

This was Nancy Vincent's farewell appearance in The Northern. During the four times she played in it, she

won five titles including two in singles. She married another badminton player, Jim Lynch, and together they formed a most successful doubles team, winning four Ontario championship titles. Nancy is still very much involved in badminton as a Level III coach, a national umpire, and OBA umpiring chairman. She was a runner-up at the Canadian seniors championship last season. Nancy and Jim Lynch live in Gravenhurst.

Northern No. 35, in 1966, saw many familiar faces in the winners' circle. Penny Vincent reached the goal she so nearly attained the previous year by sweeping three events. It was she and Bill Dunn in the mixed doubles, and she and Pat Ryan - a former partner of sister Nancy - in the women's doubles. Ed Hreljac won his 8th Northern singles crown against the same finalist, John Gilbert. This time, John pushed Ed to points in the first game, 18-14.

In men's doubles, Ed Hreljac and Gino Gonnella continued to wreak havoc on the record book by winning

their 7th Northern championship as a team, defeating the colorful Noranda pair of Ray Belanger and Gerry Sigouin.

There were 86 players in the tournament, from clubs in North Bay, Gravenhurst, Orillia, Huntsville, Bracebridge, Creighton Mine, Garson, Sudbury, Noranda, Kapuskasing and Deep River.

This is the first year for which we have any record of the Molson Award. It was a trophy presented annually at The Northern for significant contribution to NOBA. Winner of the award in 1966 was Ev Staples of Creighton Mine.

NORTHERN NO. 33 1964

Sudbury

Champions

LS - Marie Gonnella*, Creighton Mine
MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
LD - Helen Cavrak & Marie Gonnella, Creighton Mine
MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
XD - Ed Hreljac & Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

LS - Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine 6,2
MS - Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 3,6
LD - Nellie Smith & Alice Jamleson, Sudbury 8,10
MD - Don Dunn & Jim Balleny, Sudbury 6,13
XD - Larry & Betty Woodhead, Deep River 6,9

Consolation round

LS - Dot MacDonald, Cobalt d. Doreen Woods, Deep River 6,9-11,3

NORTHERN NO. 34 1965

North Bay
CFB North Bay

Champions

LS - Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst
MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
LD - Penny Vincent & Nancy Vincent, Gravenhurst
MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
XD - Chris & Betty Harvey, Deep River

Runners-up

LS - Nancy Vincent, Gravenhurst 11-12,0,4
MS - John Gilbert, Creighton Mine 7,17-16
LD - Helen Cavrak & Marie Gonnella, Creighton Mine
MD - Tom Stefanko & Ken Smith, Creighton Mine 9,16-18,3
XD - Bill Dunn & Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst 4-15,7,7

Semi-finals

LS - Penny Vincent d. Marie Gonnella, Creighton Mine
Nancy Vincent d. Helen Cavrak, Creighton Mine
MS - Hreljac d. Bill Dunn, Gravenhurst
Gilbert d. Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
LD - Vincent & Vincent d. Bev Green & Jackie Piché, Kapuskasing
Gonnella & Cavrak d. Marielle Belanger & Jeanine Julien, Noranda
MD - Hreljac & Gonnella d. Bill Dunn & Cyril Vincent, Gravenhurst
Stefanko & Smith d. Jim Balleny & Don Dunn, Sudbury
XD - Harvey & Harvey d. John McKinnon & Pat Gravelle, Sudbury
Dunn & Vincent d. Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine & Vivian MacKenzie, Sudbury

Consolation round

LS - Bev Green, Kapuskasing d. Pat Gravelle, Sudbury 4,0
MS - Jim Balleny, Sudbury d. Jim Russell, CFB North Bay 6,10
LD - Betty Woodhead & Pauline Melke, Deep River d. Doreen Woods & Betty Harvey, Deep River 7,3
MD - Ray Belanger & Gerry Sigouin, Noranda d. Fred Gunter & Lew Kowalewski, North Bay 8,8
XD - Gerry Sigouin & Jeanine Julien, Noranda d. Paul & Jackie Piché, Kapuskasing 5,10

Tournament Chairman: Jack Illing, CFB North Bay

In 1967, all the defending champions repeated their wins, a first and only for The Northern. Penny Vincent won her second consecutive triple, again with Pat Ryan and Bill Dunn, while Ed Hreljac and Gino Gonnella won the men's singles and doubles.

In three of the events, even the runners-up were the same! John Gilbert made it three in a row in men's singles, this time being drubbed 15-3,15-8. Gerry Sigouin played in two finals as he and Jeanine Julien of Noranda were runners-up in the mixed. (Jeanine is the mother of Denyse Julien, one of Canada's top woman singles players

NORTHERN NO. 35 1966

North Bay
CFB North Bay

Champions

LS - Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst
MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
LD - Pat Ryan, Bracebridge & Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst
MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
XD - Bill Dunn & Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst

Runners-up

LS - Pat Ryan, Bracebridge 3,2
MS - John Gilbert, Creighton Mine 18-14,8
LD - Rejeanne Renaud & Pat Gravelle, Sudbury 13-15,12,3
MD - Gerry Sigouin & Ray Belanger, Noranda 5,7
XD - Allan Massey, Sudbury & Pat Ryan, Bracebridge 9,3

Consolation round

LS - Vivian MacKenzie, Sudbury d. Jeanine Julien, Noranda 7,3
MS - Ray Belanger, Noranda d. Gerry Towgood, Deep River 11,3
MD - George Feakins & Barney Barnard, CFB North Bay 5,17-14
XD - Jeanine Julien & Marielle Belanger, Noranda d. Roselyn Towgood & Hazel Herriot, Deep River 6,9
XD - Don Dunn & Rejeanne Renaud, Sudbury d. Gerry Sigouin & Jeanine Julien, Noranda 2,6

Tournament Chairman: Jack Illing, CFB North Bay

Contribution to Badminton Award: Ev Staples, Creighton Mine

NORTHERN NO. 36 March 3-5, 1967

North Bay
CFB North Bay

Champions

LS - Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst
MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
LD - Penny Vincent & Pat Ryan, Gravenhurst & Bracebridge
MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
XD - Bill Dunn & Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst

Runners-up

LS - Pat Ryan, Bracebridge 9,2
MS - John Gilbert, Creighton Mine 3,8
LD - Bev Green & Jackie Piche, Kapuskasing 6,6
MD - Ray Belanger & Gerry Sigouin, Noranda 9,9-15,7
XD - Gerry Sigouin & Jeanine Julien, Noranda 5,10

Semi-finals

LS - Vincent d. Marie Gonnella, Creighton Mine 4,2
Ryan d. Bev Green, Kapuskasing
MS - Hreljac d. Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 8,8
Gilbert d. Tom Stefanko, Creighton Mine 17-14,10
LD - Vincent & Ryan d. Vivian MacKenzie & Janet Gribbons, Sudbury 11,12
Green & Piché d. Marie Gonnella & Irene Kyllonen, Creighton Mine 10,15-13,18-16
MD - Hreljac & Gonnella d. Tom Stefanko & Leo Fiabiano, Creighton Mine 12,3
Belanger & Sigouin d. Don Dunn & Jim Balleny, Sudbury 9,9
XD - Dunn & Vincent d. Gino Gonnella & Marie Gonnella, Creighton Mine 12,12
Sigouin & Julien d. Cyril Vincent, Gravenhurst & Pat Ryan, Bracebridge 7,9

Tournament Chairman: Jack Illing, CFB North Bay

Contribution to Badminton Award: Rene Paquette, Garson

and a member of the 1981 Uber Cup team.) Bev Green and Jackie Piche became the first, and only, players from Kapuskasing to reach a Northern final.

In 1968, Penny Vincent ended her remarkable Northern career. She was a triple-finalist for the 4th consecutive year and won the women's singles for the 4th consecutive time - a record up to that time, and one that has since been matched but never broken. In four years, she won an amazing 9 out of 12 possible titles.

Also a triple-finalist, and Penny's nemesis in the two doubles events, was Bev Green of Kapuskasing. Bev won the women's doubles with Jackie Piché in a long three game match and took the mixed doubles with Ed Hreljac.

Ed Hreljac also won the men's singles, but was stopped in his bid for a third triple crown when he and Gino Gonnella lost the men's doubles semi-final to the eventual champions, John Gilbert and Dan Mitroff of Creighton Mine, by scores of 15-12, 17-15. John had lost his perennial singles runner-up position when he was beaten by Geniek Ksiazkiewicz, also of Creighton, in another semi-final 15-12, 2-15, 15-9.

Penny Vincent is now Penny Weissgerber and lives in Geneva, New York where she plays competitive racquetball since there is no badminton there to speak of. She has fond memories of her Northern days:

"I always enjoyed playing in the Northern Ontario tournament. The first one I entered was really fun; I did

nothing distinctive on the courts, but in between games some of the guys taught me how to polka. This was a definite asset during party time at future tournaments. However, I have never found a partner who could come close to holding his own when Gino took the floor!

"I always entered your tournaments anticipating a great deal of pleasure and I was never disappointed. Northern hospitality is terrific; the Northerners seem to be a distinctive breed. They play hard and are very competitive but also mix in a lot of humor and good-natured fun. Here's to many more Northern tournaments!"

Receiving the Molson Award in 1968 was Laurier "Kiki" Arsenaault of Noranda. Since the early 50s, Kiki has been a dominant figure on the northern badminton scene first as a player and organizer, and later as a coach. For 25 years, he was the leading male player in the northeastern part of NOBA and received special recognition, along with Bev Green, at the 25th TBA celebrations in New Liskeard in 1977. Turning his attention to coaching, Kiki has developed a program that is one of the most successful in Canada. Denyse Julien, runner-up in mixed doubles at the 1980 Canadian Nationals and a member of the 1981 Uber Cup team, received all her early training in Kiki's program. In addition, many other Rouyn-Noranda junior players have done well at the Quebec provincial level and are always a big threat at northern invitational events.



1965 Northern in North Bay: Penny Vincent [left] and Nancy Vincent of Gravenhurst.



Bill Dunn and Penny Vincent, winners of the mixed doubles at 1966 and 1967 Northern.



Sally Barrette



1968 Northern in North Bay. Left to right: John Gilbert, Dan Mitroff, Penny Vincent, Jackie Piché, Bev Green and Ed Hreljac.

Photo by Mike Aubé



Northern No. 34, held in North Bay in 1965. Rejean [Renaud] Prpic.

