

Introduction

Professional baseball and professional ice hockey grew up side-by-side in Montréal in the late 19th century and early 20th century. A burgeoning metropolis in the largely francophone province of Québec, Montréal experienced a rich and varied sporting tradition, with many residents taking up ice hockey, baseball, and lacrosse among other pastimes. Naturally, overlaps between the sports occurred on a frequent basis as amateur sporting associations sponsored clubs in more than one outlet.

As baseball and ice hockey gradually formed and solidified professional leagues and competition, several Montréal businessmen and personalities involved themselves in these ventures. Often, these men would become integral to the front offices of baseball and hockey organizations, becoming leading figures in Montréal sporting life in addition to its commercial and political scenes.

This paper will discuss the growth, trials, and tribulations experienced by professional baseball and hockey organizations in Montréal. There will be a focus

on a few of the men involved in both sports: Samuel Lichtenhein, Cecil Hart, J.-Érnest Savard, Louis-Athanase David, and Émile “Butch” Bouchard.

As it did as the 19th century ended and the 20th century began, professional baseball today struggles to recapture its place in Montréal. However, professional ice hockey continues to possess a firm stranglehold over the hearts and souls of many of Montréal’s citizens. Yet the city’s history with both sports is an interesting, tangled tale, its personalities equally fascinating.

Early Minor League Baseball in Montréal

Canada’s fervent support for baseball is evident going back to the early games at Beachville, as the sport crossed both provincial and international boundaries. Clubs in Guelph and London, Ontario, became well known and highly competitive.

In Montréal, baseball also gained a footing among the various amateur athletic associations of the city. Clubs such as the Star and the Crescent competed often throughout the summer at various ballfields in the growing city. Montréal’s entrée into professional baseball occurred in 1890, thanks to the inability of another city’s team to compete in its own market.

The minor-league International Association’s Buffalo franchise was in dire straits by June. During the off-season, the Players’ National League secured a franchise for New York’s Queen City. A quick 4-0 start for the Players’ League Buffalo Bisons turned – just as rapidly – into a fall into the league’s basement, where they would reside nearly the entire season. Led by future Baseball Hall of Famers Connie Mack and 42-year-old Deacon White, as well as noted deaf-mute Dummy Hoy, the major-league Bisons’ dismal campaign was at least slightly better than what Buffalo’s minor league Bisons faced. It soon became clear that Buffalo could only be a one-ballclub town. The minor leaguers had to go, and they did in early June.

The International Association’s Bisons found a new home in Montréal, Québec, a city with interest in baseball, though no record of minor league baseball to date. The Bisons’ difficulties resembled those of the International Association as a whole, as the league – with franchises in Buffalo, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Hamilton, London, Toronto, and one representing both Saginaw and Bay City – dealt with clubs of varying levels of financial success. It is unclear whether the Hamilton club

moved to Montréal or just used the city's name despite not having a home there. Buffalo, however, did relocate and on June 9, the team played its first game at the Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds, located mostly in the neighboring town of Westmount.

Interest in this first game was high, but the good times did not last long for Montréal – or the International Association. On July 7, the first domino fell when London announced its departure. According to an article in the July 8 *Montréal Gazette*, the “directors of the London Baseball Club have withdrawn from the International League. The players will arrive [in London] from Detroit in the morning and be paid off and the club disbanded. This means the collapse of the League.” Sure enough, on the 8th, the Hamilton Hams and the Saginaw-Bay City Hyphens were the next teams to go. The International Association died shortly thereafter. Newspaper reports claimed that the Toronto, Detroit, and London franchises lost money supporting the Buffalo/Montréal franchise.

Several years later, Montréal benefitted once more from the woes of another baseball town. Rochester, New York, was a member of the Class-A Eastern League in 1897, a loop with teams in Buffalo, Providence, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Toronto, Springfield (Mass.), and Syracuse. Rumors were that the city of Montréal had interest in acquiring one of the Eastern League franchises. In mid-June, newspaper reports claimed that Montréal eyed Wilkes-Barre for relocation, and by mid-July, Montréal's attention shifted to Rochester. A fire destroyed the stands at Rochester's ballpark that spring, and a second blow came in early July when city leaders killed Sunday baseball. Faced with such a one-two punch, Rochester's owners sold the club to Montréal interests and the franchise played its first home game in Canada, at the “old” Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds – now called the Montréal Baseball Grounds – on July 23.

Unlike the city's first go-around with minor league baseball in 1890, this time the team did not pull up stakes after the initial season. Instead, the club played several campaigns in Montréal, with modest results, until January 1903 when Ned Hanlon and Moses Frank purchased the club and transferred it to Baltimore, replacing the defunct American League franchise. The loss was temporary for Montréal, however, as P.H. Hurley, owner of the Eastern League entry in Worcester, began searching for a new home for his club. Hurley incurred mounting financial losses in Worcester and named Montréal as one location

where he thought his fortunes would improve. By the end of July, Montréal found itself a minor league city once more.

There was no guarantee of being a minor league town, especially during the early 20th century, when many franchises would come and go. Travel demands and costs, in a time when clubs moved from town to town by train, could drain a team's finances. Montréal was a geographical outlier in the Eastern League, most of whose teams were closer to the Atlantic Ocean rather than the St. Lawrence River. Questions often arose as to the franchise's future in Québec. In 1906, Frank Farrell, one of the New York Yankees' owners, purchased the club and named Eddie McCafferty its secretary-treasurer. Rumors persisted of an impending move to Trenton prior to the 1908 season, but Farrell had other ideas. In January 1908, newspapers reported that Farrell, through George Stallings – who was to be the Newark Eastern League club's manager in 1908 – sold the Montréal club to local interests.

