

## **Chapter 8**

### **An Interview with Donnie Craggs**

Bernie: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 interview with Donnie Craggs at house in Whitby.

Larry: Okay, Don, I've got so much to ask you. Don, when was the first time you ever picked up a lacrosse stick? Do you remember?

Don: The CRA, the community centre in Oshawa was on John Street. A guy there by the name of Wes Ogden, who was the sports director, and he took a half dozen lacrosse sticks around Story Park, which was where I lived, Bathe Park, Connaught Park and Harmony Park. That's the first time we've ever heard of lacrosse, anybody.

Larry: So you never ever seen a senior game before that.

Don: No and after that was after I started playing for Brooklin we seen one in Hamilton with the Hamilton club and one in Peterborough. That's the first time we ever seen a lacrosse game.

Larry: This CRA you don't know when they started lacrosse in Oshawa?

Don: It had to be '48. I was going through some of these this morning and it was '48, '49 and '50 that we won championships.

Larry: And before '48 there was no minor lacrosse in Oshawa?

Don: Nothing. Not in Oshawa. Never even heard of it.

Larry: In the 40's and 30's they had senior b and intermediate b in Oshawa used to play against Brooklin. I have some of the results from back then. It's just funny. Did you get the Oshawa Times back then when you were a kid and read that?

Don: No not really. It was '33 that I was born.

Larry: So when you picked up lacrosse you didn't care about the history?

Don: We didn't even know what it was. I've got a picture of our team that played in Store Park.

Larry: Here in 1940 Brooklin and Oshawa each had teams in the 40's. That would be intermediate.

Don: I know there was teams because I have a picture, my wife has a picture, of her Dad playing for some college well he's got a college uniform on but that was field lacrosse. I have another picture and they said it was Brooklin in 1923 and that was field lacrosse.

Larry: That's even before Lewis and Luther. Lewis and Luther started in 1932. That was the first year for box. The Southern Ontario League and old Roy Fleming, who's still alive, played for

Harmony and Luther, Lewis and a guy Sailor Luke who played for the Brooklin team.

Don: I've heard of his name and Degray.

Larry: Kelly Degray in Oshawa just got inducted into the Hall of Fame. He also played in the pro league in 1931. He played professional. They had a league for two years. There were teams from Toronto Maple Leafs, Montreal Canadians, Montreal Maroons and Cornwall Colts. In 1931 they started. They were called the International Professional Lacrosse League. Kelly Degray played for Cornwall that year. Oshawa had a Senior A team in 1936. He played on that team. It was General Motors sponsored but that team they lost all 28 games.

Don: The one I heard about they won the championship here.

Larry: That was in 1929, field.

Don: The Brooklin Arena was when the Viponds started. They built the arena with the dirt floor. I played in that one with the dirt floor.

Larry: It was in the 60's when they changed over. That arena started in 1949, the one out there. They used wood from the Ajax factory where they made bombs and that and they used that wood to build the arena out there. The Brooklin Memorial Arena then it opened up January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1949 for the hockey season.

Don: That's good to know. That was just two years before I started playing out there. Still a dirt floor. I've got pictures of the dirt floor, playing on it.

Larry: Okay. I've covered that question pretty well, that they started in 1948. You believe that minor system started. You don't know when that league folded, the CRA?

Don: The same year. It was '49, '50, '51. Jim Brady in 1954 was the head of the CRA so it went at least till '54. Now remember there were two Jim Brady's. 1954, the one you're thinking about was too young. There used to be a Jim Brady; that could have been his Dad.

Larry: Oh really?

Don: The Jim Brady was on council if I wasn't mistaken.

Larry: He was with the Gaels in the early 60's. That's our Jim Brady.

Don: See I'm older than Jim Brady and the CRA. I was 16. I'm 78 and played against Jim Brady in the Over-The-Hill league and he's younger than I am. So I say there's two Jim Brady's.

Larry: I put this recording on my site and then I use this and transcribe it as a chapter of my book. So far I've got Mike, Got Lewis Vipond, and I've got Bob Hanna. I want to get Elmer and I want to get Sully and Bob Vesey and if I can, somehow, get hold of Gord Cook and Hughie Ormiston and I thought of another guy from 1952. I believe he's still alive is Allan Mackey. Do you know if he's still alive?

Don: I haven't heard of him since the second year we played and we went to Akwesasne. We went there every year for two or three years. We'd play the Indians on the week-ends and he got hit in the eye. He worked for a bank, TD or something in Brooklin at the time. When he came back they said no more lacrosse. Take your pick and he never played again.

Larry: Mike might know about him or Sully.

Don: He must be. Well, Gord Cook is 90 and Hugh Ormiston is 89. I never see Al at a game or nothing.

Larry: Would he be as old as those guys?

Don: He'd be between me and them because he was older than me. He was like Cook, Ormiston, the Richardsons. You got him?

Larry: Yep, Rocket Richardson.

Don: And the Mitchells?

Larry: But you were only 16 when you played?

Don: Bud Christie.

Larry: Was there anybody relatively young on that team or were you the only one?

Don: Stan Wilson. He'd be in that same age group. Doug Jackson, Don Patterson, Doug Vipond too.