NORTHERN No. 37
March 1-3, 1968

North Bay
CFB North Bay

Champions

- LS - Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst
- MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
- LD - Bev Green & Jackie Piche, Kapuskasing
- MD - John Gilbert & Dan Mitroff, Creighton Mine
- XD - Ed Hreljac & Bev Green, Creighton Mine & Kapuskasing

Runners-up

- LS - Bev Green, Kapuskasing 2,4
- MS - Geniek Kslazkiewicz, Creighton Mine 5,8
- LD - Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst & Donna Taylor, Orillia 7-15,18-14,11
- MD - Geniek Ksiazkiewicz & Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine 11-15,10,3
- XD - Bill Dunn & Penny Vincent, Gravenhurst 8,13

Semi-finals

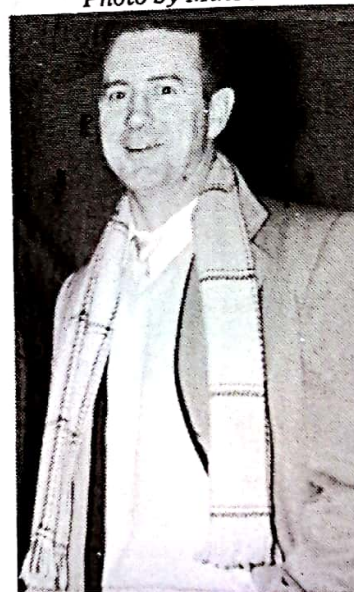
- LS - Vincent d. Hamel 4,4
- Green d. Dorothy Lamothe, North Bay 2,2
- MS - Hreljac d. Bob Seawright, Sudbury 2,4
- Ksiazkiewicz d. Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 12,2-15,9
- QF: Ksiazkiewicz d. John Gilbert, Creighton Mine 12,9
- Gonnella d. Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine 10,6-15,17-15
- LD - Green & Piché d. Lamothe & Hamel 16-18,4,17-14
- Vincent & Taylor d. Vivian MacKenzie & Janet Gribbons, Sudbury
- MD - Gilbert & Mitroff d. Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
- Ksiazkiewicz & Pilon d. Ray Belanger & Laurier Arsenault, Noranda 1,12
- XD - Hreljac & Green d. Laurier Arsenault & Julie Cayen 7,11
- Dunn & Vincent d. Ray & Marielle Belanger, Noranda 18-15,8

Consolation round

- LS - Georgette Dupuis, Kapuskasing
- LD - Alice Davis & Ruby MacMillan, North Bay

Tournament Chairman: Jack Illing, CFB North Bay

Contribution to Badminton Award: Laurier ("Kiki") Arsenault, Noranda



Ev Staples, founder and coach of Creighton Mine Badminton Club.



Harold Tolley and Anne Carter, stars of The Northerns from 1927-1938. This photo was taken in 1979.

The 1969 Northern was memorable in many respects. Bev Green of Kapuskasing became the third woman in Northern history to win a triple crown. Jack Illing was honored with the Molson Award for outstanding contribution to NOBA as he hosted The Northern at CFB North Bay for the 5th consecutive year.

But these events were overshadowed by the fact that, once again, Ed Hreljac's bid for a third Northern triple crown was denied him - this time in most spectacular fashion. Wayne Green of the Kapuskasing Northern Times was at the tournament and wrote about what happened:

"The upset of the year came in the men's doubles final when John Gilbert teamed with 11-year-old Lucio Fabris of Creighton Mine to take the measure of Hreljac and Gino Gonnella in a thrilling three-game series. Fabris was projected into the limelight when Gilbert's regular partner, Dan Mitroff, dislocated an elbow just before the start of the tournament. While the youngster played adequately, and the veteran pair didn't help their own cause with some ragged play, it was the work of Gilbert which really made the day. Covering about three-quarters of the court, he came up with countless recoveries which looked to be sure points for the other team.

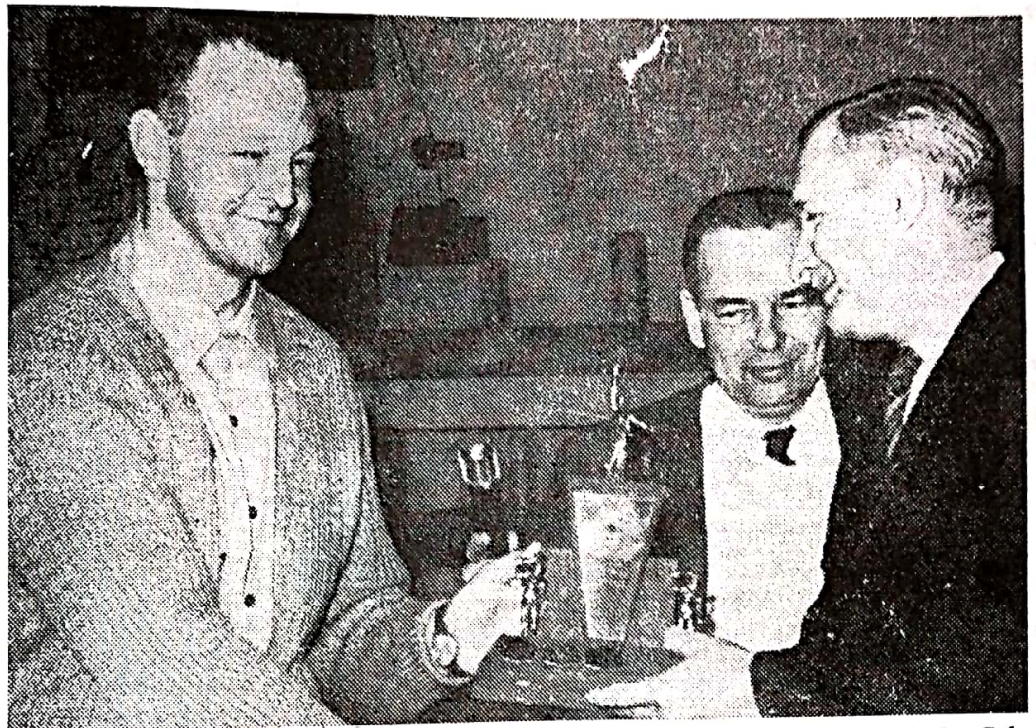
"It was ironic that the youthful Fabris should steal the spotlight against Hreljac who himself came out of Creighton Mine as a 15-year-old in 1955 and shocked the badminton establishment by capturing the men's singles with ease. He has been almost unbeatable since.

"Both Hreljac and Fabris were developed in the junior badminton program operated by Ev Staples of Creighton Mine."

Yes, the Creighton Mine junior badminton



Northern No. 38, held in North Bay in 1969. The champions [left to right] Ed Hreljac, Bev Green, Jackie Piche, Lucio Fabris, John Gilbert.



1969 Northern: For outstanding contribution to badminton in Northern Ontario, Lt.-Col. Dave Munro, right, accepts the Molson Trophy on behalf of the Canadian Forces Base from last year's winner, "Kiki" Arsenault, left, of Noranda. Looking on is Cyril Vincent an honorary member of the Northern Ontario Badminton Association.

Canadian Forces Photo

program was ticking along just like clockwork. About 75 players per year received coaching from Ev Staples and brought home a steady stream of Ontario junior championship titles: Ed Hreljac Jr (nephew of the other Ed Hreljac), Bob Pilon, Ivan MacFarlane, Geniek Ksiazkiewicz, Joanne Mitroff (Hood), Carmen Cozzarini, Kim Mulligan (Sajatovic), Brenda Semeniuk (Coates) were names to be reckoned with, as was the name of Fabris. There were two of them - Linda and Lucio.

NORTHERN NO. 38
March 7-9, 1969

North Bay
CFB North Bay

Champions

- LS - Bev Green, Kapuskasing
- MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
- LD - Bev Green & Jackie Piché, Kapuskasing
- MD - John Gilbert & Lucio Fabris, Creighton Mine
- XD - Ed Hreljac & Bev Green, Creighton Mine & Kapuskasing

Runners-up

- LS - Vivian MacKenzie, Sudbury
- MS - John Gilbert, Creighton Mine
- LD - Lois Murphy & Annette French, Sault Ste Marie
- MD - Ed Hreljac & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine
- XD - Bob Seawright & Janet Gribbons, Sudbury

Tournament Chairmen: Jack Illing, CFB North Bay
Contribution to Badminton Award: CFB North Bay
 (accepted by Lt. Col Dave Munro)

NORTHERN NO. 39

Feb 27 - March 1, 1970 **Noranda Recreation Centre**

Noranda

Champions

- LS - Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine
- MS - Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine
- LD - Helen Resetar* & Joanne Douglas, Espanola
- MD - Bob Pilon & John Gilbert, Creighton Mine
- XD - John Gilbert & Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

- LS - Joanne Mitroff, Creighton Mine 8,12-11
- MS - John Gilbert, Creighton Mine 8-15,18-16,11
- LD - Bev Green & Jackie Piché, Kapuskasing 3,7-15,11
- MD - Ray Belanger & Gerry Sigouin, Noranda 10-15,12,10
- XD - Bob Pilon & Joanne Mitroff, Creighton Mine 18-14,7

Semi-finals

- LS - Fabris d. Bev Green, Kapuskasing 4,4
- Mitroff d. Joanne Douglas, Espanola 9,3
- MS - Pilon d. Laurier Arseneault, Noranda 5,17-14
- Gilbert d. Walter Reimer, Kapuskasing 6,6
- LD - Resetar & Douglas d. Lois Murphy & Annette French, Sault Ste Marie 7,5
- Green & Piché d. Linda Fabris & Joanne Mitroff, Creighton Mine 7,3-15,3
- MD - Gilbert & Pilon d. Laurier Arseneault & Claude Fournel, Noranda 7,5
- Belanger & Sigouin d. Dan Mitroff & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine 1,6
- XD - Gilbert & Fabris d. Dan Mitroff & Joanne Douglas 8,18-16
- Pilon & Mitroff d. Bob Seawright & Vivian MacKenzie 12,12

Tournament Chairman: Julie Fink, Noranda

NORTHERN NO. 40

March 5-7, 1971

Sudbury
Laurentian University

Champions

- LS - Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine
- MS - Ed Hreljac, Creighton Mine
- LD - Linda Fabris & Carmen Cozzarini, Creighton Mine
- MD - John Gilbert & Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine
- XD - John Gilbert & Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

- LS - Joanne Mitroff, Creighton Mine 3,5-11,1
- MS - Ed Hreljac Jr, Creighton Mine 3,12
- LD - Joanne Mitroff & Marie Gonnella, Creighton Mine 1,17-15
- MD - Ed Hreljac & Ed Hreljac Jr, Creighton Mine 9,12-15,2
- XD - Ed Hreljac Jr & Carmen Cozzarini, Creighton Mine 5,12

Tournament Chairmen: Dan Mitroff & Gino Gonnella, Creighton Mine

NORTHERN NO. 41
1972

Sudbury

Champions

- LS - Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine
- MS - Ed Hreljac Jr, Creighton Mine
- LD - Linda Fabris & Vivian Cozzarini, Creighton Mine
- MD - John Gilbert & Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine
- XD - John Gilbert & Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

- LS - Vivian Cozzarini, Creighton Mine 8,8
- MS - Lucio Fabris, Creighton Mine 6-15,9,9
- LD - Bev Green & Lois Murphy, Kapuskasing & Sault Ste Marie 10,11
- MD - Ed Hreljac Jr & Lucio Fabris, Creighton Mine 11-15,9,16-15
- XD - Lucio Fabris & Vivian Cozzarini, Creighton Mine 9,13-15,1

Semi-finals

- LS - Fabris d. Lois Murphy, Sault Ste Marie 5,1
- Cozzarini d. Bev Green, Kapuskasing 5,12-11
- MS - Hreljac d. Stu MacKinnon, Sault Ste Marie 8,8
- Fabris d. John Gilbert, Creighton Mine 6,8
- LD - Fabris & Cozzarini d. Betty Lynn & Joanne MacKinnon, Sudbury 10,3
- Green & Murphy d. Wendy Jerome & C. Schofield, Sudbury 18-14,1
- MD - Pilon & Gilbert d. Bob Seawright & Frank MacKenzie, Sudbury 7,8
- Fabris & Hreljac d. Bud Hebner & Larry Schleen, Sault Ste Marie 3,3
- XD - Gilbert & Fabris d. Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine & Bev Green, Kapuskasing 10-15,10,17-16
- Fabris & Cozzarini d. Ed Hreljac Jr, Creighton Mine & Janet Gribbons, Sudbury 10-15,8,8

Tournament Chairman: John Gilbert, Creighton Mine

NORTHERN NO. 42
1973

Sudbury
Cambrian College

Champions

- LS - Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine
- MS - Lucio Fabris, Creighton Mine
- LD - Vivian Cozzarini & Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine
- MD - Ed Hreljac Jr & Lucio Fabris, Creighton Mine
- XD - John Gilbert & Linda Fabris, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

- LS - Bev Green, Kapuskasing, 12-10,2
- MS - Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine
- LD - Bev Green & Jackie Piche, Kapuskasing
- MD - John Gilbert & Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine
- XD - Lucio Fabris & Vivian Cozzarini, Creighton Mine

Semi-finals

- LS - Green d. Vivian Cozzarini 8,7-11,9

Tournament Chairman: Terry Kilbride, Sudbury



Participants in many Northerns [left to right]: Bob Seawright, Evelyn Kedey, Janet Gribbons, Heino Saar — all of Sudbury.