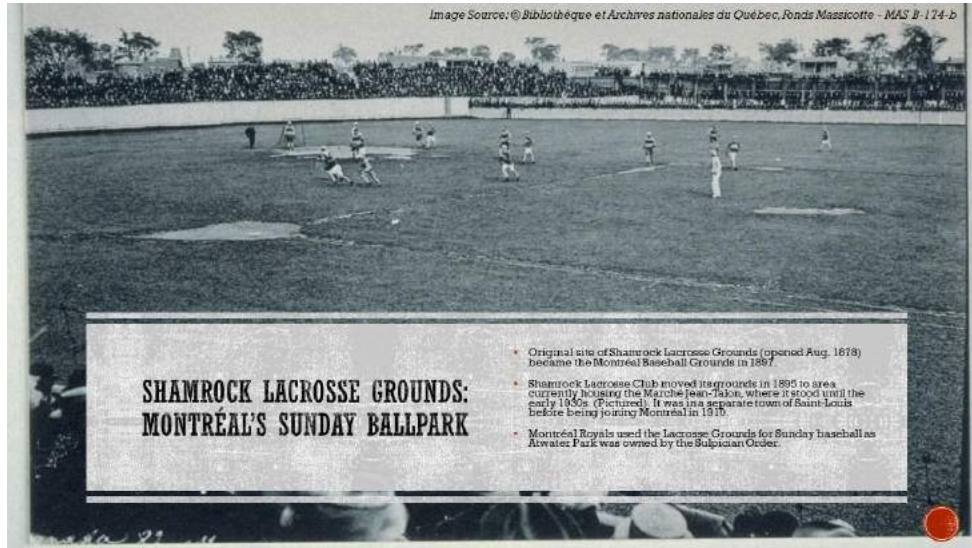
Take Me Out to the Lacrosse Grounds

When the early Montréal minor league baseball clubs arrived in town, they needed a suitable, enclosed venue in which to play. No baseball park with a grandstand or bleachers capable of holding hundreds or thousands of fans existed. However, there was a more than adequate alternative.

Lacrosse is a sport which had and continues to have a significant following in Canada. In August 1878, the Shamrock Lacrosse Club, an organization largely catering to and supported by the city's Irish population, opened its new lacrosse grounds on Rue Sainte-Catherine, just barely straddling the city line on the border of Westmount. The land on which the grounds were built was owned by the Sulpician order, which had a vital role in the settling and development of New France, particularly the city of Montréal. Since the size of the lacrosse field was big enough to use for baseball, and there was a grandstand and other seating for fans, it just made sense to utilize this option.

There was one important detail, however. Since the Sulpician order, a religious group, owned the land, there was a prohibition on playing any sport there on Sundays. This was of minor importance to the ill-fated, short-lived 1890 Montréal baseball club, but by baseball's return in 1897, this issue came into play.

In 1895, the Shamrock Lacrosse Club opened new grounds away from the Sulpicians, just outside Montréal's city limits, in what was then known as the suburb of St-Louis du Mile End. This allowed Montréal's baseball club largely unimpeded use of the old lacrosse grounds – which were also called the Montréal Baseball Grounds and, later, Atwater Park – from Monday through Saturday *and*



the ability to use the new grounds on Sunday. The city of Montréal annexed St-Louis du Mile End in 1910, but the Royals still played Sunday ball at the new lacrosse grounds until

the baseball franchise ceased existence after the 1917 season. Montréal teams in the Eastern Canada and Québec-Ontario-Vermont Leagues also used the new Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds for Sunday games. When Stade De Lorimier opened

MONTREAL BALLPARKS

Atwater Park
(aka Montréal Baseball Grounds)



Image Source: Montreal Baseball Club – rue Sainte-Catherine.
BAnQ, MAS S-147-c.

Stade De Lorimier



in 1928, also outside the boundaries of the Sulpicians, the Royals could play there all week long.

The opening of Stade De Lorimier allowed baseball each day, which was important because the new Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds' days were numbered. In 1931, the city of Montréal purchased the Shamrocks' grounds, demolished the structures and built the Northern Market (now known as the Jean-Talon Market) on that site, where it still stands today.

Early Amateur Hockey in Montréal

As baseball's popularity spread throughout North America in the mid- to late 1800s, ice hockey also saw an increasing amount of interest across Canada and the northern United States. Ice skating was a popular pastime, particularly on frozen lakes, rivers, canals, and ponds. On December 24, 1862, the Victoria Rink opened in Montréal – it stood between Rue Drummond and Rue Stanley, north of Boulevard Dorchester (now Boulevard René-Lévesque), roughly one block north of today's Centre Bell – and quickly became the place to go for indoor skating. Over 12 years later, on March 3, 1875, James Creighton and other members of the Victoria Skating Club played what is largely recognized as the first recorded indoor ice hockey match. In 1894, nearly two decades after Creighton's match,



MONTREAL AMATEUR HOCKEY

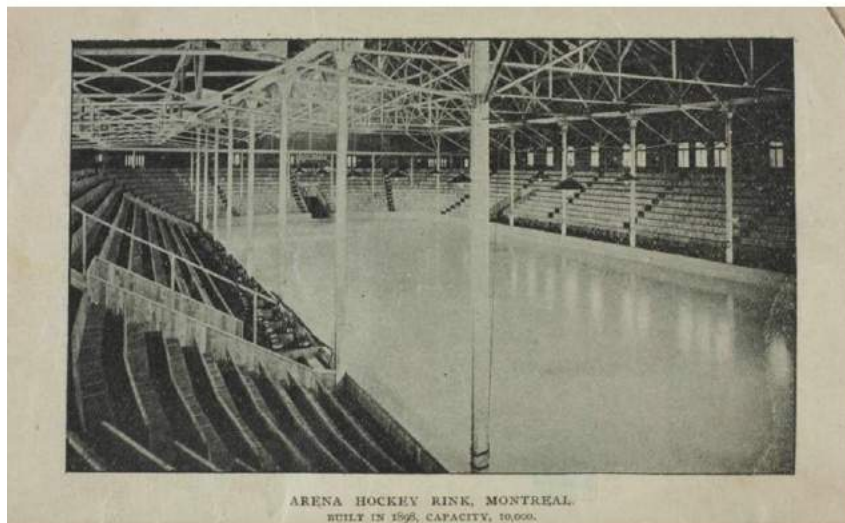
- Victoria Rink in Montréal hosted first indoor hockey game in March 1875.
- Many amateur or semi-professional clubs dotted the landscape throughout the city.
- Teams went from playing one-off contests to forming associations.
- Top clubs eventually competed for the Stanley Cup (then known as Dominion Challenge Trophy).
- Top clubs also gradually became professional in nature.



the Victoria Rink would host the first games to contest for the Dominion Challenge Trophy (later known as the Stanley Cup).

Across Montréal, amateur and semi-professional hockey clubs dotted the landscape. Teams started by playing one-off contests and gradually formed associations and leagues, resembling the increasingly evident baseball model. As the number of these leagues grew, so, too, did the number of venues in which they played. The top clubs competed for the Dominion Challenge Trophy, and they gradually became professional in nature.

One of the venues constructed to host amateur and professional ice hockey was the Montréal Arena (also known as the Westmount Arena). Opened on December 31, 1898 and situated next to the Montréal Baseball Grounds (the “old” Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds) at the corner of Avenue Wood and Rue Sainte-Catherine in Westmount, the Montréal Arena held approximately 10,000 persons, including seating for about 4,300 spectators. Owned by the Canadian Arena Company, it was one of the first venues built expressly for hockey and quickly gained popularity among Montréal’s amateur clubs. The city’s Wanderers club, with James Strachan as president, adopted the arena as its home ice in 1904.