Okay, Ken's dead. Bruce Mackey is still alive. He's retired.

Larry: So there's a lot more still alive than we thought. There's you, Gord Cook, Hugh Ormiston, Allan Mackey, Bruce Mackey. Ross Lowe the old hockey player?

Don: I believe he's dead. Was in a car accident.

Larry: What about Bud Wilson. Is that Stan Wilson? He only played three games?

Don: Probably. It could be Stan "Red" Wilson. Ron Elliott's dead. Doug Jackson dead.

Larry: I got Bruce Mitchell, Keith Rutkin, Art Bradley, Keith Sutherland.

Don: Art Bradley, dead.

Larry: Ken Greer.

Don: He's dead.

Larry: Doug Vipond. He's still alive. Here's one. Do you remember this guy, Harvey Snyder?

Don: Yep.

Larry: He murdered his wife, didn't he?

Don: That's right. He was a friend of mine.

Larry: Mike remembers his picture in the Toronto Star. He had the Brooklin crest on his jacket and he got caught. Would he be alive now?

Don: He might. He was about my age. That's when we went to Hamilton to see the lacrosse game. He got me a date and we went out and then a couple of days later we'd heard he'd killed his wife.

Larry: Why?

Don: She was running around with the priest, in the Church.

Larry: Well that's a pretty good reason. He should have killed the priest too.

Don: That's what I told him. Keep the old lady and get rid of the priest.

Larry: So what did he end up doing, serving about 20 years?

Don: He got 10 I think but we never saw him again. He never comes around. I think he wrote me a letter once and I wrote him back and that ended that.

Larry: When you won in '52, did you know that in the playoffs you, Gord Cook and Hugh Ormiston all had over 20 goals, just in the playoffs. Were you all on one line, the three of you?

Don: There were no set lines, we never had enough players. We went to Orillia one night and only had seven players. A lot of the guys were farmers. Cook was a long truck driver for cattle so he was away on the week-ends so through the week he never really had time or wouldn't be home maybe. Same as some of the other guys were farmers.

Larry: You won the Intermediate C championship that year. That was the first year in Durham that anybody had ever won anything in lacrosse since 1929 when the Oshawa team won the Mann Cup as that was probably a pretty big deal back then. Did they have fire trucks out?

Don: Not really. Saturday night was lacrosse night in Brooklin. Fair night was the big night 'cause we had the arena. The fair was the first Saturday in June. The place was packed. We had good crowds after that, every Saturday night because the farmers were finished their work. Where do you go on a Saturday night? You'd go back to the Legion after, just like we always did.

Larry: In the Championship you beat Ohsweken two games total goal series, 14-6. You were playing in October, October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup>. You beat them by one goal in that game. 52 you guys won. 1953, Lewis had said you won some trophy every year. Do you remember in 1953 if you won anything?

Don: I'd have to go through here. That's what I say, there are pictures from then. I kept them. Whether there's a date.

Larry: If I had some of the names of the players. Okay so I've only got six games for you.

Don: What year is that, '53? Art Bradley, Eric Branton, this is 53. Allan Kivell, Bruce Mitchell, Jerry Ravary, Robbie Robinson, Gord Cook, Bud Christi.

Larry: Tru Olmstead played on that team. Doug Vipond played just two games.

Don: Jerry. He's dead now too. Al Mackey, Hugh Ormiston, Don Jackson, Doug Vipond, Bruce Mackey, Don Peterson, Stan Wilson and Ron Elliott.

Larry: Do you remember a guy by the last name of Morton on that team?

Don: Not on that team. This is the 1953 write-up.

Larry: Well he only played five games so.

Don: Oh well (whistles)

Larry: Some guy named Lay. Got him down for seven games. Davies. He only played one game and McCool, only played one game. Remember a guy named Frenchy Deschamps?

Don: Yep, that's him right there. He played. I don't know for how long but he went to Hamilton and started a catering service.

Larry: '53, I don't have too much. I have the Intermediate B semi-finals. It looks like you beat Bradford out. Do you know if you went any further than that?

Don: I have no idea.

Larry: So hard because the paper, and in '54 I picked up 14 goals for you' but I don't know...

Don: It doesn't say if we won anything here. I doubt it. One of these books.

Larry: Oh they might have a list of what you did.

Don: I was going through them to see who I knew. Mitchell, Mackey, A. Light, McCool.

Larry: Do you know his first name?

Don: It says K. J. Heron. Oh my brother played in '54.

Larry: I don't have any stats hardly. Oh that's only for one game. Eh? It would be nice if there was something on back of these that would say what years you won, whether it was intermediate B or C. '55 I've got league standings, top scorers. I've got you down for 18 goals and three assists. You're in the top 10 but that was as of July 14<sup>th</sup>. Oh you were in Whitby in '55.

Don: In '55, '56 and '57.

Larry: '55, you've got a lot of summaries, playoff round robin. Whitby playoff semi-finals. Huntsville must have beat you out. It looks like Huntsville beat you out in Intermediate B.

Don: '53. August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1953 we beat out Bradford. Wonder if it says were we are going after that?

Larry: Yeah, I got you beating out Bradford 9-4 was the score of the last game. I got August 29<sup>th</sup>. These were nice summaries. I wonder if I got that summary. What year is that summary?