Linda Fabris holds the most successful record of any woman to play in The Northern. She won 11 titles in four years, including three triples and four consecutive wins in singles and mixed doubles, and added a 12th in a comeback appearance in 1977.

Her first appearance was at the 1970 Northern in Noranda where Creighton players took all five events. Linda won the singles and, with John Gilbert, the mixed doubles but she and partner Joanne Mitroff were defeated in the women's doubles semi-final by defending champions Bev Green and Jackie Piché. They in turn lost the final to Helen (Cavrak) Resetar - making a comeback appearance - and Joanne Douglas, who were playing out of Espanola.

Triple finalists in the tournament were John Gilbert and Bob Pilon; they provided dynamic entertainment in the final matches. Bob first destroyed John's chance for a triple with an 8-15, 18-16, 15-11 win in the singles, following which they teamed up to defeat local favorites Ray Belanger and Gerry Sigouin ("mustard and relish") 10-15, 15-12, 15-10. They then squared off again in the mixed as John and Linda defeated Bob and Joanne Mitroff 18-14, 15-7. A good afternoon's work!

1971 was another watershed for The Northern. It was hosted, in Sudbury, by Dan Mitroff and Gino Gonnella and was organized in a much more sophisticated manner than had previously been customary.

The facilities of Laurentian University were made available for the event and a relatively formal dinner and dance were arranged at the President Hotel. Over \$600 in prizes were offered to the winners and the old NOBA challenge trophies were retired, replaced with new ones. An over-40 men's doubles event was offered as a feature event.

Although once again no one knew it at the time, it was The Northern's 40th anniversary and an appropriate time for something special. A lot of pride went into the

preparation for and the presentation of the tournament, since it was a "salute to Badminton" by a group of players to whom the game meant a great deal. Badminton had given them a lot and this was their way of saying thanks and farewell.

Their efforts were not in vain as it is unlikely that any of the 135 players who were there will ever forget the experience. They came from Sudbury, Creighton Mine, Deep River, Elliot Lake, Garson, Kapuskasing, LaSarre, Levack, Lively, Noranda, Sault Ste Marie and Thunder Bay.

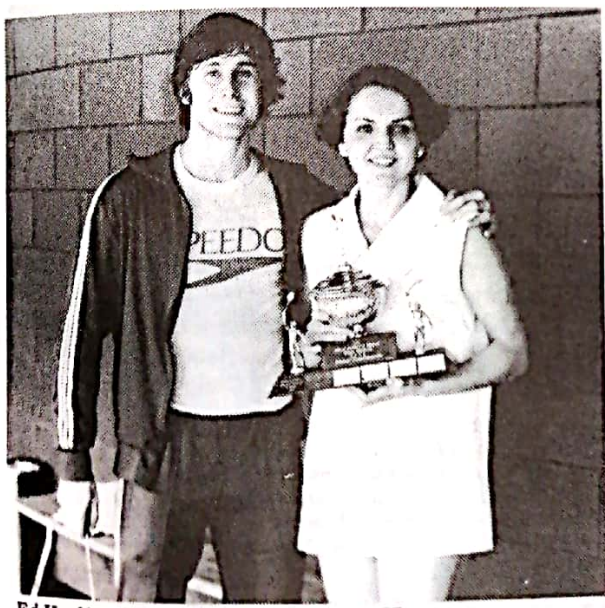
Linda Fabris defended her singles, and the mixed doubles with John Gilbert, then teamed with Carmen Cozzarini to win her first triple crown. Ed Hreljac won his final singles title, and John Gilbert and Bob Pilon successfully defended the men's doubles by defeating Ed Hreljac and Ed Hreljac Jr.

For many players who had helped make The Northern what it was during the 50s and 60s, this was their final tournament. Among them was Gino Gonnella, whose record in men's doubles may never be broken. Gino won the event 11 times, including 8 with Ed Hreljac.

The 1972 Northern was again held at Laurentian University in Sudbury, with John Gilbert acting as tournament chairman.

The Creighton Mine sweep of all five events continued for the third successive year: Linda Fabris won the women's singles, Ed Hreljac Jr won the men's singles, Linda Fabris repeated in women's doubles - this time with Vivian Cozzarini, John Gilbert and Bob Pilon won their 3rd consecutive men's doubles title, and John and Linda made it three straight in mixed.

The runner-up positions seem worthy of note. In 1971, Ed Hreljac Jr was a runner-up in three events and avenged himself by winning the singles the following year. In 1972, the unsuccessful finalist in three events was 14-year-old Lucio Fabris.



Ed Hreljac Jr and Linda Morris. 1977.
Sally Barrette photo



NOBA Seniors at The Northern in Sault Ste Marie in 1979. From the left: Don Nichols, Jerry Foat, Bud Myers, Harold Crowder.
Photo by Sally Barrette

1973: The Creighton Mine Badminton Club swept all five events at The Northern for an unbelievable four years in a row, and Linda Fabris won her 4th consecutive singles and mixed doubles titles. She and John had never been defeated in The Northern, and she had a perfect record in singles also.

A rapidly maturing Lucio Fabris played in three finals again, this time winning the singles and the doubles. John Gilbert had, the previous year, tied Gino Gonnella's record of five consecutive men's doubles titles and was out to better the mark, but he and Bob Pilon were defeated by Lucio and Ed Hreljac Jr. For the second year in a row, though, John and Linda beat Lucio and Vivian Cozzarini in the mixed doubles final.



Orillia Garrison, home to The Northern in 1957 and 1961. Yes, that's a full-size tank hovering in the background behind the court!



White Pines Collegiate in Sault Ste Marie. With 12 lovely courts, this is one of the most hospitable homes The Northern has ever seen.

Sally Barrette photo

It was John's last Northern. He had won five men's doubles titles, tying a record, and four mixed doubles titles with Linda Fabris, matching the record of Gord Frech and Jean McLeod as the most successful mixed doubles team in Northern history. He had also been runner-up in the singles a frustrating five times.

John then retired from competitive play in favor of coaching. He was a disciple of Ev Staples and modeled his coaching techniques after Ev's. Seven years later, John is one of Canada's most successful coaches and a leader in the field of coaching administration. As a Level IV (national) Coach, John trains elite athletes at the training center (Strathgowan Club) in Toronto and accompanied Canadian teams to world events in Jakarta, Indonesia in 1979 and 1980. He is also the coach of the highly successful junior program at The Oakville Club in Oakville, Ontario.

John is chairman of the Canadian Badminton Coaches Association, OBA coaching chairman, and an advisor to the OBA junior program. He is a master in the area of program design and development, being the creator of the OBA mini-clinic outlines, coaching formats for junior summer camps, and many other innovative projects. John also holds a PhD in English and is a secondary school teacher in Toronto.

1973 was also the last Northern for Ev Staples. He retired from Inco and moved back home to Fredericton, New Brunswick. Retirement soon became semi-retirement as he was pressed into service as technical director and provincial coach, with New Brunswick soon becoming a power to be reckoned with on the national junior scene. Ev has also used his retirement to put his coaching techniques and philosophy in writing. He has produced four outstanding books that are the badminton bible for many coaches and players

NORTHERN NO. 43
March 8-10, 1974

Sudbury
Laurentian University
and Cambrian College

Champions

LS - Bev Green, Kapuskasing
MS - Lucio Fabris, Creighton Mine
LD - Lillian Cozzarini & Joanne Hood, Creighton Mine
MD - Lucio Fabris & Elio Cozzarini, Creighton Mine
XD - Lucio Fabris & Joanne Hood, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

LS - Lillian Cozzarini, Creighton Mine 8,6-11,9
MS - Elio Cozzarini, Creighton Mine 5,7
LD - Pierrette Côté, Garson & Lois Murphy, Sudbury 11,18-15
MD - Bob Pilon, Creighton Mine & Bud Hebner, Garson 5,7
XD - Elio Cozzarini & Lillian Cozzarini, Creighton Mine 7,7

Consolation round

LS - Jackie Piché, Kapuskasing
MS - Bill Zyma, Creighton Mine d. Mike Proulx, Kapuskasing
LD - Michelle Côté & Ailana Larocque, Garson
MD - John Miranda & Sam Stupavsky, Sudbury
XD - Terry Kilbride & Hanna James, Sudbury d. Mike Proulx & Trudy Tully, Kapuskasing

Tournament Chairman: Bud Hebner, Garson

NOBA President: Lois Murphy, Sudbury

1974 saw The Northern played in Sudbury for the 4th consecutive time and it will always be known as Lucio's Year.

By this time, Lucio Fabris was 16 years old and well-known across Canada. He had already collected 7 Ontario junior titles and 2 Canadian junior titles. He breezed through The Northern, becoming only the fourth man in the last 30 years to win a Northern triple crown.

Lucio's playing schedule was such that he was never able to return to The Northern after that. He added 4 more Ontario junior titles to his collection, and became a triple-winner at the Canadian junior championships in 1975. In 1976, at 18 years of age, he became a Canadian National champion, winning the mixed doubles crown with Lillian Cozzarini over Raphi Kanchanaraphi and Anne Frickleton (Yacyshyn).

He was one of the first athletes selected when badminton became a GamePlan sport and federal funds were made available to develop potential international players for Canada. In 1976, he played on Canada's Thomas Cup team and travelled to Jakarta, Indonesia for the inter-zone finals. He reached the quarter-finals, with Wendy Clarkson (Carter), at the first World Championships in Malmo, Sweden in 1977 and played on the Canadian silver-medal team at the 1978 Commonwealth Games.

Then he retired from competitive badminton. Recurrent problems in his knee joints which brought him constant pain while playing and training, combined with his pursuit of a professional career, brought about the decision. Lucio graduated as a pharmacist from the University of Toronto in 1980, was married in the fall of that year, and now makes his home in Sudbury.

Almost lost in the excitement about Lucio at the 1974 Northern, was the fact that yet another Creighton sweep of all events was stopped by Bev Green of

Kapuskasing who defeated Lillian Cozzarini by a score of 11-9 in the third game of their title match. It was Bev's 6th Northern title.

The name Cozzarini had been cropping up consistently among The Northern's finalists since 1969, with older sisters Carmen and Vivian becoming Northern champions in 1971, 1972 and 1973. In 1974, their twin brother and sister, Elio and Lillian, joined them, both being triple-finalists in the tournament.