ARENA HOCKEY RINK, MONTREAL.
BUILT IN 1898, CAPACITY, 10,000.

Image Source: <https://yorkfire.com/2014/09/21/westmount-arena-fire-in-1918-and-the-national-hockey-league/>

MONTREAL ARENA (AKA WESTMOUNT ARENA)

- Opened in 1898
- Located at Saint Catherine Street West and Wood Avenue
- Capacity: Approx. 10,000
- Natural ice until 1915 when ice plant installed
- Home to several clubs, including the Montréal Wanderers starting in 1904



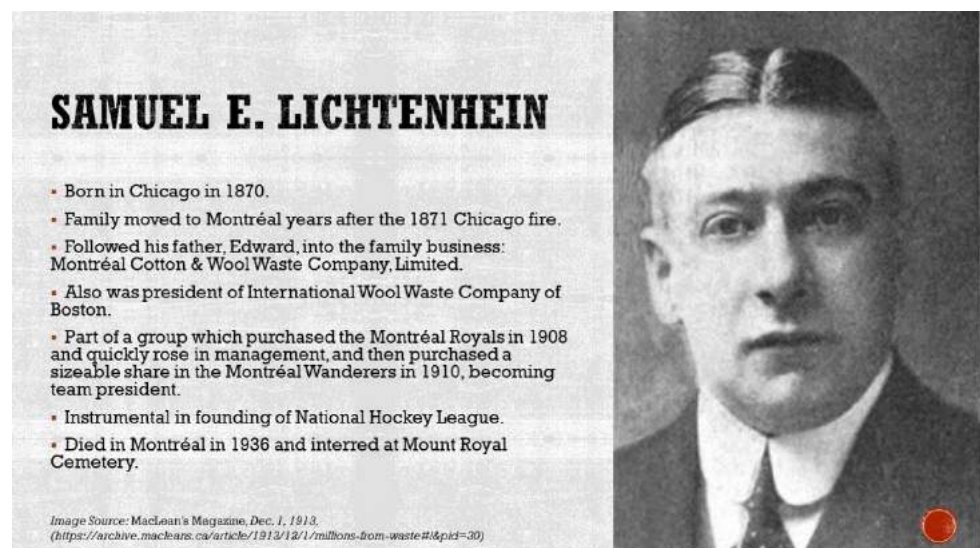
The Wanderers found success shortly after establishing themselves at the Montréal Arena. Though they forfeited a Stanley Cup challenge to the Ottawa Senators in March 1904, the Wanderers captured the Cup in March 1906 against that same club and won a Stanley Cup challenge later that year as well as in each year from 1907 through 1910. During this period, P.J. Doran, owner of the Jubilee Rink, purchased the Wanderers in 1908 and guided them into the National Hockey Association at its founding in December 1909. Finishing first in the NHA's premier season, the Wanderers took home the O'Brien Cup and the Stanley Cup, easily fending off a March 1910 challenge from a Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario, team.

Built from 1908 to 1909 and located at Rue Sainte-Catherine and Rue Malborough (now Rue Alphonse-D.-Roy), Doran's Jubilee Rink was decidedly smaller than the Montréal Arena, accommodating only 3,200 spectators. The Wanderers briefly played there, leaving the Montréal Arena in 1910, though they would soon return to their old home ice.

Enter Samuel Lichtenhein

When Frank Farrell decided to sell the Montréal Royals in 1908, he did so via his agent, George Stallings. Newspapers reported that the club was sold to local interests in Montréal, though the articles seemingly omit one individual: Samuel E. Lichtenhein. Some posit, more recently, that reports did not include Lichtenhein because of anti-Semitic sentiments that were present in Montréal during that time, an era of waves of Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe and Russia.

Samuel E. Lichtenhein was born in Chicago in 1870, and his family moved to Montréal years after the 1871 Chicago fire, which devastated his



father's business. Relocating to Montréal, where Samuel had family, he would soon follow his father, Edward, into the family business, the Montréal Cotton & Wool Waste Company, Limited. He would also have a business in the United States, serving as president of the International Wool Waste Company of Boston. Dealing in waste would prove lucrative for the younger Lichtenhein, for it allowed him to become owner of two professional sports teams.

By the time Lichtenhein took over the Montréal Royals, the team's future in the Eastern (soon-to-be re-named International) League seemed steady. In 1910, Lichtenhein hired Ed Barrow to be the team's manager and continued increasing the seating capacity at Atwater Park, which became the more common name for



LICHTENHEIN AND THE MONTREAL ROYALS

- Part of a group which purchased the Royals in 1908 from New York Highlanders owner Frank Farrell (via Farrell's agent, George Stallings).
- He and partners rebuilt fire-damaged grandstand at Atwater Park, which was owned by the Sulpician Order.
- Hired Ed Barrow in 1910 to be team manager and continued increasing seating capacity of Atwater Park.
- Lost Barrow after one season and hired Eddie McCafferty as manager. McCafferty had been the Royals' business manager, as well as the treasurer of the Montréal Wanderers when Lichtenhein was team president.
- Rebuilt grandstand of Atwater Park once more but economic pressures of Federal League and World War I resulted in financial difficulties.
- Expressed interest to operate team in 1918, but International League owners decided to remove Montréal and other teams from league. Claimed to have lost \$150,000 operating the team.