Don: It had to be in '53. Shorthanded. Oh Merchants that would be Whitby.

Larry: See that summary there. Right there, this one here. That's Whitby and it's regular season '53 or '54. It must be '54. What's the score say at the top? I'm just wondering if that one I think I'm missing that that one.

Don: Ok 1950 Storie Park Tigers. I couldn't remember what we were called.

Larry: You played two years in that league. You played two years '50 and '51 in that league.

Don: I played in '49 too.

Larry: You've got some summaries there that I want.

Don: For the Merchants?

Larry: Yeah, that's what I want to get. I might be missing some of them.

Don: Yeah, cause there's always summaries at the bottom. See all these empty pages. I had all the write-ups and I went through them one day and wanted to put Over The Hill and took them all out and got rid of them.

Larry: You played in that league, didn't you? After a bit.

Don: I started that league.

Larry: When I was at Winter Works with Bob Gibbs there was a guy Ken Dehart and him and I were organizing to get that league started and the Suppelsa's playing and that goalie Rosebush and I played in it and I was a wee little guy.

Don: We started in Whitby at the old arena.

Larry: We did in Brooklin probably before you guys. Cause you were still playing.

Don: They weren't the Over the Hill Gang until they went to Brooklin. We had two or three years in the old arena here by the liquor store.

Larry: Maybe you guys started in Whitby and then it started again in Brooklin cause I was in Winter Works I'd be about 22 so it would be 1970 that we started in.

Don: We were there before that.

Larry: So you started it probably in the 60's in Whitby and we came along and maybe there wasn't a league then but the Suppelsa's played as they're the same age as me, one year younger.

Don: I've got all these pictures when they started taking pictures of the teams. You probably know most of the guys. Ravary...

Larry: Even that's 40 years. Jimmy Demille. I remember him. ... Another guy, I won't mention his name I knew a girl from Yellowknife whose sister went to school with him and I dug up all this information on him. One time he had his Mom's car and he locked the keys in the car, he had a bottle of whiskey in the front seat as he couldn't get it out and he couldn't let his parents know so he smashed the window in the car and he got the whiskey out. And another time he was driving a fork lift and he put it through a wall. And I had all the information on the bottom of his player profile you know how a guy was 10<sup>th</sup> in scoring. Well I had all the information about his high school sweetheart, Kitty, what's her name and I got it all from the friend of mine Deb.

Don: There's a lot of guys. Mark Watson, Mike Watson. I can't even remember all their names. My brother played in it for awhile.

Larry: Don Stinson's wife brought over his big scrapbook but it wasn't organized and he died.

Don: How old was he?

Larry: My age. His last year of Junior was '69 so he would have been 21 in '69. In 1955, '56 and '57 you moved to Whitby to play your intermediate lacrosse. In 1957 you led the league in scoring with 63 goals. Was there any other year that you also won a scoring title, do you remember?

Don: '53.

Larry: '53 and '57?

Don: I only played for Whitby for three years.

Larry: But you won the scoring title one of those years.

Don: And they said I didn't in '54. They took it away from me, said it was a tie because they had put Rusty's stats with mine. We didn't fight it, what the hell, who cared. I was in it for the fun.

Larry: But it's nice to look back and have stuff.

Don: Oh I sat there for two hours yesterday just going through this stuff remembering the guys, the times and that.

Larry: What do you think was your most fun year you had playing?

Don: 1968.

Larry: Because you won the Mann Cup?

Don: No, because we took a team from Over the Hill. Campbell, Harris, Doug Vipond. Paul Tran came back. Jerry Burrows came back. Cause we could have gone pro, Mike Gray. We got four guys and went from these. Picked our team. Spike Howe and Sandy Doberstein. When we went to our first game we never had a goaltender. Mike Gray was going to go in. When we got there Spike Howe and Sandy Doberstein were there. Bob Vesey had signed them and from there we went to the Mann Cup and won it.

Larry: '68 was that the year Peterborough moved to Hastings? There was a pro league. Didn't they play a few games in Belleville 'cause Mike Gray did play one game in goal.

Don: Spike Howe got a punctured lung and we were playing at home. Well he got hit, got knocked down. That's the night I got my lip cut right through on the last play of the second period. Spike got hurt just before that and so Mike Gray went in. I was supposed to go to the hospital but seeing Spike got hurt we couldn't. Screw that. Spike wanted to keep on playing and I said "I don't think so". We had a doctor used to live up the street from the arena and he went there. Not the whole game, he played at least half. Then we got the junior A kid from Peterborough to come in to play the next series. Then the OLA wouldn't let us keep him so we had to go with Joe Tomchyshyn from Port Credit. They told us we had to use this guy and we paid him \$100 per game and he won the Mike Kelly Award. He won that. Oh, I was pissed off. Nobody else got paid. That was the whole thing. Nobody asked for gas mileage. Nobody asked for nothing.

Larry: In '68 where did they play the Mann Cup? Was that in Whitby?

Don: No Oshawa, in the Oshawa Arena. Brooklin wasn't big enough. They figured they were going to get the Green Gael fans. Fill up the arena in Brooklin at least it would be full. People said, screw it, we're going to Oshawa.