In 1974 and 1975, Elio Cozzarini joined Lucio Fabris along with Kevin Sherbanuk, Don Cormier and Nevio Cristante to win the Canadian boys team championship, and in 1976 the Creighton trio of Lucio, Elio and Lillian figured as winners in all five events at the Ontario U19 championships. In 1976, Lillian became both an Ontario and a Canadian champion as she and Lucio Fabris were the best mixed doubles team in the country that year. In 1970, when Lucio and Elio (they're cousins) were still in the under 14 category, they played against the top U.S. junior players at a tournament in Niagara Falls. In singles, Lucio defeated Pat Tryon (1980 Canadian singles champion) and Lucio and Elio won the doubles. Of that tournament, Ev Staples said:

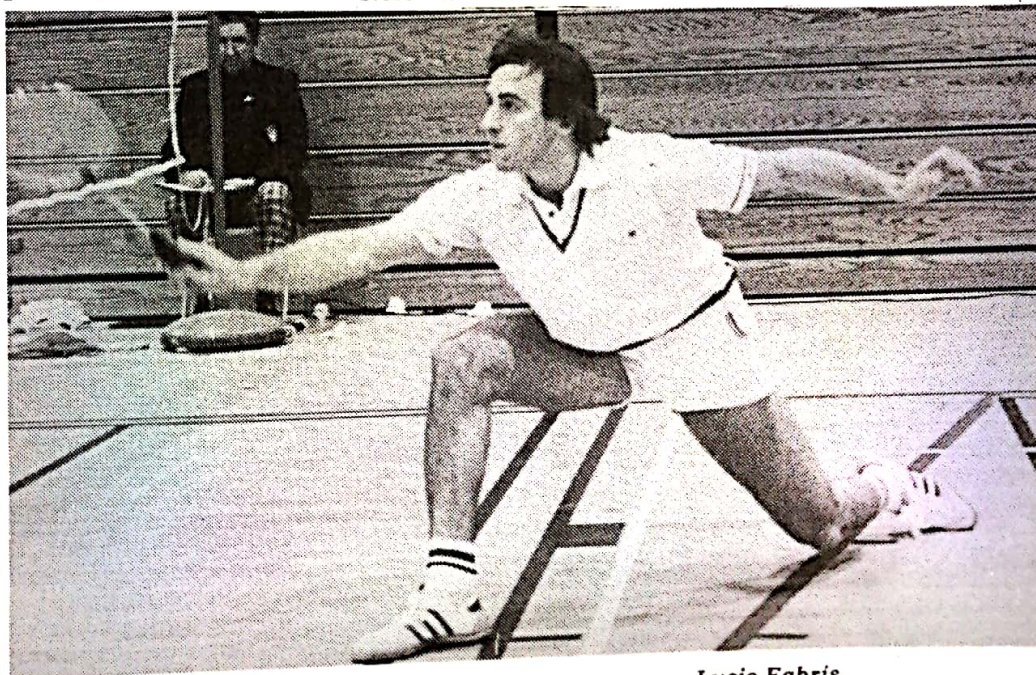
"Not taking anything away from Fabris, who played well, Cozzarini was outstanding in beating the top U.S. doubles. It was really his playing which won them the first five matches so easily."

The Cozzarinis had been supporters of the Creighton Mine Junior Badminton Club for a long time, so when Ev Staples left in 1973, Emino Cozzarini undertook the job of keeping the club together. For several years, he looked after fund-raising, transportation and all the other management details that are necessary for a junior club but, unfortunately, all his efforts to find a coach for the youngsters were fruitless.



Lillian Cozzarini

Paul Sharrock photo



Lucio Fabris.

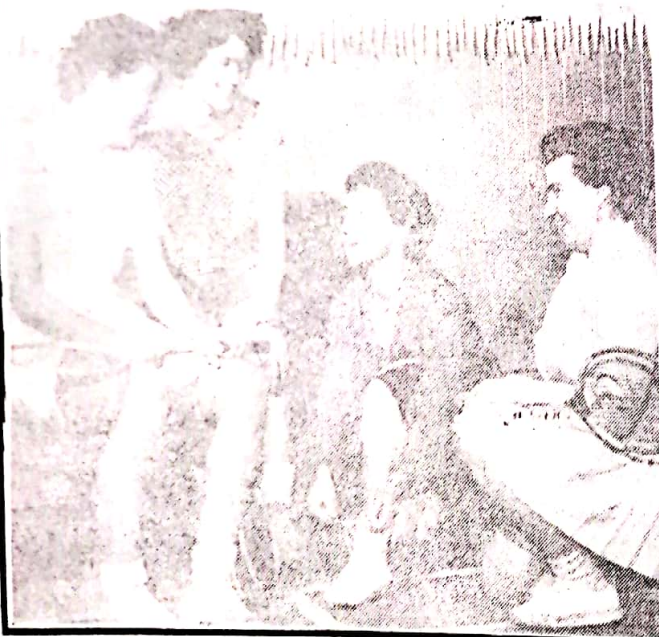
Frank Berdan photo



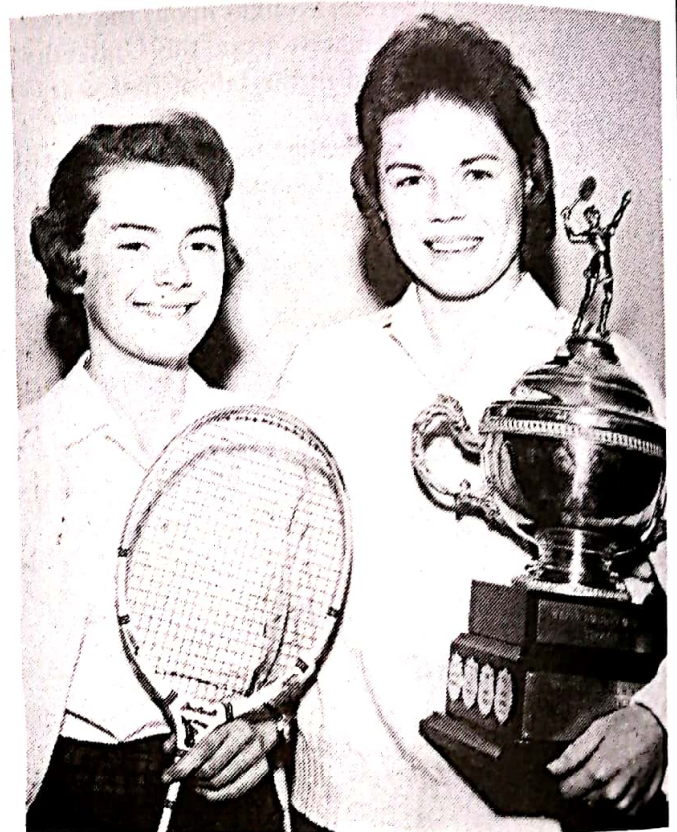
These members of the executive of the Tri-Town Badminton Association were head table guests at the Saturday evening banquet for Northern No. 31, hosted in the tri-towns of New Liskeard, Haileybury and Cobalt. From the left: Terry Sullivan, Yvette Belanger [now Fleming], Red Lafoy, Jean Lafoy. "Kirkland Lake Northern News" Tuesday, Feb 27, 1962



These members of the Algo Club in Sault Ste Marie were featured in some pre-Northern publicity as the local paper announced they were busy preparing for Northern No. 30 in Orillia. Above, from the left: Guy Cloutier, Neil McLeod and Doug Erkkila. Below, from the left, Jean McLeod, Lois McNally [now Urwin], Helen Forbes, Betty Cloutier. "Sault Star" around Jan 23, 1961.



Two of the active players of the early 60s in Sudbury; Marlon Mash [left] and Nellie Smith. "Sudbury Star" 1961 or 1962.



Penny Vincent [left] at 13, and Nancy Vincent, 18, with The Northern women's singles trophy that she won for the second consecutive year in 1961. Penny was the youngest of 100 players in the tournament.

In 1975, The Northern returned to Sault Ste Marie. It was the first time the tournament had ever been held in a high school, as the fine facilities of Korah Collegiate were made available for the occasion.

The communities of Garson and Elliot Lake saw Northern titles come their way for the first time that year as new faces filled the winners' circle.

Triple winner in the tournament was Pierrette (Côté) Hebner of Garson, who teamed with Brenda Semeniuk of Creighton Mine in the women's doubles and husband Bud Hebner in the mixed. Bud was a double winner as he partnered singles champion Steve Chen of Elliot Lake to win the men's doubles.

Pierrette and Bud were products of the junior badminton program run in Garson by René Paquette. René had become interested in junior development and coaching in the single-court community hall of the town of Cobalt during the 50s. When he moved to Garson near Sudbury, he found a community center for Inco employees similar to the ones in Sudbury and Creighton Mine, and here he established a junior club with which he would spend the best part of his spare time for the next 20 years. Brightest star of René's early years in Garson was Judy Morin, who was a double winner at the Ontario junior championships in 1964, 1965 and 1967. Bud and Pierrette learned their badminton in René's program also, and the greatest of them all - Alanna Larocque - would make her debut the following year.

Steve Chen had just recently moved to Elliot Lake (from Jamaica, via California and Toronto) and won the first two of the five Northern titles he would earn during his three years in the north. His crisp, aggressive style of play did much to stimulate development of badminton here, particularly in the Elliot Lake-Sault Ste Marie area.

Another significant development in 1975 was the election, at the annual meeting held during The Northern,

of the most aggressive president NOBA had ever had. Bev Green of Kapuskasing took over the reins and helped steer the district in new directions for the next two years.

Prior to 1975, the Ontario Badminton Association had meant little to NOBA other than the annual Ontario championship tournaments in which a few of the top players participated. During the early 70s, though, government funding came to amateur sport in Ontario and the provincial organization started looking for ways in which it could be of service at the regional level.

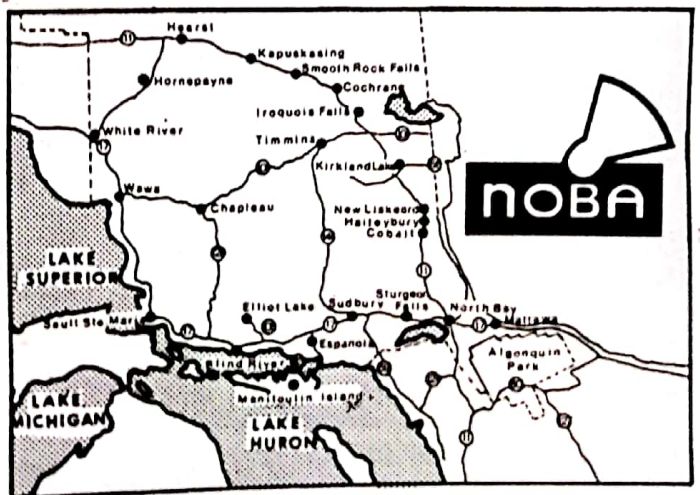
When Bev Green began her term as president, NOBA was in another in-between phase. There were no longer any overpowering players competing in the district, nor a strong club that could provide a focal point. However, there was lots of badminton activity in every city and town in the district and invitational tournaments were becoming more popular all the time.

Diagnosing that the number one priority should be "communication" to tie all this together, Bev conceived the idea of The Northern Shuttle, a monthly newsletter for northerners. Bev Green, Sally Barrette and Rosemary Moore provided the manpower while OBA supplied the financial backing, and the project got off to a successful start in June, 1975.