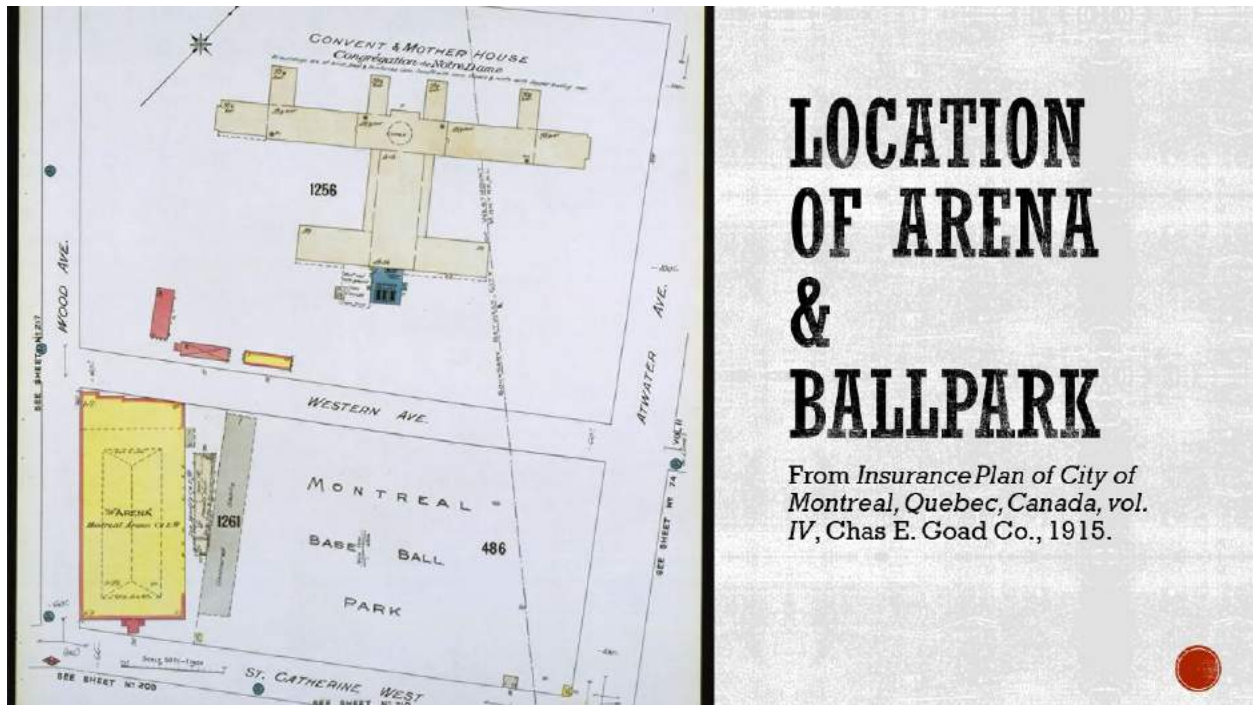
Image Source: *MacLean's Magazine*, Dec. 1, 1913.
(<https://archive.macleans.ca/article/1913/12/1/millions-from-waste#&pid=32>)



the Montréal Baseball Grounds. Barrow only served one year as skipper, with Eddie McCafferty taking Barrow's place on the bench. McCafferty was no stranger to Lichtenhein, or to Montréal sports, for he had been with the club since Farrell's ownership tenure. His loyalty and business acumen would help Lichtenhein in another arena, quite literally speaking.

With several successful seasons behind him, P.J. Doran looked to sell high when it came to his Wanderers hockey club. In 1910, he found a willing buyer in Lichtenhein, who formed an ownership group which included McCafferty. Lichtenhein, the team president, moved the Wanderers back to the Montréal

Arena from Doran's Jubilee Rink, a move which made more geographical sense for the two-sport owner. The Montréal Arena sat adjacent to Atwater Park on Rue



Sainte-Catherine, thus enabling Lichtenhein to keep an eye on both organizations.

Owning two sports teams proved a financial challenge for Lichtenhein. The Wanderers' successful ways changed under Lichtenhein, despite having well known and capable players such as Art Ross and the Cleghorn brothers, Odie and Sprague. The Canadian Arena Company, owners of the Montréal Arena, installed the city's first artificial ice-making plant there in 1915, but it did not help the team's coffers. Sharing the arena with the Montréal Canadiens, the Wanderers gradually became second-class citizens and it showed in the ledgers, as the club incurred steady losses.

The Royals, too, struggled at times during Lichtenhein's ownership, often financially. Though he increased Atwater Park's capacity twice, it was probably due to fires, in 1914 and 1916, which damaged the park's grandstand. The pressures placed on major league baseball by the Federal League in 1914 and 1915 trickled down to the minor leagues. Canada's entry into World War I as part of the British Empire also proved a stumbling block, as the public focus turned toward the war effort and away from recreational activities.

With the Great War in full swing, 1917 and 1918 would be a pivotal period for Lichtenhein and his franchises. Infighting between owners of the National Hockey Association was in the news. Lichtenhein and his Montréal Canadiens counterpart, George Kennedy, were often in disagreements with Eddie Livingstone, the owner of the league's Toronto franchise since 1914. The Wanderers owner was very friendly with newspaperman Frank Calder, who would take the side of his fellow Montréalers. Finally fed up with Livingstone, Lichtenhein and the other NHA owners resigned from the league in 1917, leaving Livingstone to twist in the wind. They created a new league, the National Hockey League, with Calder serving as its first president.

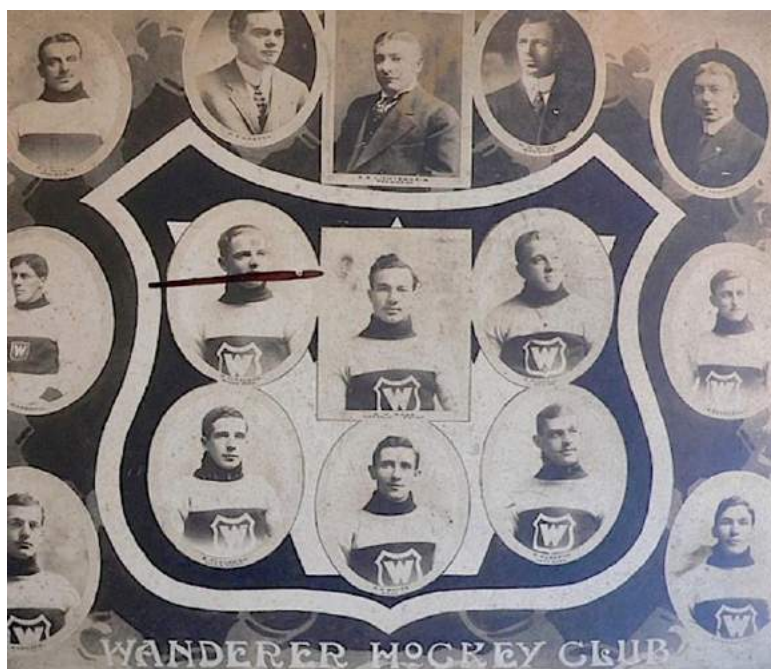


Image Source: <http://ericzweig.com/2016/12/14/the-montreal-wanderers/>

LICHTENHEIN AND THE MONTRÉAL WANDERERS

- Part of group, along with McCafferty, which purchased the Wanderers franchise of the National Hockey Association in 1910 from P.J. Doran, owner of the Jubilee Rink (located at St. Catherine Street East and Malborough – now Alphonse-D. Roy – Street), where club briefly played.
- Moved team to Montréal (aka Westmount) Arena in 1910, but incurred financial losses.
- Moved team into National Hockey League, which he helped form, in 1917, but fire destroyed arena in winter of 1918.
- Wanderers played only four games in NHL, but could not obtain additional players and were forced to disband.