Larry: I know I jump around a lot here but I'm going to go back to 1958 and you played for Mimico.

Don: Yep, one game.

Larry: I think I got you down for more than that.

Don: Nope, one game.

Larry: Well I'm going to show you. You don't even remember.

Don: Yes, I remember that because they offered us \$10 per game.

Larry: Well then someone was playing under your name then.

Don: Ken Greer.

Larry: Ken Greer was playing under your name?

Don: No, No, not Greer. The guy who owned the team. He owned the Mimico Mountaineers for years. His son played. Said oh yeah, I'm coming to Brooklin. I'm coming to Brooklin. Then he went to Toronto.

Larry: Got it in here somewhere. I've got you down like nine goals in six games. So you don't want to...

Don: He phoned us and asked us if Jerry Ravary and I could go up because they were short guys and we played against Brampton that night.

Larry: '49, '50, '56 Intermediate. They've been using your name. Bob Hanna played and a lot of guys you look on there and they have you down for six games.

Don: Kenny Lotton, Tomchyshyn.

Larry: You weren't drinking back then were you?

Don: Yah, I drank but not that much.

Larry: Don't miss a year.

Don: Kapasky, yeah, Dicks, yeah, Davidson, Tom Green.

Larry: Now the memory is returning.

Don: Jerry Ravary. They only have him down for three games. Unless he went when I didn't know but I didn't play six games there.

Larry: Take 'em, you want the goals.

Don: I played the game for the fun of it. And Vipond.

Larry: I think he played one game.

Don: Bill Short.

Larry: See all these came from game summaries from the old Toronto Globe and Mail. The Globe had pretty good summaries especially in the 40's and 30's and that's how I recreated all that stuff and some years were better than others.

Don: What year was that?

Larry: '59. Cause I don't have you playing for Brooklin that year or Whitby.

Don: I was playing for Heron Park.

Larry: What was that Over the Hill?

Don: No that was senior. Heron Park. This side of Toronto. Scarborough, West Hill. Jack "Red" Crawford, Johnny Bond.

Larry: Scarborough Maitland's?

Don: That was before but they couldn't afford the arena there. Didn't have any sponsors. So they couldn't afford the arena there. So Heron Park is just down Morningside Park with a lacrosse box. We played there one year.

Larry: 'Cause I've got Scarborough playing but I don't have any Scarborough summaries.' I've got Brooklin. This was a league in '58. They didn't call them Heron Park. It was Scarborough but I wish I could get their stats from '58.

Don: Because Red Wilson split open Jim Cherry's head. He was running by and split him wide open. I thought there was going to be a riot.

Larry: What's the biggest riot you can remember ever being involved in?

Don: Which one, oh man, there were so many. Especially in Brooklin. A team come into Brooklin and you were lucky to get out with your life. I would say probably in Orillia from the early days.

Larry: Was that when the cops had to come in? The RCMP came in?

Don: No, I wasn't playing for Brooklin then. We were playing against the Indians from Buffalo. I was playing for Whitby but we went to Orillia, that had to be the Intermediate, whichever. I had a penalty and there were three guys behind me giving me the woo-hah, I turned around and they started coming down. Next thing I seen was this Ron Elliott, who weighed 100 pounds soaking wet, went flying over the boards and we only had about seven guys that night. Luther Vipond came in and we had a riot. The refs finally got it settled down, I would say that...

Or, we played in Hagersville. There's a lacrosse box, and the fans sitting up here looking down and you go down underneath. They were spitting at us and throwing bottles but that really wasn't a riot.

Larry: Now I've got one more I'm going to bring up. It was in the Mann Cup.

Don: And I got thrown out.

Larry: And you punched the referee.

Don: Missed him.

Larry: What year was that?

Don: I think it was '67.

Larry: 'Cause the Redmen went on to the Mann Cup but didn't win it in '63, '64 and the year you got suspended for the year they missed the Mann Cup. They lost to Brampton. I didn't bring those things with me. You were suspended for a whole year. You missed the referee? Mike said you got him?

Don: No, no. The last game of the series against Brampton. I came home and had an itch in my arse.

Larry: I know, you had hemorrhoids.

Don: I had a hemorrhoid, one and it was like that (gesturing with his hands the size of it) and I went to the doctor and he said just shove it in and I said "what do you mean, just shove it in." I told him I'm playing lacrosse. We've got a championship to play. He said, "I don't think so." So that's when we played in Whitby, two games here and then went to Peterborough and then back here. No, no, that wasn't it either.

Larry: It was out West I thought.

Don: Yeah, it was.

Larry: It was Whitey Severson, or did you get kicked out more than once?

Don: No, no, just the one year.

Larry: Mike thought it was Whitey Severson and that it was played out West.

Don: Probably and it was played out West. I still had hemorrhoids and I was still playing.  
This must have been the next year.

Larry: You had them for over a year?

Don: Yeah, they wouldn't do nothing and then some guy came down and this guy ran into me and the ref gave me a penalty for interference. I got up and I had the hemorrhoid and it was bothering me. "You bastard!" and I just swung. I didn't hit him but he fell down and so they suspended me for life. So we went to Montreal and they gave me a year but the referee sent a letter and said no I did not hit him, but I swung at him so they gave me a year so was the next year so that was a mark on my career.