Another off-shoot of government funding was a re-drawing of the traditional district boundaries in the north. Although The Northern had always focused only on the northeast, theoretically all of northwestern Ontario was included in NOBA as well. It quickly became apparent that 1,000 miles was too great a distance across a district to be at all practical and in May, 1975 the OBA annual meeting approved the creation of a new district - the North Western Ontario Badminton Association - and the present boundaries were drawn. NOBA comprises the Ontario districts of Cochrane, Timiskaming, Nipissing, Sudbury, Algoma and Manitoulin.

With a regular method of communication in place, it seemed that anything was possible. Two new district championship tournaments - the NOBA Junior and the NOBA Seniors - were started; Alan Baird and Bud Hebner conducted a whistle-stop CBA tour giving clinics all

NORTHERN NO. 44	Sault Ste Marie
March 14-16, 1975	Korah CVI
Champions	
LS - Pierrette Hebner*, Garson	
MS - Steve Chen, Elliot Lake	
LD - Pierrette Hebner, Garson & Brenda Semeniuk, Creighton Mine	
MD - Steve Chen, Elliot Lake & Bud Hebner, Garson	
XD - Bud & Pierrette Hebner, Garson	
Runners-up	
LS - Lois Murphy, Sudbury 9,9	
MS - Bud Hebner, Garson 10,4	
LD - Lois Murphy & Linda Blanchard, Sudbury 9,8	
MD - Larry Schleen, Sault Ste Marie & Cam Cairncross, Richmond Hill 10,6	
XD - Larry Schleen, Sault Ste Marie & Lois Murphy, Sudbury 8-15,6,17-15	
Tournament Chairman: Larry Schleen, Sault Ste Marie	
NOBA President: Bud Hebner, Garson	



the way; player clinics were conducted by other coaches in many clubs; OBA umpiring and coaching clinics were held; a team trophy was introduced for The Northern; plans were made for a two-week summer camp for NOBA junior players; and a bid was successfully made to host the OBA junior summer camp - coached by England's Ray Stevens - at Laurentian University in Sudbury. There was a strong feeling of excitement as players gathered from clubs throughout the district for the 45th Northern in Timmins in 1976.

Play was held at Northern College and at Roland Michener SS. Steve Chen of Elliot Lake repeated his singles win of the previous year but was stopped in his bid for a second doubles title by the team of Cesar Battochio and Richard Chartrand of Sudbury. They were having a tremendous season and were part of a strong group in Sudbury playing in a program organized at Cambrian College by Terry Kilbride.

Cesar made it two championships on the day by winning the mixed doubles with Brenda Semeniuk of Creighton Mine. It was Brenda's second win also as she had earlier teamed with Alanna Larocque of Garson to take the women's doubles. Alanna was the runner-up in singles, as tournament chairman Bev Green chalked up her 7th Northern crown.

At 14 years of age, Alanna Larocque was the youngest woman ever to win a Northern title; The Northern had its next superstar.

In February, 1976 the Ontario Winter Games were held in Sault Ste Marie. NOBA's team came 4th; team members were Kevin Sherbanuk, Steve Chen, Alanna Larocque, Rika Hartley, Dan Udeschini, Cesar Battochio, Joanne McKinnon and Brenda Semeniuk.

The 76-77 season got off to an early start with the hosting of an international event in May by a committee led



Sponsorship has always been a crucial factor for the organizers of The Northern through the years. In 1976 and 1977 Emino Cozzarini [center] of the Creighton-Walden club was able to arrange for generous support by Julius Felkai of Lively. The resulting tournament proceeds were used to support the fledgling Northern Shuttle.

Sally Barrette photo

by Terry Kilbride in Sudbury. Laurentian University was the site of the first of seven junior men's singles and doubles exhibitions between Canada and Sweden. The Swedish players were: Ola Eriksson, Christian Lundburg, Stefan Karlsson, Bruno Wackfelt, Willy Nilsson, Claes Nordin and Lars Lundgren. The Canadians were: Ross Clarke, Ken Little, Denys Martin, James Muir, Tom Muir, Ken Priestman and local favorite Lucio Fabris of Creighton Mine.

During the rest of the season, the programs begun the previous year were continued and improved and things seemed to be progressing very well. A logo for NOBA was designed by Barry Hope of Sault Ste Marie, the New Liskeard Badminton Club hosted a gala 25th anniversary TBA tournament, the Ontario "A" championships were held in Sault Ste Marie, and The Northern Shuttle - although still hand typed - switched to a tabloid newspaper format after 20 issues of gestetner production.

In February, 1977 the Ontario Winter Games were held in North Bay. NOBA again finished 4th, with Cesar Battochio and Brenda Semeniuk picking up a bronze medal in mixed doubles. The other team members were Richard Chartrand, Alanna Larocque, Pete Tiller, Paul Maynard, Pierrette Hebner and Lois Urwin.

The 1977 Northern was something special because it had by then been discovered that the first Northern was held in 1927 and this was, therefore, the 50th anniversary of its founding. Research into the history of The Northern had been begun in conjunction with *The Northern Shuttle*, research that would lead five years later to the publication of this book.



Northern No. 45, held in Timmins in 1976. The champions: standing [left to right] Alanna Larocque, Steve Chen, Brenda Semeniuk, Bev Green. Front: Richard Chartrand, Cesar Battochio.

Sally Barrette photo

To celebrate the occasion, a new A-B-C format was introduced at The Northern in North Bay. Six courts at Canadore College and four more at CFB North Bay were required to handle all the matches, but it was judged a great success.

Alanna Larocque of Garson won the women's singles and teamed up with Anne Cormier of Creighton Mine to take the doubles. They had earlier won the same events at the Ontario under-16 championships.

Steve Chen of Elliot Lake won his third straight men's singles and partnered Cam Cairncross of Sault Ste Marie to beat the defending champions in men's doubles. Steve has since left and moved on to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Ed Hreljac Jr and Linda Morris (formerly Linda Fabris) came out of retirement for the special occasion and won the mixed doubles.

NOBA enjoyed another successful season in 77-78. Three new invitational tournaments - the Kap Open, Porcupine Open and Soo Open - thrived along with the established ones. The Ontario Under 19 Championships were hosted in Sudbury. *The Northern Shuttle's* circulation grew to 1,200 as the number of registered NOBA players was almost ten times greater than it had ever been before. And New Liskeard's Don MacKenzie had developed in Kirkland Lake the largest junior summer camp in Canada, serving over 60 players during a two-week period each August.

NORTHERN NO. 45
March 5-7, 1976

Timmins
Northern College and
Roland Michener SS

Champions

LS - Bev Green, Kapuskasing
MS - Steve Chen, Elliot Lake
LD - Alanna Larocque, Garson & Brenda Semenluk, Creighton Mine
MD - Richard Chartrand & Cesar Battochio, Sudbury
XD - Cesar Battochio, Sudbury & Brenda Semenluk, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

LS - Alanna Larocque, Garson 12-9, 6
MS - Cam Cairncross, Sault Ste Marie 11, 4
LD - Bev Green & Ilze Reimer, Kapuskasing 3, 5
MD - Steve Chen, Elliot Lake & Bud Hebner, Sault Ste Marie 7-15, 17-15, 10
XD - Steve Chen & Lois O'Hanley, Elliot Lake 13-18, 7, 4

Semi-finals

LS - Green d. Jennifer McIntyre, Sault Ste Marie 3, 7
Larocque d. Lois Urwin, Sudbury 8-11, 8, 4
MS - Chen d. Mike Proulx, Kapuskasing
Cairncross d. Bud Hebner, Sault Ste Marie 1, 7
LD - Larocque & Semenluk d. Jennifer McIntyre & Joanne McKinnon, Sault Ste Marie 18-17, 3
Green & Reimer d. Lois O'Hanley & Karen Fyck, Elliot Lake 18-13, 6-15, 7
MD - Chartrand & Battochio d. Terry Kilbride, Sudbury & Laurie Jones, Capreol 11, 10
XD - Battochio & Semenluk d. Cairncross & Urwin 7, 8-15, 6
Chen & O'Hanley d. Bud Hebner, Sault Ste Marie & Bev Green, Kapuskasing 5, 5-15, 17-15

Consolation round

LS - Ilze Reimer, Kapuskasing d. Lillian Williams, Timmins 8-11, 5, 0
MS - Vim Mathur, Cochrane d. Don Bergeron, New Liskeard 10, 3
LD - Sharon Bielek & Linda Harding, Timmins d. Lillian Williams & Cathy Lavallee, Timmins 13, 18-17
MD - Frank Boulanger & Ben Legouffe, Timmins d. Grant Love & Bob Stewart, New Liskeard 2, 2
XD - Laurie Jones & Jenny Corlett, Capreol d. George Elliot & Joanne McKinnon, Sault Ste Marie 13, 11

Tournament Chairman: Bev Green, Kapuskasing

NOBA President: Bev Green, Kapuskasing

Team Trophy: Cambrian College Badminton Club, Sudbury
Soo Badminton Club, Sault Ste Marie

Contribution to Badminton Award: Rosemary Moore, Kapuskasing

NORTHERN NO. 46
March 4-6, 1977

North Bay
Canadore College and
CFB North Bay

Champions

LS - Alanna Larocque, Garson
MS - Steve Chen, Elliot Lake
LD - Alanna Larocque, Garson & Anne Cormier, Creighton Mine
MD - Steve Chen, Elliot Lake & Cam Cairncross, Sault Ste Marie
XD - Ed Hreljac Jr & Linda Morris*, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

LS - Joanne McKinnon, Sault Ste Marie 8, 4
MS - Cesar Battochio, Sudbury 4, 6
LD - Lois Urwin* & Linda Morris, Sudbury & Creighton Mine 8, 3
MD - Richard Chartrand & Cesar Battochio, Sudbury 9-15, 17-15, 8
XD - Kevin Sherbanuk & Joanne Hood, Creighton Mine 6, 9

Semi-finals

LS - Larocque d. Lori Liske, Creighton Mine 3, 7
McKinnon d. Anne Cormier, Creighton Mine 3-11, 3, 9
MS - Chen d. Kevin Sherbanuk, Creighton Mine 5, 5
Battochio d. Paul Maynard, Sudbury 10, 18-18, 10
LD - Larocque & Cormier d. Pierrette Hebner, Sault Ste Marie & Brenda Semenluk, Creighton Mine
Urwin & Morris d. Kim Sejatovic, North Bay & Joanne Hood, Creighton Mine 10, 6
MD - Chen & Cairncross d. Bob Pilon & Ed Hreljac Jr, Creighton Mine 8-15, 18-16, 5
Chartrand & Battochio d. Bud Hebner & Larry Schleen, Sault Ste Marie 10, 10
XD - Hreljac & Morris d. Paul Maynard, Sudbury & Anne Cormier, Creighton Mine 8, 15-18, 5
Sherbanuk & Hood d. Pete Tiller, Capreol & Alanna Larocque, Garson 12-15, 10, 4

B event

LS - Pierrette Hebner, Sault Ste Marie d. Brenda Frey, North Bay 5, 4
MS - Nevlo Christante, Creighton Mine d. Terry Kilbride, Sudbury 7, 3
LD - Ruby MacMillan & Rika Hartley, North Bay d. Mary Green & Susan Carbone, Creighton Mine 9-15, 10, 12
MD - Laurie Jones, Capreol & Terry Kilbride, Sudbury d. Tom Buck & Bill Yeates, New Liskeard 8-15, 8, 8
XD - Barry Spilchuk & Emmanuelle Gunter, North Bay d. Bill Yeates & Kathy MacKenzie, New Liskeard 12, 13

C event

LS - Susan Carbone, Creighton Mine d. Karen Goddard, Sudbury 6, 7
MS - Bob Depplisch, Elliot Lake d. Bob Adema, New Liskeard 11, 17-15
LD - Marlon Robichaud & Mary Ruijs, Timmins d. Sharon Bielek & Linda McTurk, Timmins 12, 13-13, 18-17
MD - Kent James, Creighton Mine & Steve Dyni, Sault Ste Marie d. Pete Tiller, Capreol & Georges Pelletier, Sudbury 18-17, 10
XD - Pierre Gagne & Rosemary Moore, Kapuskasing d. Richard Groulx & Mary Pilon, Creighton Mine 10, 8

Tournament Chairman: Emmanuelle Gunter, North Bay

NOBA President: Bev Green, Kapuskasing

Team Trophy: Creighton-Walden Badminton Club

Contribution to Badminton Award: Bev Green, Kapuskasing

Northern No. 47, in 1978, was held in Sudbury and saw the welcome return of Creighton Mine's Elio Cozzarini. Elio won his first Northern singles title and teamed up with clubmate Nevio Cristante for his second doubles.