On the ballfield and in the boardroom, the Royals' struggles continued. The team finished the 1917 season despite the increasing stress that World War I placed on Lichtenhein. However, he wanted to make a go of it in 1918 and seemed to have every intention of fielding a team during that season. Despite his intent, Lichtenhein did not want to continue to operate for the sake of a few of the International League's franchises. He claimed to have lost at least \$150,000 owning the Royals.

His counterparts among the International League executives chose to cut Montréal from the league, as well as a few other teams. Ultimately the International League itself disbanded in March 1918 before reorganizing shortly thereafter.

By March 1918, though, Lichtenhein found himself on the outside of the sports world looking in. A few games into the National Hockey League's inaugural season, a fire swept through the Montréal Arena on January 2, 1918. Starting in the ice-making plant, the fire destroyed the building as well as the equipment and uniforms of both hockey clubs. Damage estimates are often placed around \$150,000. Thankfully, no one perished in the blaze, with the arena superintendent and his family making a safe escape.

The Canadiens moved to the Jubilee Rink, and the NHL held an emergency meeting the next day. Suffering player losses due to injury and unable to ice a team, the Wanderers defaulted on January 5 when they failed to arrive for a scheduled game in Toronto. The league then terminated the club outright. Lichtenhein was no longer a sports mogul.

Samuel E. Lichtenhein remained largely out of public view after this point. His only child, a son, predeceased him, and Lichtenhein passed away in Montréal in 1936. His final resting place is in Montréal's Mount Royal Cemetery.

The Minors Return to Montréal

Samuel Lichtenhein's Montréal Royals departed the minor league baseball scene after the 1917 season, but it would not be too long before a replacement appeared in town. The Eastern Canada League, which had previously played as an "outlaw" league, finally came under the umbrella of the National Association in 1922, forming as a Class-B minor league. A Montréal franchise took the Royals moniker, and there were two other teams in the province of Québec as well as a team in Ottawa. During the 1923 season, the franchise in Trois-Rivières moved to Montréal, with both clubs playing in the same ballparks.

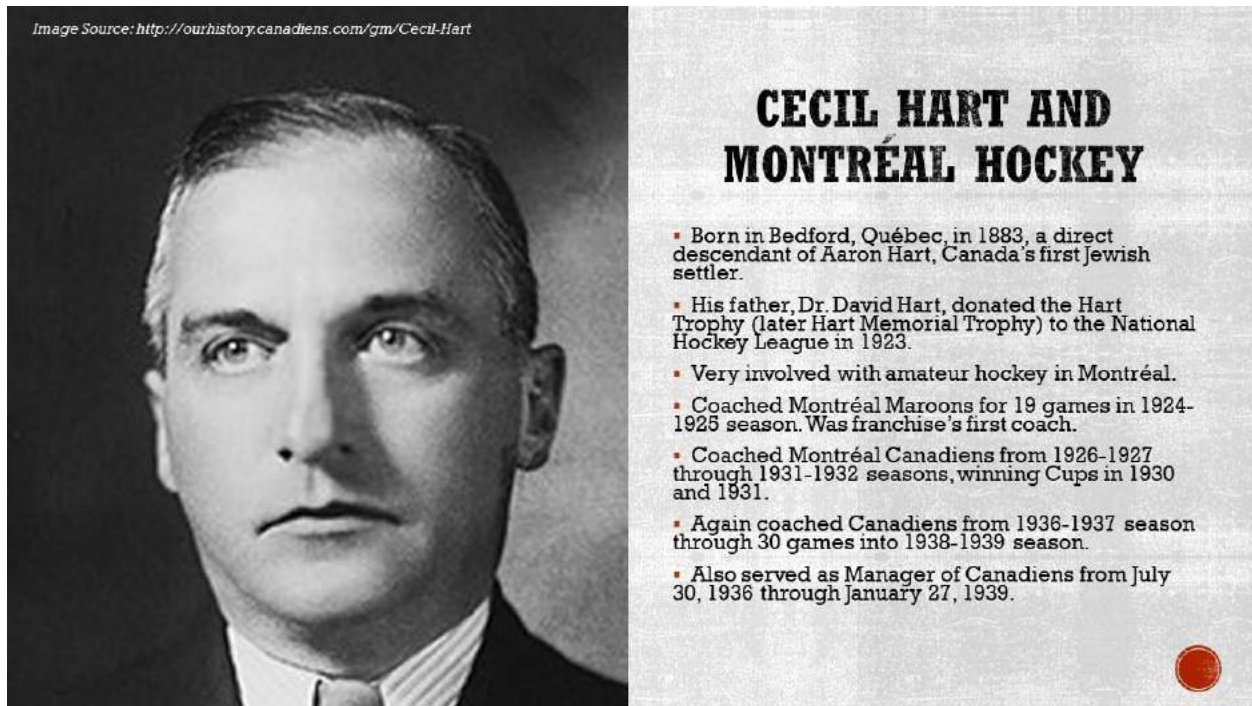
On April 6, 1924, at the Windsor Hotel in Montréal, the Québec-Ontario-Vermont League formed. Essentially, the Q-O-V League was a successor to the Eastern Canada League, and it, too, would play at the Class-B level. The league featured

franchises in Rutland and Montpelier, Vermont, as well as in Québec and Ottawa-Hull. A.O. Gadbois owned the Montréal Royals and a “syndicate of men prominent in professional sport in Montréal” combined to run the Outremont/Montréal Canadiens, the second Montréal entry.

While the Q-O-V League intended to operate again at the Class-B level in 1925, the league folded instead.

Cecil Hart and Montréal Baseball and Hockey

At that April 1924 meeting in Montréal to establish the Québec-Ontario-Vermont League, a well-known Montréal sports figure also found himself in another prominent position. Cecil Hart, who was familiar to many in the city thanks to his involvement in amateur hockey and baseball, became the league’s vice president and treasurer.



More interesting, however, is the “syndicate of men prominent in professional sport in Montréal” created to run the Canadiens baseball club. The hint is in the team’s name: Canadiens.

Owners of Montréal's hockey-playing Canadiens since 1921, Léo Dandurand, Joseph Cattarinich, and Louis A. Létourneau were members of the syndicate. As did the Royals, the Canadiens baseball club played the bulk of its games at Atwater Park on Rue Sainte-Catherine. Also, just as the Royals did, they played Sunday games at the Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds.