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- Larry: So you had some pretty good games in Brooklin though.

- Don: Oh yeah, why we left Whitby was there was rumours going around on of the Brooklin guys, come and said this guy's getting paid and this and that guy's getting paid that. We thought, nobody's getting paid. There was Ravary and myself playing at that time for them. Instead of going and asking the guy that started it here, his two sons that played. Anyway, we signed with Whitby. They were starting a new team. Art Bradley came, Jerry Ravary and myself, this other guy who shot his mouth off, so I finally found out they were full of shit. From that day on when you hear rumours you go ask. You don't just fool around. Then I found out later that they got \$75 just to sign so we never got that but we played anyway.

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- Larry: I got some other pictures, '59 and '60 there is hardly anything out there went on, I don't have any stats. Also '59 I've got a summary the Meadowcrests won. You won

Intermediate A and then you won Senior B by beating Cornwall. You played them a two game home and home series so you won the senior b championship. Was there a trophy for senior b back then? Like intermediate has the Claire Levick Trophy and senior b now they have the president's cup but back then you didn't go out West just the Ontario championship.

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- Don: We just got that one trophy. There was nothing for senior b that I know of. We never had pictures taken with it.

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- Larry: There's a picture of that team too. That's the intermediate champs. Do you remember if you won in '60? You won in intermediate A and I don't have anything about if you played Cornwall again to win in senior B.

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- Don: We went senior in '61 and that's because we had a home grown team more or less.

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- Larry: And you had a bunch of Peterborough guys because Peterborough didn't have a team. You had Pat Baker, Cy Coombes, There were four or five guys, Larry Ferguson, Ken Rutton.

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- Don: A tall, lanky guy.

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- Larry: Grant Heffernan.

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- Don: No, I think we just won Intermediate A in 1960, then the next year we went into Senior A. I was pretty lucky. Those years from '51 up we always seemed to win something. You never got a cup like senior something.

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- Larry: Back in the '50's you had your senior A. They were the big guys, then there was Senior B. Then you had groups like Intermediate A, Intermediate B, Intermediate C. So even if you were like 6<sup>th</sup> in a season you got to play for a trophy. Or a name anyway. I don't know if they had trophies or not.

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- Don: Senior B was, maybe we did play Senior B that one year.

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- Larry: You did in '59 but I can't find anything for '60.

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- Don: Might find something in here.

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- Larry: A lot of years I have to sit down and look because they will then all into one and I wasn't even around then.

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- Don: A lot of guys can remember, names and places and everything they won. I played the game for the fun of it and that was it.

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- Larry: Now you coached in '69, in '68 too?

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- Don: '69, Art Morton said he coached but he didn't. I was playing coach in both years. Cause we needed the players. There just wasn't enough players.

Larry: '69 Elmer came back and he won the scoring title. He had a really good year.

Don: They played for Detroit when they went pro. What, for two years.

Larry: One year, in '68. Elmer and Neil Armstrong had a great year, fifty-some goals. He was never even a 20 goal scorer and in '60 Neil had fifty-some goals. There was a bunch of Natives that were high up in scoring. The Squires, I used to get mixed up when the Hills changed their names to Squires or the Squires changed their names to the Hills.

Don: I know. I tried to remember cause we used to play down in Akwesasne, then Hagersville. These are all Indian teams, then Niagara Falls, then St. Catharines, then Brantford. They told us in Brantford there were two Indian tribes. One sat on this side and one sat on this side and they wouldn't talk to each other which was a load of crap. That's why I liked that '68 team. Everybody showed up for the practices, everybody showed up for the games. When we played for the Mann Cup we had to cut, well we didn't cut, we had to drop, we could drop two guys and bring in two guys from another team and I cut Chugger, well I didn't cut him, Charlie Grandy. His wife just up and down my spine and I can't blame her and Ronnie Moore. Ronnie was happy to be on the bench as a trainer but Charlie was and I can't blame him.

Larry: and who were the two you picked up?

Don: One from Brampton, Julie Kowalski. He was one of their better guys, but he was with Brampton and if you played for Brampton you were an asshole, cutting everybody up. He come for us and he was second in scoring. I think I can't remember his name and the other was... We asked for Bisson. He showed up late.

Larry: yeah, he was the top scorer in the league in '68.

Don: Yeah, he was a real idiot. At the time he played for Mississauga.

Larry: Oh yeah, they had a team. Bernie do you have any questions?

Don: Oh from Peterborough, the guy on the end.

Larry: It wouldn't be Bill Armour, or Jack Armour, the tough brother?

Larry: One thing I remember from that year with the Merchant's was Jerry Ravary when his brother passed away. He gave me a refrigerator. It was old but it worked great. Then I had it in the kitchen and it had from all over it and I thought I better clean it out and I got a hammer and a screw driver and I was hammering and all of a sudden, BANG, and all that stuff came out. Freon and it wrecked the fridge. It was perfect. I mean it was old but it worked great. And Steve McCarthy, when Twyla and I went down to Halifax a couple of years ago. It was when they had that World Championship. He gave us free tickets; Steve did to Twyla and I. Real nice tickets. I don't know what they were worth but they saved us \$40 or \$50. Got in free to the game and that was one of the best games I ever saw. Went into overtime and Jeff Zywicki scored the winning goal. That was fun down there.