Alanna Larocque of Garson and Anne Cormier of Creighton Mine were both double winners also, as they repeated their 1977 wins in women's singles and doubles while Anne captured the mixed doubles with Sudbury's Paul Maynard. Joe Kowal of Sudbury was a finalist in three events.

The 78-79 season saw a major change for *The Northern Shuttle* as it was incorporated into an expanded publication called *Ontario Badminton*. The new tabloid was still produced in the north and still edited by Bev Green and Rosemary Moore, but distribution and finances were now handled by OBA. For northerners, the extremely personal touch of their own paper and a 12-times-per-year circulation were traded for increased knowledge and awareness of activities throughout the province, a decreased financial burden, and 6-times-per-year circulation.

Also that year, the Ontario Under 16 Championships were hosted in North Bay, Paul Maynard was a double-winner at the Ontario Intermediate Championships, Alanna Larocque played on Ontario's silver medal Canada Games team, and all other programs continued to hum along. At the 4th Ontario Winter Games in Kingston, the NOBA team won two silver and two bronze medals and the overall bronze medal in team standings. The players were: Elio Cozzarini, Paul Maynard, Joe Kowal, Dan Udeschini, Anne Cormier, Brenda Coates, Alanna Larocque and Kim Sajatovic.

The 1979 Northern was held in a beautiful 12-court facility at White Pines Collegiate in Sault Ste Marie and enjoyed a large entry from throughout the district. A special feature of the finals was the attendance of

Harold Tolley and Anne Carter, along with Harold Crowder, all of whom had been stars of *The Northern's* early years.

Alanna Larocque of Garson won her third straight singles crown and fourth successive doubles, this time with Sue Carbone of Creighton Mine. Dan Udeschini of Elliot Lake won the men's singles and Paul Maynard took his second Northern title by winning the men's doubles with Mark Tremblay. Mark was a junior player from Bracebridge who had been playing with the Creighton Mine club for two seasons.

For the first time, Alanna Larocque was playing in three finals but her chance for a triple disappeared as she and Peter Tiller of Capreol lost to the 1975 champions Bud and Pierrette Hebner, now playing out of Sault Ste Marie.

During the 79-80 season, another major change took place in the area of communication. The Canadian badminton journal, *Badminton Review*, which had been started in 1964 and discontinued in 1976, was reborn under the editorship of Bev Green and Rosemary Moore. *Ontario Badminton* continued as before but now had the capability of focusing more on provincial events, since national and international news was reported in the CBA publication.

The Ontario Seniors & Masters Championship was hosted in Sudbury and two district championships were expanded. The NOBA Junior added an under-14 division to the under-16 and under-19 that had previously been held, and masters events were added to the now NOBA Seniors & Masters tournament.

At the 1980 Northern, held in Sudbury, most people were looking ahead to 1981 as the host committee in Sault Ste Marie had already begun preparations for the Golden Northern the following year.

Alanna Larocque put herself in a position to shatter the record book in 1981 by winning the singles and



Northern No. 47, held in Sudbury in 1978. The champions [left to right]: Paul Maynard, Nevio Cristante, Anne Cormier, Alanna Larocque, Elio Cozzarini.

Sally Barrette photo



Steve Chen

NORTHERN NO. 47
March 10-12, 1978

Sudbury
Laurentian University
and Lockerby SS

Champions

- LS - Alanna Larocque, Garson
- MS - Elio Cozzarini, Creighton Mine
- LD - Alanna Larocque, Garson & Anne Cormier, Creighton Mine
- MD - Elio Cozzarini & Nevio Cristante, Creighton Mine
- XD - Paul Maynard, Sudbury & Anne Cormier, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

- LS - Sue Carbone, Creighton Mine 1,12-11
- MS - Joe Kowal, Sudbury 4,9
- LD - Brenda Semenluk, Creighton Mine & Kim Sajatovic, North Bay 12,8
- MD - Paul Maynard & Joe Kowal, Sudbury 4,18-14
- XD - Joe Kowal, Sudbury & Kim Sajatovic, North Bay 2-15,7,18.

Semi-finals

- LS - Larocque d. Anne Cormier, Creighton Mine 6,4
- Carbone d. Joanne McKinnon, Sault Ste Marie 5,8
- MS - Cozzarini d. Richard Chartrand, Sudbury 4,8
- Kowal d. Paul Maynard, Sudbury 10-15,4,3
- LD - Cormier & Larocque d. Jennifer McIntyre & Joanne McKinnon, Sault Ste Marie
- Semenluk & Sajatovic d. Lori Liske & Sue Carbone, Creighton Mine
- MD - Cozzarini & Cristante d. Cesar Battochio & Richard Chartrand, Sudbury 9,10
- Maynard & Kowal d. Steve Chen, Elliot Lake & Cam Cairncross, Sault Ste Marie 10,10
- XD - Maynard & Cormier d. Steve Chen, Elliot Lake & Joanne McKinnon, Sault Ste Marie 12,12-15,7
- Kowal & Sajatovic d. Cesar Battochio, Sudbury & Brenda Semenluk, Creighton Mine 5-15,5,18-13

B event

- LS - Anna Marie Hollick, Elliot Lake d. Anne Marie Cerri, Sudbury 5,4
- MS - Kent James, Creighton Mine d. Serge Lebel, Elliot Lake 4,7
- LD - Carolyn Ryce & Gabriele Janka, Wawa d. Michelle Beauchesne & Linda Millette, Kapuskasing 9,6
- MD - Raj Sharma & John Kirwan, Sudbury d. Dan O'Connor & Bill Pearson, Sault Ste Marie 12,3-15,11
- XD - Ron Hurley & Anna Marie Hollick, Elliot Lake d. Dan O'Connor & Karen Kempny, Sault Ste Marie 12,12-15,8

C event

- LS - Michelle Beauchesne, Kapuskasing d. Debbie Kempny, Sault Ste Marie 8,12-11
- MS - Ron Baribeau, Timmins d. Dave Dumencu, Creighton Mine 6,9
- LD - Mary Green, Creighton Mine & Anna Marie Hollick, Elliot Lake d. Marion Roblchaud & Francine Ouellette, Timmins 2,3
- MD - Dave Maskery & Angelo DiPaolo, Sudbury d. Ray Couillard & Stan Zloty, Sudbury default
- XD - Gerry Dupuls, Sudbury & Gabriele Janka, Wawa d. Jacques Tremblay & Marion Roblchaud, Timmins 7,7

Tournament Chairman: Emmanuelle Gunter, North Bay

NOBA President: Bev Green, Kapuskasing

Team Trophy: Creighton-Walden Badminton Club

Contribution to Badminton Award: Don MacKenzie, New Liskeard



1978: Alanna Larocque [left] and Sue Carbone.

Sally Barrette photo

NORTHERN NO. 48
March 9-11, 1979

Sault Ste Marie
White Pines CVI

Champions

- LS - Alanna Larocque, Garson
- MS - Dan Udeschini, Elliot Lake
- LD - Alanna Larocque, Garson & Sue Carbone, Creighton Mine
- MD - Mark Tremblay, Creighton Mine & Paul Maynard, Sudbury
- XD - Bud & Pierrette Hebner, Sault Ste Marie

Runners-up

- LS - Sue Carbone, Creighton Mine 5,4-11,4
- MS - Cam Cairncross, Sault Ste Marie 10-15,13,3
- LD - Brenda Coates*, Creighton Mine & Kim Sajatovic, North Bay 7,8-15,5
- MD - Larry Schleen & Cam Cairncross, Sault Ste Marie 9,5
- XD - Pete Tiller, Capreol & Alanna Larocque, Garson 10,4

Semi-finals

- LS - Larocque d. McKinnon, Sault Ste Marie 2,9-11,7
- Carbone d. Kim Sajatovic, North Bay 4,3
- MS - Udeschini d. Mark Tremblay, Creighton Mine 8-15,10,12
- Cairncross d. Paul Maynard, Sudbury 6,6-15,17-15
- LD - Larocque & Carbone d. Bev Green & Rosemary Moore, Kapuskasing 2,8
- Coates & Sajatovic d. Joanne McKinnon & Holly Wickett, Sault Ste Marie 7,7
- MD - Tremblay & Maynard d. Cesar Battochio & Stan Zloty, Sudbury 12,12
- Schleen & Cairncross d. Bob Depplisch, Elliot Lake & Kent James, Creighton Mine 2,12
- XD - Hebner & Hebner d. Dan Udeschini, Elliot Lake & Brenda Coates, Creighton Mine 8,6-15,17-14
- Tiller & Larocque d. Paul Maynard, Sudbury & Bev Green, Kapuskasing 10-15,8,10

B event

- LS - Anna Hollick, Elliot Lake d. Gabriele Janka, Wawa 6,1
- MS - Bill Pearson, Sault Ste Marie d. Gerry Dupuls, Sudbury 6,4-15,6
- LD - Brenda Frey & Holly Dopson, North Bay d. Linda McTurk, Timmins & Pam Fleming New Liskeard 10,12
- MD - Pete Tiller & Russ Evans, Capreol d. Ricky Groulx & R. White, Creighton Mine 10,4
- XD - Bill Maynard, Sudbury & Rosemary Moore, Kapuskasing d. Larry Bobbie & Margie Erkkila, Sault Ste Marie 14-18,4,10

C event

- LS - Shirley Pelletier, Sault Ste Marie d. Mary Shannon, Creighton Mine 8,2
- MS - Jim McAuliffe, North Bay d. Steve Dlotte, Sault Ste Marie 9,11
- LD - Edle O'Connor & Debbie Kempny, Sault Ste Marie d. Teresa Huibers & Kim Doherty, Sault Ste Marie 11,6
- MD - Denis Richer & Dennis Hanchar, Iroquois Falls d. Jerry Foat & Ray Remillard, Sault Ste Marie 18-15,4-15,10
- XD - Dave Wetherald & Debbie Kempny, Sault Ste Marie d. Ricky Groulx & Mary Shannon, Creighton Mine 4,13

Tournament Chairman: Cesar Battochio, Sudbury

NOBA President: Gord Field, Sudbury

Team Trophy: Soo Badminton Club, Sault Ste Marie

Contribution to Badminton Award: Norma Maynard, Sudbury



Men's doubles champions, 1979, Mark Tremblay [left] and Paul Maynard of Sudbury.