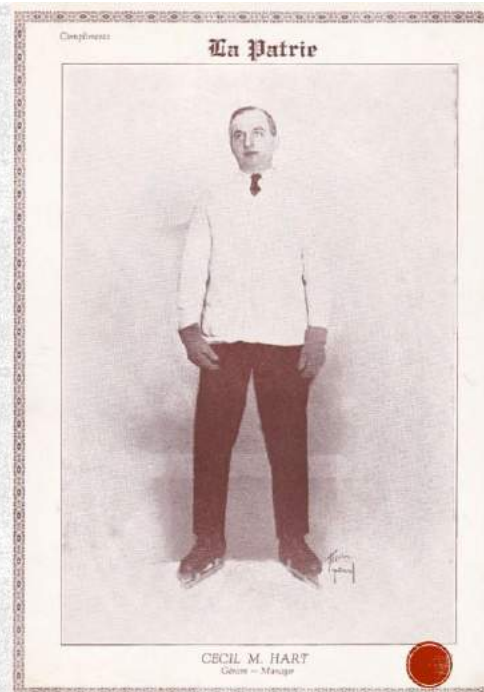
Though the Q-O-V League could not afford to compete again in 1925 despite intentions to do so, if it had, there likely would have been one Montréal club in the circuit. Following the 1924 season, Royals owner A.O. Gadbois ceded his club's territorial rights in Montréal to the Canadiens club.

Cecil Hart made his name in Montréal baseball circles, but his surname holds far more history in Canada, as he is a direct descendant of Aaron Hart, Canada's first Jewish settler. Born in 1883 in Bedford, Québec, Cecil joined the Star Amateur Athletic Association, one of many prominent sports organizations in the city and served as its secretary-treasurer and manager. The Star A.A.A.'s officers included individuals such as Arthur H. Ross, Esq., as honorary president and P.J. Doran, Esq., as honorary vice president. Bear in mind the hockey connections here – Doran owned the Jubilee Rink and the Montréal Wanderers while Ross played for the Wanderers.

CECIL HART AND MONTREAL BASEBALL

- Member of the Star Amateur Athletic Association and served as its Secretary-Treasurer and Manager.
- Star A.A.A.'s officers included Arthur H. Ross, Esq., as Honorary President and P.J. Doran, Esq., as Honorary Vice President.
- Also involved with baseball team from Short & Trower, Ltd., real estate and insurance firm, as the club's Secretary-Treasurer.
- Paths crossed with Sam Lichtenhein on July 10, 1914, as the Wanderers hockey club played the Stars at Atwater Park. It was a match to benefit Western Hospital.

Image Source: http://hockeygods.com/images/14913-Cecil_M_Hart_1928-La_Patrie_Photo_No_18



Hart also was a secretary-treasurer for the baseball club from real estate and insurance firm Short & Trower, Limited. But it was his role with the Star A.A.A. baseball team that would allow Hart to cross paths with Samuel Lichtenhein on July 10, 1914. On that date, at Atwater Park, Lichtenhein's Wanderers hockey club took the field to challenge Hart's Star club in a match to benefit Western Hospital.

WANDERERS									
	AB	R	H	FO	A	E			
Russell, 2b.	5	1	1	1	2	0			
Lichtenhein, c.f.	3	1	0	0	1	0			
Rice, ss. and p.	5	0	1	2	1	0			
S. Cleghorn, c.	4	0	2	1	2	0			
Ross, 1b.	5	0	0	0	0	0			
O. Cleghorn, p. & 2b.	4	0	1	1	2	2			
Boon, r.f. and 2b.	2	2	1	2	1	0			
Boyes, 1f. and 2b.	4	1	2	0	1	1			
Rowdoin, 2b and ss.	4	0	1	0	2	0			
Totals	36	5	9	27	11	4			
STARS									
	AB	R	H	FO	A	E			
Abraham, 2b. & r.f.	3	0	0	1	4	0			
Duplessis, c. and ss.	4	1	1	3	0	0			
Carver, 1b.	3	1	0	1	0	0			
P. Rowdoin, c.f. & r.f.	4	0	1	1	0	0			
L. Dandurand, 1b.	4	0	1	0	3	1			
Deschenes, 1f.	3	1	1	0	0	0			
Lorcan, r.f. ss. 2b.	2	0	0	2	0	0			
Levine, c.f.	2	0	0	2	1	0			
H. Dandurand, c.	1	0	0	0	0	0			
Hart, p. 1f.	3	0	1	2	2	0			
Totals	29	3	5	27	12	1			
Score by Innings--									
Wanderers	1	0	6	2	0	1	0	0	1
Stars	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Summary--Two base hits, Boon, Duplessis and P. Rowdoin. Stolen bases, Lichtenhein, S. Cleghorn, R. Ross, A. Boyce, P. Rowdoin 2. Double plays, Russell to Ross, Boon to Ross, Levine to Abraham to Duplessis. Left on bases, Wanderers 3, Stars 2. Bases on balls, off O. Cleghorn 3, off Hart 2, off Deschenes 2. Struck out, by O. Cleghorn 3, by Hart 1, by Deschenes 4, by Rice 1. Hit by pitcher, by Deschenes, Boon. Wild pitches, O. Cleghorn, Hart, Deschenes. Time of game, 1.35. Umpires, Ferguson and Miller.									

Image Source: The Gazette, July 11, 1914.

JULY 10, 1914 – WANDERERS AT STARS

- Wanderers finished next to last in NHA in 1913-1914 season, but defeated Stars, 5-3, at Atwater Park.
- Sam Lichtenhein played center field for Wanderers, scored a run and stole a base.
- The Cleghorn brothers, Sprague & Odie, formed battery for the Wanderers.
- Cecil Hart pitched and played left field for the Stars.
- Léo Dandurand played third base for the Stars.
- According to *The Gazette*, Lichtenhein “created a favorable impression by stealing a base, and also by gracefully avoiding being hit by a couple of fly balls.”

While the Wanderers finished in next to last place in the National Hockey Association during the 1913-1914 season, they proved more capable on the baseball field, capturing a 5-3 victory against Hart's Star club.

Lichtenhein, whose baseball playing history is unclear, played center field for the Wanderers. The recap in *The Gazette* noted Lichtenhein “created a favorable impression by stealing a base, and also by gracefully avoiding being hit by a couple of fly balls.” He also scored a run and recorded an assist in the Wanderers' victory.

The Wanderers' star brother pair, Sprague and Odie Cleghorn formed the battery at catcher and pitcher, respectively. For the Star club, Cecil Hart pitched and played left field while Léo Dandurand manned the hot corner.

It is likely Hart rose to his lofty positions within the Q-O-V League thanks not only to his connections in amateur baseball throughout Montréal, but also due to his membership on the Montréal hockey Canadiens' temporary board of directors, starting in November 1921. Named to the Canadiens' board after the George Kennedy estate sold the team to Dandurand, Cattarinich, and Létourneau, Hart had an inside look at running a professional hockey team, a skill he would hone over the coming years. His interest in and impact on the NHL was such that Hart's father, Dr. David Hart, donated the Hart Trophy (later called the Hart Memorial Trophy) to the league in 1923. The trophy is awarded each year to the "player judged most valuable to his team"; Ottawa's Frank Nighbor was the first recipient in 1924.