Akwesasne or St. Regis folded. Peterborough picked up John Tavares, Steinhuis, Stevey Toll. They got about five really good players off that team and they've got the money that those players will play for him.

Don: Ted Higgins. He's making good money in the floor business.

Larry: They get 3,000 fans per game and charge about \$15 per game. Well maybe not that during the season. What do they charge, \$10?

Bernie: \$10-\$12.

Larry: Every game and he doesn't pay the players that big a game.

Don: Just Grant.

Larry: Well he probably pays all the players something.

Don: I heard \$35,000 one year. That was a couple of seasons ago.

Larry: Well if he's getting \$30,000 per game, \$30,000 a gate, and they play nine regular season games, that's close to \$300,000, plus the playoffs, plus if they make it to the Mann Cup.

Bernie: But he's got a lot of sponsorship money finally. Lots of sponsorship money. Teddy threw lots of money to keep it going.

Larry: He played for the Redmen back in 1961.

Don: I played with him, against him. A lot of guys. You look back and how many guys did you play with and against. Like Alliston used to have a team, Bradford used to have a team. When I worked for the railway this guy came in with the boss, an agent. We were shooting the shit one day and he says. I know you and I said I don't know you. He said yah, I'm from Bradford. I don't know anybody from Bradford. I played lacrosse up there but I don't know anybody. You used to play against me and my brother and I forgot now what his name was.

Larry: You know who else used to play on that '58 Mimico senior team? Allan Eagleston played a couple of games.

Don: That's funny how they have me down for six games.

Larry: I go through and photocopy all the summaries and then I get a pile of them and send them to Stan Shillington and he would organize it and go through each game. Now they might have been short sometimes and used your name and someone else playing.

Don: That's happened. That last year in '83 they went to Bradford and got bombed 48-10 or something and played back here on a Saturday night and three guys showed up. I signed Jay Rosebush as Jimmy DeMille and there was a kid named Applebee. No not, Tom, another kid. I had about six kids. Tim (Craggs) was playing minor and he played. I had a party going on and I phoned the wife and said "sorry I gotta stay" and I stayed. We won 15-14 with kids from midget and Jay Rosebush. Jay couldn't take his mask off because John Doherty, who was the head of the O.L.A. for awhile from Bradford. He probably knew but just didn't say anything because they folded the next Wednesday. They had to go to Peterborough and they've got five guys or something.

Bernie: So you were working for the railroad when you were playing lacrosse. Did you get time off for that?

Don: Oh yeah.

Bernie: Were you all over the place with the railroad?

Don: No, no. I worked for the Express here in Oshawa, down at the station.

Larry: CP was it?

Don: CN.

Larry: I worked for the CN.

Don: They were good to me. Let me have any time off when we went west. Oh yeah, cause it's advertising for them. I got a magazine where they sent it in. Maybe I put it in the other... There it is. Canadian National. Sent my picture in. I played for Brooklin.

Bernie: Mike Miron also worked for the railroad, works up north but has a hard time getting time off.

Don: Now, I wouldn't doubt it. Back then I had a good boss. He wasn't the whole boss. I worked mid-nights. I had a good crew under me. I'd say I was playing lacrosse and don't know if I'd be getting in till two o'clock. We're in Owen Sound. Don't worry about it.

Larry: This Messer Trophy, that's most valuable player just on the team or the whole league?

Don: No Whitby. John Messer, the jeweler. Used to be a jeweler here. Same as the Mayor of Whitby, there. Bought our sweaters one year for Brooklin.

Larry: Bobby Attersley?

Don: Shit no. Des Newman used to follow the team. He was a good head. I never met anyone in lacrosse I disliked. Gordie Thompson, maybe, but after the game. Come on in for a beer, but in the game he'd cut your head off for a dime.

Larry: The only guy I ever had any trouble with the guy up in Peterborough and he was supposed to fax the game sheets into me and I was up in Peterborough. I was watching the game. Then after I went down to the dressing room and asked the guy for the game sheet. He said no, my instructions are to fax the game sheets to Larry Power. I said well I'm Larry Power and I would just like to get it now and I can look at it and make sure I got it. He says no, no my instructions are... I remember Dave Kaplan was with me and I said "Dave, grab me I'm going to hit this guy. I was so mad. He faxed it to me. I wanted to get it so I could update the stats done as I got home.

Bernie: Another couple of questions here?

Larry: Actually, I had more questions. In 1958 you played for Mimico Senior A. You had a lot of players from senior or intermediate on that team: Bob Hanna, Bob Cherry, Don Vipond, Bill Short, Jerry Ravary, Al Eagleston. Jim Carnegie. All got to suit up for several games. What can you tell me about your games at the senior A level and some of your teammates? Well, you just told me you only played one game.

Don: I did. Okay, I knew Bob Hanna. Bill Short played for Brooklin one year and Bob Cherry.

Larry: They were playing for Brooklin senior b or intermediate and they got called up.

Don: Ravary and me. What year was that?