Sally Barrette photo

doubles yet again. Her four successive singles titles tied the record held by Penny Vincent and Linda Fabris, while the five doubles was a new record for consecutive championships in women's doubles. The record for total number of women's doubles titles is six, set during the 1930s by Jean Rossiter and Anne Carter of Sault Ste Marie.

Alanna won the doubles with her fourth partner in five years, Brenda Frey of North Bay. It was the first Northern title ever for the city of North Bay.

Elio Cozzarini won the men's singles for the second time, while Cesar Battochio and Brenda (Semeniuk) Coates - who was in all three finals - repeated their 1976 win in mixed doubles.

In what must surely be one of the most remarkable records in any sporting event anywhere, Elio and Brenda's wins marked the 19th consecutive year in which the Creighton Mine Badminton Club has won at least one Northern title. In 26 out of the last 28 years, at least one of the champions at each Northern has been from Creighton Mine.

Bill Yeates and Bud Hebner of Sault Ste Marie won the men's doubles, a first for Bill but Bud's 4th Northern title.

An interesting trend was emerging at The Northern with the wins, in 1979 and 1980, by Dan Udeschini, Bill Yeates and Brenda Frey. They all had in common the fact that they had started their badminton careers in high school programs: Dan in Elliot Lake with coach Jim Muchmore, Bill in New Liskeard with coach Tom Buck, and Brenda in North Bay's Widdifield SS.

The single most remarkable feature of badminton development in the north during the 70s was the growth of the game in the schools and the greater number of coaches fostering junior programs in conjunction with the schools. It was most satisfying to see the graduates of those programs taking their places among the champions of The Northern.

The start of the 80-81 season saw the 50th issue of *The Northern Shuttle* roll off the presses as *Ontario Badminton* headed into its third year and *Badminton Review* started its second season under northern stewardship. Prior to the 50th Northern taking place in Sault Ste Marie, the Ontario "B" Championships will be held in Sudbury in a beautiful new 6-court facility at Cambrian College. It will be the fifth consecutive year in which NOBA has hosted a provincial tournament.

**NORTHERN NO. 49
March 7-9, 1980**

**Sudbury
Laurentian University
and Lasalle SS**

Champions

- LS - Alanna Larocque, Garson
- MS - Elio Cozzarini, Creighton Mine
- LD - Alanna Larocque, Garson & Brenda Frey, North Bay
- MD - Bill Yeates & Bud Hebner, Sault Ste Marie
- XD - Cesar Battochio, Sudbury & Brenda Coates, Creighton Mine

Runners-up

- LS - Brenda Coates, Creighton Mine 5,4
- MS - Joe Kowal, Sudbury 17-15,10
- LD - Brenda Coates & Lori Liske, Creighton Mine 9,11-15,3
- MD - Cam Cairncross & Larry Schleen, Sault Ste Marie 6,5
- XD - Bud & Pierrette Hebner, Sault Ste Marie 12,10

Semi-finals

- LS - Larocque d. Lori Liske, Creighton Mine 1,2
Coates d. Jeannie Cormier, Creighton Mine 3,7
- MS - Cozzarini d. Bob Deppisch, Elliot Lake 10,5
Kowal d. Dave Wetherald, Sault Ste Marie 18-15,7
- LD - Larocque & Frey d. Bev Green & Rosemary Moore, Kapuskasing 17-15,9
Coates & Liske d. Pierrette Hebner & Jennifer McIntyre, Sault Ste Marie 2,5
- MD - Yeates & Hebner d. Mark Tremblay, Creighton Mine & Paul Maynard, Sudbury 12,10-15,17-14
Cairncross & Schleen d. Dave Wetherald & Dan O'Connor, Sault Ste Marie 8,10
- XD - Battochio & Coates d. Mark Tremblay, Creighton Mine & Alanna Larocque, Garson 8,10
Hebner & Hebner d. Paul Maynard, Sudbury & Brenda Frey, North Bay

B event

- LS - Kathy MacKenzie, New Liskeard d. Mary Pilon, Creighton Mine 2,3
- MS - Scott Innes, North Bay d. Ron Gerard, Sudbury 8,5
- LD - Mary Shannon & Mary Pilon, Creighton Mine d. Diana Chiasson & Julie Ibbitson, Sudbury & North Bay 4,5
- MD - Cliff Laurence & Jim McAuliffe, North Bay d. James Koronovich & Jerrol Bruser, Sudbury 1,5
- XD - Dan Udeschini, Elliot Lake & Wendy Jerome, Sudbury d. Serge Label, Elliot Lake & Teresa Hulbers, Sault Ste Marie 10-15,9,8

C event

- LS - Julie Ibbitson, North Bay d. Janice Balfour, Sault Ste Marie 9,2
- MS - Peter Pula, Sudbury d. Ron Graham, Sudbury
- LD - Pam Fleming, New Liskeard & Evelyn Mousseau, Sudbury d. Norma Maynard & Eve Ciucas, Sudbury 5,5
- MD - Bill Pearson & Lyle Cranston, Sault Ste Marie d. Mike Contin & Vernon Moriarity, New Liskeard
- XD - Dan O'Connor & Shona Findlay, Sault Ste Marie d. Ricky Groulx & Jeannie Cormier, Creighton Mine default

Tournament Chairman: Cesar Battochio, Sudbury

NOBA President: Gord Field, Sudbury

Team Trophy: Creighton-Walden Badminton Club

Contribution to Badminton Award: Rene Paquette, Garson



Tournament Committee of Northern No. 48. Seated: Muriel & Len Oliphant. Standing, Debbie Kempny [left] and Barry Hope, designer of the NOBA logo and 50th Northern logo.

Sally Barrette photo



Larry Schleen and Cam Cairncross, runners-up in The Northern in 1973, 1979 and 1980.



Logo by Barry Hope

Looking into the future with interest and anticipation, it appears that the next requirements for badminton in NOBA are two-fold:

More organization is needed for our many adult recreational players, in the form of inter-club play, social or "B.C." tournaments, and leagues, within our four cities and possibly some of the larger towns. Such programs will ultimately strengthen all the clubs, generate increased interest and enjoyment, and improve standards of play.

Secondly, a focus point is needed for all the coaches and junior programs around the district since the NOBA junior championships and the annual summer camp have brought us as far as they can. Some form of central in-season training camp is required in order for both coaching development and junior player development to progress into the next level, and here is an area in which OBA can lend a helping hand.



Northern No. 49, held in Sudbury in 1980. The champions [left to right]: Alanna Larocque, Brenda Frey, Cesar Battocchio, Brenda Coates, Bill Yeates, Elio Cozzarini, Bud Hebner.

There is every reason for optimism that these goals will be attained when one stops to reflect on the wonderful history of The Northern and how much has been achieved already. "If we can see further, it is because we stand on the shoulders of giants."



NORTHERN NO. 50
March 7-9, 1981

Sault Ste Marie
White Pines CVI

Tournament Chairman: Margie Erkkila, Sault Ste Marie

NORTHERN JUNIOR CHAMPIONS UNDER 14

Boys Singles

1980 - Tom Osawa, Kapuskasing
1981 - Deamond Hann, Elliot Lake

Boys Doubles

1980 - Tom Osawa & Marc Clavelle, Kapuskasing
1981 - Michael Fleming & Steve Douglas, South Porcupine

Girls Singles

1980 - Linda Leblanc & Monica Young, Kapuskasing & Sault Ste Marie
1981 - Shelly Birnie & Sharon Johnson, Timmins

Mixed Doubles

1980 - Tom Osawa & Linda Leblanc, Kapuskasing
1981 - Neal Pryor & Sharon Johnson, South Porcupine & Timmins

Girls Singles

1980 - Linda Leblanc, Kapuskasing
1981 - Sharon Johnson, Timmins

UNDER 16

Girls Singles

Kapuskasing Badminton Club Trophy
1978 - Anne Cormier, Creighton-Walden
1977 - Sue Carbone, Creighton-Walden
1978 - Mary Green, Creighton-Walden
1979 - Jeannie MacKenzie, New Liskeard
1980 - Cindy Kempny, Sault Ste Marie
1981 - Cheryl Beach, New Liskeard

Girls Doubles

North Bay Badminton Club Trophy
1976 - Nathalie Houde & Guylaine St Georges, LaSarre
1977 - Sue Carbone & Mary Green, Creighton-Walden
1978 - Suzanne Udeschini & Anna Hollick, Elliot Lake
1979 - Jeannie MacKenzie & Jeannie Cormier, New Liskeard & Creighton-Walden
1980 - Cindy Kempny & Lori O'Connor, Sault Ste Marie
1981 - Cheryl Beach & Cindy McCaughley, New Liskeard & Timmins

Boys Doubles

Ray Belanger Trophy
1976 - Mark Udeschini & Steve Faulkner, Elliot Lake
1977 - Wayne O'Hanley & Kent James, Elliot Lake & Creighton-Walden
1978 - Joel Gonnella & Serge Lebel, Creighton-Walden & Elliot Lake
1979 - Steve Osawa & Paul Reimer, Kapuskasing
1980 - Fred Deppisch & Tim Remillard, Elliot Lake & Sault Ste Marie
1981 - John O'Connor & David Wiske, Sault Ste Marie & Elliot Lake

Mixed Doubles

De Marco Sports Trophy
1978 - Mark Udeschini & Suzanne Udeschini, Elliot Lake
1977 - Kent James & Mary Green, Creighton-Walden
1978 - Joel Gonnella & Mary Green, Creighton-Walden
1979 - Steve Osawa & Jeannie MacKenzie, Kapuskasing & New Liskeard
1980 - Fred Deppisch & Jeannie Cormier, Elliot Lake & Creighton-Walden
1981 - John O'Connor & Cindy Kempny, Sault Ste Marie

Top Club

Cambrian College Trophy

1976 - La Sarre
1977 - Creighton-Walden
1978 - Creighton-Walden
1979 - Cite des Jeunes, Kapuskasing
1980 - Kapuskasing
1981 - Kapuskasing

UNDER 19

All challenge trophies for this division were donated by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Girls Singles

1978 - Brenda Semenluk, Creighton-Walden
1977 - Alanna Larocque, Garson
1978 - Anne Cormier, Creighton-Walden
1979 - Anne Cormier, Creighton-Walden
1980 - Alanna Larocque, Garson
1981 - Suzanne Udeschini, Elliot Lake

Girls Doubles

1978 - Denyse Julien & Line Bureau, Noranda
1977 - Alanna Larocque & Deb Robillard, Garson & Sudbury
1978 - Anne Cormier & Alanna Larocque, Creighton-Walden & Garson
1979 - Lori Liske & Sue Carbone, Creighton-Walden
1980 - Alanna Larocque & Sue Carbone, Garson & Creighton-Walden
1981 - Suzanne Udeschini & Debbie Kempny, Elliot Lake & Sault Ste Marie

Boys Singles

1976 - Andre Lafortune, Noranda
1977 - Kevin Sherbanuk, Creighton-Walden
1978 - Paul Maynard, Sudbury
1979 - Mark Tremblay, Creighton-Walden
1980 - Mark Tremblay, Creighton-Walden
1981 - Serge Lebel, Elliot Lake