In the fall of 1924, not only was there a new arena in town, the Montréal Forum, but also a new team skating on its ice. Joining the Montréal Canadiens was a new entry in the NHL, the Montréal Maroons, whose president was James Strachan, once the owner of the long-gone Wanderers. Strachan hired Cecil Hart to be the Maroons' first manager. Predictably for an expansion team, the on-ice results were poor, and Hart departed.

Hart did not have to go far for his next job, joining the Canadiens as coach in 1926. He would lead the team to Stanley Cups in 1930 and 1931 but was fired by owner Léo Dandurand in 1932. Hart rejoined the team in 1936 as coach and general manager, thanks to new owner J.-Ernest Savard. He stepped down from his positions 30 games into the 1938-1939 season following mostly average play from his Canadiens. Hart would not return to the National Hockey League, passing away on July 1, 1940.

The Royals Return (Again) & Montréal Hockey Tumult

Cecil Hart's Québec-Ontario-Vermont League was short-lived, but Montréal would not remain baseball-less for long. The International League's Jersey City franchise was on the market, and twenty years after he facilitated the sale of the Royals from Frank Farrell to a local ownership group, George Stallings would find himself involved in another transaction.

In 1928, Stallings, along with J.-Ernest Savard and Louis-Athanase David among others, revived the Royals by purchasing Jersey City's franchise for about



1928: MONTRÉAL ROYALS RETURN

- J.-Ernest Savard, L.-Athanase David, and George Stallings bring Montréal back into the International League by reviving the Royals in 1928.
- The group bought the Jersey City franchise for about \$225,000. Jersey City's former owners purchased Syracuse and moved the club south.
- The ownership group also decided to build Stade De Lorimier, which held over 20,000 fans.
- Among the other financiers: Charles-Émile Trudeau, father and grandfather of future Canadian Prime Ministers and himself one of the Royals' largest shareholders and officer on the Board of Directors.

Image Source: N.M. Hinshelwood, Musée McCord, MP-1985.31.187.

\$225,000. In turn Jersey City's former owners bought the Syracuse franchise and moved it south. Among the new Montréal club's other financiers was Joseph Charles-Émile Trudeau. Trudeau – the father and grandfather of future Canadian prime ministers – was one of the Royals' largest shareholders and became an officer on the team's board of directors. Trudeau was the club's vice president in 1935 when he passed away in Florida while attending Royals spring training.

Team in hand, there were questions as to where the team would play. Atwater Park was not aging particularly well and was undersized for teams in the highest level of the minor leagues. The ownership group, known as the Montréal Baseball Club, Inc., decided a plot of land at the corner of Rue Ontario and Avenue De Lorimier, would be suitable for building a modern ballpark capable of holding over 20,000 fans. They created a separate company, the Montréal Exhibition Company, which would own the ballpark. Named after the thoroughfare that created one of its borders, Stade De Lorimier became not only the home of the Montréal Royals but also a place to see some of the greatest ballplayers of the 20th century.

The Royals' return was due in large part to Savard and David, two prominent Montréalers who later found themselves in hockey circles, as well.

Louis-Athanase David was already a prominent citizen of Montréal well before he became involved with the city's sports teams. Born in the city in 1882 and the son of Laurent-Olivier David, a journalist, lawyer, and provincial and federal politician, Louis-Athanase David would follow some of his father's footsteps.

TWO OF MONTRÉAL'S MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN BASEBALL AND HOCKEY

J.-Ernest Savard



Louis-Athanase David



The younger David received his law degree from the Université de Laval and became a partner in the law firm of Elliott & David. Also interested in politics, he



LOUIS-ATHANASE DAVID

- A lawyer and partner in the law firm of Elliott & David.
- Joined the Liberal Party and served as the member from the Terrebonne riding in the Legislative Assembly of Québec from 1916 to 1936 and again from 1939 to 1940.
- Part of the group which purchased the Jersey City International League franchise and transferred it to Montréal for the 1928 season.
- Also served as the President of the Montréal Canadiens from 1921 to 1935, when franchise was sold to Canadian Arena Company group.
- Appointed a Senator in Canadian Parliament in 1940 and served until his death in 1953.



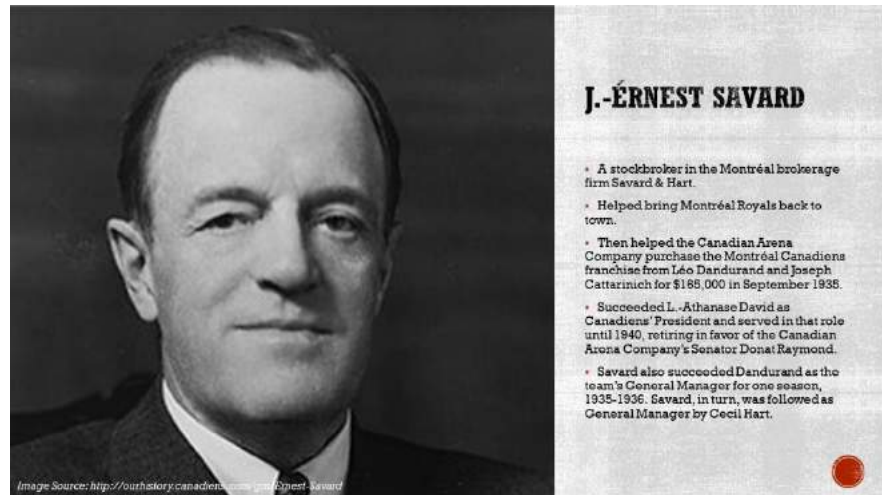
became a member of the Liberal party and in 1916 was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Québec, where he would serve for twenty years and then again from 1939 to 1940.

When Léo Dandurand, Joseph Cattarinich, and Louis Létourneau purchased the Montréal Canadiens from the Kennedy estate in

1921, David joined Hart on the hockey club's board of directors, serving as President of the Canadiens from 1921 to 1935, at which point the team was sold to the Canadian Arena Company. Another of the Canadiens' directors, Hector Racine, later became a leading figure with the Royals in his own right.

David joined Savard and Stallings to purchase the Royals and build Stade De Lorimier in 1928. In 1940, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King appointed David to the Senate of Canada, where David remained until his death in 1953. David's son, Dr. Paul David, later served as a federal senator from 1985 to 1994 as a member of the Progressive Conservative party.