Larry: That was '58.

Don: We were playing for Whitby.

Larry: No, You said you were playing for Scarborough that year, 58, 58 you didn't play for Brooklin or Whitby but you said you played for some place but it was called Scarborough.

Don: Heron Park. I'm not sure what years I played for Whitby; I thought it was 56, 57 and 58.

Larry: I got it here. That one I've solved the mystery, this is the first Oshawa team ever to win the first Canadian Championship in 1878.

Don: I wouldn't doubt it you know 'cause there was a league in Oshawa. Malleable Iron. Well you saw it. Did you get that big book that Tommy Harris had (the Oshawa Times from 1929)?

Larry: Yeah I borrowed that and had it for quite awhile. The Magee's from Peterborough gave me a great big scrapbook that Mike Magee had. I borrowed that for six months. (It is now in the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame inside the Peterborough Memorial Arena). I got you for '55, '56 and '57 for Whitby. For '58 I have you for Mimico, but I don't have anything from you playing for Scarborough in 1958 (later I received the top 25 scorers for the 1958 Intermediate lacrosse league and Don finished 10<sup>th</sup> in scoring adding 47 more goals to his career record at the senior b/intermediate level).

Don: They were probably known as the Scarborough Maitlands.

Larry: I wonder if there was a newspaper back then that carried them.

Don: They probably never even had a write-up because it was just an outside park.

Larry: But those goals you gave me on one of these sheets here will bring you up to 200 intermediate goals and I've got you up to 285 senior A goals so that would be 485 regular season goal I'll have you up to. I need to find another 15.

Don: I might get my average over two.

Larry: Then we've got your playoff stuff. So I'm getting it, it's coming, but it's hard from way back.

Don: I imagine from way back. It's so inconsistent.

Larry: You're lucky, some years the Oshawa Times would have nice summaries like that almost every game and other years they never had a single summary. Lucky if you had a game report with the goals in it.

Don: Depending who was the timekeeper. Like Gerry Gray was for Brooklin and Cliff Gordon was for Whitby. He was a reporter. I know he's dead but his wife is still alive. Maybe that would be a good lead to go to his wife if you could find her and maybe he left some stuff.

Larry: Mike remembers when Gene Dopp died and his wife was out in Brooklin. She had a big dumpster throwing in all those old stat books and they're going up in flames. This would have been in the 1960's. To me they were worth their weight in gold. I put them on the computer and they take up so little room and instead of all my stats all over the place, and hopefully they'll stay there forever.

Don: What's junior 21? I was asked when I was playing for Brooklin by the Burroughs's brothers; they were referees if I would come out for Brampton juniors.

Larry: Little wee guys. I know the one that was a goalie, played for Brampton, Potsy, they call him. He's 90 something now goes to the Hall of Fame dinners and plays the bagpipes or something.

Bernie: The trumpet.

Larry: He's a comical guy, I like him.

Don: They asked Luther if I could come and play junior for them and the year was half over. We didn't have that many guys. I said I'm not interested. I was so close to 21. They won the Minto Cup that year.

Larry: Mark Watson played one year. Gil Nieuwendyk was also on his team and he outscored Gil and he only played one year.

Don: Paul Ravary and there's another kid that I can't remember his name. He should have played senior but these guys just didn't want to travel or whatever.

Larry: At the time they didn't have senior B which was a little bit less just on the week-ends.

Don: Until Lasco Steel sponsored a senior B club.

Larry: Did you play on that team?

Don: No, Rick did.

Larry: Was it '69? I hardly have anything on that either. I think Jerry Burrows did. Did he come from Oshawa? The same league that you did.

Don: Yeah, he came from Connaught Park.

Larry: I just remember him for a couple of years.

Don: You didn't try to find this Wes Ogden did you?

Larry: No.

Don: Probably dead. Cause he was older. He was young. I was about 16 and he might have been 25 or something.

Larry: Ten years. He might be 88 years old. I know there's a couple of guys I want to get in the Oshawa Hall of Fame but they're so old. Even guys 80 don't remember them. I've talked to Roy Fleming and he agrees both of these two guys should be in the Oshawa Hall of Fame. One guy was , oh I can't even remember his name now played in 1936 on the team and there was this great Indian player, his name was Bill Isaacs and he won seven scoring titles back in the 30's and 40's and this guy, Chuck Barron ,he played one year for Oshawa and he outscored the Native player by a lot and he played less games and every year he played for Oshawa in Intermediate he was the top scorer and he also played in 1932 in the pro league but nobody's ever heard of him. Chick Barron. Except for Roy Fleming and this one guy at the Hall of Fame, Bill. I can't think of his last name. He's about 80 and he remembered him. Cause all they're interested about is hockey.

Don: Hockey is the whole thing.

Larry: Kelly Degray got in.

Don: Like those cards we've got. Hockey first yet it's a lacrosse card. Then they tell you where they played lacrosse.

Larry: Well back then lacrosse was bigger than hockey. Newsy Lalonde made \$5,500 and the most he ever got from hockey was \$2,500 one year from the Montreal Canadians and Newsy Lalonde was a super star.