Boys Doubles

1976 - Marc Poirier & Andre Lafortune, Noranda
1977 - Paul Maynard & Pete Tiller, Sudbury & Capreol
1978 - Paul Maynard & Nevio Cristante, Sudbury & Creighton-Walden
1979 - Mark Tremblay & Bob Deppisch, Creighton-Walden & Elliot Lake
1980 - Bob Deppisch & Serge Lebel, Elliot Lake
1981 - Serge Lebel & Steve Osawa, Elliot Lake & Kapuskasing

Mixed Doubles

1976 - Wayne Gudbranson & Dawn Wilkins, North Bay
1977 - Pete Tiller & Alanna Larocque, Capreol & Garson
1978 - Mark Tremblay & Alanna Larocque, Creighton-Walden & Garson
1979 - Bob Deppisch & Anna Hollick, Elliot Lake
1980 - Mark Tremblay & Alanna Larocque, Creighton-Walden & Garson
1981 - Serge Lebel & Suzanne Udeschini, Elliot Lake

Top Club

1976 - Noranda
1977 - Creighton-Walden
1978 - Creighton-Walden
1979 - Creighton-Walden
1980 - Creighton-Walden
1981 - Kapuskasing

Venues

1976 - Sudbury
1977 - Sudbury
1978 - North Bay
1979 - Timmins
1980 - Sault Ste Marie
1981 - New Liskeard

NORTHERN SENIORS & MASTERS CHAMPIONS

SENIOR EVENTS

Women's Singles

Jim Taylor Sports Trophy
75-76 - Bev Green, Kapuskasing
76-77 - Ilze Reimer, Kapuskasing
1977 - Ilze Reimer, Kapuskasing
1978 - Bev Green, Kapuskasing
1979 - Bev Green, Kapuskasing
1980 - Dedi West, Parry Sound

Men's Singles

Gino Gonnella Trophy
75-76 - Laurier Arsenault, Noranda
76-77 - Larry Parakin, North Bay
1977 - Laurier Arsenault, Noranda
1978 - Laurier Arsenault, Noranda
1979 - Gord Doble, Gravenhurst
1980 - Gord Doble, Gravenhurst

Women's Doubles

Jean Willars Memorial Trophy
75-76 - Bev Green & Trudy Tully, Kapuskasing
76-77 - Bev Green & Ilze Reimer, Kapuskasing
1977 - Bev Green & Ilze Reimer, Kapuskasing
1978 - Bev Green & Ilze Reimer, Kapuskasing
1979 - Dedi West & Arlene Crozier, Parry Sound & Barrie
1980 - Dedi West & Arlene Crozier, Parry Sound & Barrie

Men's Doubles

Reid Holden Memorial Trophy
75-76 - Laurier Arsenault & Ray Belanger, Noranda
76-77 - Lorne Corlett & Bill Maynard, Sudbury
1977 - Laurier Arsenault & Ray Belanger, Noranda
1978 - Laurier Arsenault & Ray Belanger, Noranda
1979 - Jerry Foat & Mark Grantham, Sault Ste Marie & Ottawa
1980 - Gord Doble & Pat McCarthy, Gravenhurst & Toronto

Mixed Doubles

Jim Kennedy Memorial Trophy
75-76 - Glen Lewis & Shirley Graham, Sudbury
76-77 - Gino Gonnella & Trudy Tully, Creighton Mine & Ottawa
1977 - Ray Belanger & Lois Urwin, Noranda & Sudbury
1978 - Mark Grantham & Dedi West, Ottawa & Parry Sound
1979 - Mark Grantham & Arlene Crozier, Ottawa & Barrie
1980 - Gord Doble & Dedi West, Gravenhurst & Parry Sound

MASTERS EVENTS

Men's Singles

1979 - Bill Maynard, Sudbury
1980 - Larry Parakin, North Bay

Men's Doubles

1980 - Trevor Maypothor & Pat McCarthy, Toronto

Mixed Doubles

1980 - Bill Maynard & Billie McCarthy, Georgetown & Toronto

CHAMPIONS OF THE NORTHERN

1927 - 1980

Name	Championships	LS	MS	LD	MD	XD	T	Name	Championships	LS	MS	LD	MD	XD	T
1. Mrs W.R. Griffiths	LS-27 LD-31 XD-28	1		1		1	3	32. George Van Zuban	MD-39,42						
2. Reg Griffiths	MS-27 MD-28,29,31 XD-28		1		3	1	5	33. Gordon Shields	MS-40,41 MD-40,41 XD-39,40		2		2	2	6
3. Mrs A.H. Woods	LD-27,28 XD-27			2		1	3	34. Bill Sturgeon	MD-40,41				2		2
4. Mrs V.H. Taylor	LD-27,28			2				35. Mrs. Gordon Shields	MD-40,41				2		2
5. Harold Tolley	MD-27 XD-27				1	1	2	36. Mrs J Adams	XD-40						1
6. Hart Buck	MD-27				1		1	37. Kitty Young	LD-41			1			1
7. Ann Rosstar Zandy-Wunich	LS-28 LD-29,30,32,33,34,35	1		6			7	38. Margaret Wilson	XD-41						1
8. Bill Wolters	MS-28 MD-28		1		2		2	39. Bob Laidlaw	XD-42,48,49					1	1
9. Mary Molony	LS-29 LD-29,30,32,38	1		4			5	40. Fritz Gauthier	MS-48		1			3	3
10. Joe Zaherko	MS-29,30,31,32,33 MD-30,32,33 XD-30,31,32,33		5		3	4	12	41. Jean Scott	MD-48,49,50 LS-50 LD-49	1		1		3	3
11. Harry Rowland	MD-29				1		1	42. Gord Frech	MS-50,51,52,53 MD-51 XD-50,51,52,56,59		4		1	5	10
12. Dr. J McDonald	MD-31 XD-29				1	1	2	43. Stella Crawford	LD-50,52			2			2
13. Anna Carter	LD-31,33,34,35,36,38 XD-29,31,32,33,37,38			6		6	12	44. Edna Johnston	LD-50,52			2			2
14. Jim Wilson	MD-30,32,33,35 XD-35,36				4	2	6	45. Jean Frech	XD-50			2			2
15. Mrs T Rahilly	XD-30					1	1	46. Nan Stronach	LS-51	1				1	1
16. Bill Plewman	MS-34,37,38 MD-38,51 XD-38,53,55		3		2	3	8	47. Jean McLeod	LD-55,57,58 XD-51,52,56,59			3		4	7
17. Bill Hughes	MD-34,35 XD-34				2	1	3	48. Mary Terrell	LS-52						1
18. Art Denning	MD-34				1		1	49. Gerry Myers	MS-54 MD-52,54		1		2		3
19. Verna Robinson Lacy	LS-40,48,49 LD-40,42,48,49,51 XD-34	3		5		1	9	50 Harvey Nadeau	MD-52,54				2		2
20. Harold Crowder	MS-35,36 MD-36		2		1		3	51. Helen Forbes	LS-53,54,57,58 LD-55,57,58 XD-53,55	4		3		2	9
21. Helen Best	LS-41 LD-37,41 XD-35,36	1		2		2	5	52. Sheila Keegan	LD-53,54			2			2
22. Winnie Fisher Myers	LD-36			1			1	53. Collette Potvin Hartman	LD-53,54,60 XD-54,57,60			3		3	6
23. George Wilson	MD-36				1		1	54. Gino Gonnella	MS-63 MD-53,55,56,57,58,60, 63,64,65,66,67 XD-63		1		11	1	13
24. Loretta Levie	LD-37			1			1	55. John Hartman	MD-53,55,59 XD-54,57,60				3	3	6
25. Bob Kline	MD-37				1		1	56. Jean McCrea	LS-55	1					1
26. Gordon Malcolm	MD-37				1		1	57. Ed Hreljac	MS-55,56,57,58,62,64,65, 66,67,68,69,71 MD-56,57,58,60,62,64, 65,66,67 XD-58,64,68,69		12		9	4	25
27. Jeff Hall	MD-38 XD-37				1	1	2	58. Marie Barbe	LS-56,59,64 LD-56,59,60,64 XD-58	3		4		1	8
28. Doris Sturgeon	LD-39,42 LD-39,40,42,48,51	2		5			7	59. Bev Cassell	LD-56			1			1
29. R. Simms	MS-39		1				1	60. Tom Stefanko	MS-59 MD-63		1		1		2
30. Ann Grady	LD-39 XD-39			1		1	2	61. Marion Masih	LD-59			1			1
31. Orville Gauthier	MS-42,49 MD-39,42,48,49,50 XD-41,42,48,49		2		5	4	11	62. John Masih	MD-59,61 XD-61				2	1	3
								63. Nancy Vincent Lynch	LS-60,61 LD-61,62,65	2		3			5
								64. Jack Moon	MS-60,61		2				2
								65. Pat Ryan	LD-61,62,66			3			3

Name	Championships	LS	MS	LD	MD	XD	T	Name	Championships	LS	MS	LD	MD	XD	T
66. Walter Saftic	MD-61,62 XD-62				2	1	3	84. Vivian Cozzarini McGuire	LD-72,73			2			2
67. Nellie Smith	XD-61					1	1	85. Lillian Cozzarini	LD-74			1			1
68. Helen Cavrak Resetar	LS-62,63 LD-63,64,70 XD-62,63,64	2		3		3	8	86. Joanne Mitroff Hood	LD-74 XD-74			1		1	2
69. Vivian MacKenzie	LD-63			1			1	87. Elio Cozzarini	MS-78,80 MD-74,78		2		2		4
70. Penny Vincent Weissgerber	LS-85,86,87,88 LD-65,66,67 XD-66,67	4		3		2	9	88. Pierrette Hebner	LS-75 LD-75 XD-75,79	1		1		2	4
71. Chris Harvey	XD-65					1	1	89. Steve Chen	MS-75,76,77 MD-75,77		3		2		5
72. Betty Harvey	XD-65					1	1	90. Brenda Semeniuk Coates	LD-75,76 XD-76,80			2		2	4
73. Bill Dunn	XD-66,67					2	2	91. Bud Hebner	MD-75,80 XD-75,79				2	2	4
74. Bev Green	LS-69,74,76 LD-68,69 XD-68,69	3		2		2	7	92. Alanna Larocque	LS-77,78,78,80 LD-78,77,78,78,80	4		5			9
75. Jackie Piché	LD-68,69			2			2	93. Cesar Battochio	MD-76 XD-76,80				1	2	3
76. John Gilbert	MD-68,68,70,71,72 XD-70,71,72,73				5	4	9	94. Richard Chartrand	MD-76				1		1
77. Dan Mitroff	MD-68				1		1	95. Anne Cormier	LD-77,78 XD-78			2		1	3
78. Lucio Fabris	MS-73,74 MD-69,73,74 XD-74		2		3	1	6	96. Cam Cairncross	MD-77				1		1
79. Linda Fabris Morris	LS-70,71,72,73 LD-71,72,73 XD-70,71,72,73,77	4		3		5	12	97. Nevio Cristante	MD-77				1		1
80. Bob Pilon	MS-70 MD-70,71,72		1		3		4	98. Paul Maynard	MD-79 XD-78				1	1	2
81. Joanne Douglas	LD-70			1			1	99. Dan Udeschini	MS-79		1				1
82. Carmen Cozzarini	LD-71			1			1	100. Sue Carbone	LD-79			1			1
83. Ed Hreljac Jr	MS-72 MD-73 XD-77		1		1	1	3	101. Mark Tremblay	MD-79				1		1
								102. Brenda Frey	LD-80			1			1
								103. Bill Yeates	MD-80				1		1

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