J.-Ernest Savard was a stockbroker in the city's Savard & Hart brokerage firm. Co-owner of the Montréal Royals, Savard was familiar with the city's professional sports scene. It became apparent that both NHL clubs, the Canadiens and the Maroons, were struggling financially – as were many other individuals and businesses – by the mid-1930s under the grips of the Great Depression. The Canadian Arena Company owned not only the Montréal Forum but also the Maroons.



In 1931, Canadiens owners Dandurand and Cattarinich purchased the shares of Létourneau, their partner of ten years. Dandurand then let Cecil Hart go after several years of being the team's coach and general manager. Accustomed to success, both on and off the ice, the team's debt steadily grew, and rumors of a sale dogged Dandurand and Cattarinich.

By September 1935 they capitulated and sold the team for about \$165,000 to a group led by Savard, Maurice Forget and Louis G  linas. Eventually, it came to light that the three were essentially cover for the Canadian Arena Company, which was

the actual new owner of the Canadiens. Savard took over for David as the team president and installed himself as general manager.

The 1935-1936 season was a dismal campaign for the Canadiens, their worst in 10 years, as they missed the playoffs. Savard then hired Cecil Hart as coach and general manager, and he turned the team around in 1936, finishing the regular season atop the standings though failing to win the Stanley Cup. As the team again fell in the standings, Hart would step down from his dual roles.

The Montréal Maroons folded after the 1937-1938 season as it gradually became known that the Canadian Arena Company owned and operated both teams. Stanley Cup champions in 1935, the Maroons' fortunes dissipated as the 1930s wore on, and the city – and the Canadian Arena Company – could no longer support both teams. Determining that the Canadiens had better marketability, the death knell tolled for the Maroons.

Savard remained the Canadiens' president into 1940, when the Canadian Arena Company's Donat Raymond took over. That year, in addition to losing his leadership role with the hockey team, Savard also lost his ballclub. The Brooklyn Dodgers, who had entered into an affiliation agreement with the Montréal Royals in 1939, purchased the club from Savard and his associates.

A Royal Farewell

The Canadiens were knocking on the basement door of the National Hockey League standings by 1941, when a Montréal native joined the club's blue line. Émile "Butch" Bouchard began a 15-year career with the Canadiens and quickly made an impact as a physical but clean-playing defenseman. Bouchard spent his final eight seasons as the Habs' captain and won four Stanley Cups during his tenure in the *bleu, blanc, et rouge*.

Bouchard was popular for his on-ice accomplishments, and his popularity extended into the business world. He owned Chez Émile Bouchard, a well-known Montréal restaurant which fell victim to a March 1953 fire.

After his retirement in May 1956, Bouchard joined the Montréal Royals' board of directors, now led by Buzzie Bavasi, who assumed the club's presidency following

FROM DEFENSEMAN TO PRESIDENT: ÉMILE “BUTCH” BOUCHARD

- 15-year career with the Montréal Canadiens (1941-1942 through 1955-1956). Spent eight seasons as captain.
- Member of four Stanley Cup championship teams.
- Honoured member of the Hockey Hall of Fame (1966).
- Also served as a restaurateur.
- Son, Pierre, was a defenseman for Canadiens for eight seasons, winning five Stanley Cups.
- Joined Royals' board of directors in May 1956, following hockey retirement.
- Succeeded Buzz Bavasi as Royals' President in January 1957. Bavasi took over following death of Hector Racine in previous year.
- Expressed interest in purchasing Royals from the Dodgers, but his offer was rebuffed.
- Royals suffered from weak attendance during his tenure, which ended in 1960.

Image Source: <http://ourhistory.canadiens.com/player/Emile-Bouchard>



the death of Hector Racine three months earlier. When Bavasi stepped down in 1957, Bouchard succeeded him, remaining team president until the last incarnation of the Royals left town after the 1960 season.

The Royals were the Dodgers' top farm club, one of their Triple-A affiliates along with the American Association's St. Paul Saints. When the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles after the 1957 season, it left the major league club's primary affiliate on the other side of North America. Though the Royals defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1958 to win the International League's Governors' Cup – before falling to the rival San Francisco Giants' affiliate Minneapolis Millers in the Junior World Series – attendance weakened, and the Dodgers were getting eager to pull out.

A chain of events ultimately led to the vacating of the Montréal market. In September 1960, Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley announced the team was severing ties with the Royals. O'Malley rebuffed offers from Bouchard to purchase the team from the Dodgers. That same year, Calvin Griffith, owner of the Washington Senators, desired to move his club to the Minneapolis-St. Paul market after the major leagues chose to grant an expansion franchise to Minneapolis. Granted permission to do so, Griffith transferred the Senators to the Twin Cities while the nation's capital received the expansion team, also to be known as the Senators, meant for Minneapolis.

With the rechristened Minnesota Twins in place in Minneapolis-St. Paul, the Dodgers lost the market for their second-highest Triple-A affiliate, the Saints, leaving Los Angeles only its Pacific Coast League affiliate in Spokane, Washington. While the Dodgers would soon affiliate with Omaha in the Triple-A American Association, the Twins would take over the affiliation with Montréal. However, Griffith did not purchase the minor league club and efforts to come up with local ownership failed. The franchise then relocated to Syracuse, Stade De Lorimier was torn down in 1965, and Montréal would have to wait a few years until the major leagues came calling.

No longer the president of the Royals, Bouchard remained active in public life. In 1966, Bouchard was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame. He later saw his son Pierre join the Canadiens on defense in the 1970s, winning five Stanley Cups in eight seasons in Montréal before finishing his career with Washington. In December 2009, the Canadiens retired number 3, Émile Bouchard's sweater number. Just over two years later, on April 14, 2012, Bouchard passed away.

Legacy

Many today know Montréal's baseball history through the 36 seasons the Montréal Expos spent in Québec. Numerous others know the Montréal Royals for their years as part of the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers organization, including Jackie Robinson's barrier-breaking 1946 season with the International League team. In hockey, the Montréal Canadiens are as revered as ever, even though the franchise has struggled at times since it last won a Stanley Cup in 1993. As time passes, it continues to relegate the Montréal Wanderers and Maroons to the sometimes-dusty annals of history.

Twenty-first century denizens may recognize the names and faces of those who plied their trade on the ballfields and ice sheets of bygone stadia and arenas, but often those who sat in the boardroom may become footnotes in time.

Many individuals had relationships in both baseball and hockey in Montréal, some more prominently and successful than others. Each one paved the way for others to follow, building upon the successes and attempting to recover from the

failures. Their legacies live on through those who continue to support Montréal baseball and hockey today and those who will display that support in the future.

Matt Rothenberg
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