Don: Look at Gordie Howe, \$1,800 he made in hockey one year. That's what browns me off about the west. They used to take all our good lacrosse players from here because they had jobs, all the breweries, the parks, and the fire department. Bobby Allan...

Larry: Don't you think it all evens out though? It will be one year there'll be a lot of kids out here. Remember Brooklin had the Gaits and Tommy Marachek and Peter Parke.

Don: I don't know where Brooklin gets all their money.

Larry: Mike always said that Labatt's sponsored Gait and he never got any money from Brooklin.

Don: Mike Gray?

Larry: Mike was always the treasurer. Even when he wasn't treasurer.

Don: He had something to do with the club. And Vesey is another guy.

Larry: They're both lifetime members of the club and Gene Dopp.

Don: And Sully.

Larry: No, Sully's not.

Don: Sully was always in there in the executive. He was always pissed off about something. When we had that Mann Cup team and we cut him. He had too much mouth.

Larry: I want to interview him too.

Don: Oh, Sully can. He and Elmer have minds like computers. Elmer knows every guy he played with. And funny things that they did too.

Larry: Do you remember any shenanigans that can go in a book that are bad but not too bad?

### SHENANIGANS

Donnie: There's one that won't get anybody in trouble because everybody is retired. That first year we were out there with Ruttan and the guys. They had a beer strike out there and we had paid the guy and he would bring it in from Alberta by the truck loads, two or three a day, to certain places. The guy would phone us and tell us and the team would go out and you were allowed two 12's so everyone would go in and get two 12's. To make a long story short we'd get in the hotel after the game we'd have a day off between games we had this RCMP guy, Ken Ruttan was an OPP, so he got talking to this guy. "Come and have a beer". Beer was scarce so why not, it was free. So the guy stayed for three days. Ken got up one morning and Ken was coming down the hall and he's got the Mountie's hat on and he's got the guy's gun and his boots and his underwear on coming down the hall. Are you nuts? He's got the guys gun. But that's under the bridge, the guy won't get hurt, the guy's probably retired.

Larry: Probably dead.

Donnie: That was when, 1963?

Larry: Mike told us once, but I didn't get it on the interview. There were out west for the Mann Cup and him and Elmer. Think it was a piano or a TV that they threw in the pond.

Donnie: I was just going to say that. I didn't want to. The Royal Arms, the Gaels stayed there. They were with the Redmen but we always stayed at the Russell. They treated us perfectly. Heffernan could play the piano. Well at that time there's no music in bars. So we're all down in the afternoon drinking Brandy Alexander's. So the guy came over and they're 85 cents or something. Well, you get 20 and everybody throws a buck on the table. We're in there one afternoon and there's a piano. We take the cover off it and Grant's really pounding away on it. Customers are coming in. The bar is full of them. So the manager comes in says "you can't do that, you can't do that". So they take the piano and they shove it into another room that's beside it. The manager goes away and we go over and open the friggin' door and Grant starts playing again. The manager says "all right, all right, you're going to get me fined". We'll take the piano downstairs and I've got a room for you and you can take it there and bring anyone you want down there. So he took it downstairs for us and we had our parties downstairs in this room. The guy sent down a case of champagne on ice for the last game we won, for the team.

We spent a lot of money there. Plus they had a little restaurant at the side, just a tiny thing and we had tickets for breakfast, dinner and lunch. Bev Groves, he played with us, when he was out there. His mother runs it or something. We'd go in there and have breakfast and give her all three tickets. What the hell, we didn't care. The guy was treating us all right. Yeah, small things like that. That was when we played the Luckies.

Yeah the Gaels used to stay at the Royal Alexander something up on the hill. That's when the Gaels came to play with us, some of them. The Russell was all right with us so we got into this Royal Alexander, whatever the hell they called it. Someone had taken this picture off the wall made a post card out of it, something about masturbating or something so instead of

hiding it they threw it under the bed. Well of course the broads come in to clean, there's this sign so that's right down to the manager.

Next thing we were playing cards in Mike and Elmer's room and Mike just, starts drinking and goes wingy. The next thing you see the TV flying out the window and going into the pool. So they didn't really say anything about that but the next day in Vesey's room they have these sliding doors that go out onto the balcony so they slid it and they come off. So now the manager is upstairs "One more thing and you guys are out".

I and somebody had gone someplace, downtown or something and when we return our bags are out on the street.

They've moved you to the Russell. "Good, what happened?" I guess the manager no sooner got downstairs than somebody went and opened the door, and the door fell off the balcony out onto the roof or something. That guy was up there like a blasted shot "You're out, you're all out. Get out! We don't want you around here anymore".

Larry: These are the things I want in the book. I want stories that aren't terribly bad.

Larry: Bernie, is this the first tape?

Bernie: Tape one.

Larry: Did I already write on that one?

Donnie: I'm not giving you anymore beer.

Larry: On one tape I did with Lewis, we were up in the Whitney Lounge. It was funny cause he's sitting there. Remember old Merv? Merv Plaskett? Lewis was there on the tape he says "Is that my second beer over there Merv? Merv get my second beer.". And then he started talking about a hockey league up in Northern Ontario how this guy stole a cheque and they had to cancel the league or something and I was just doing it on purpose. I said "What they cut off his leg because the league folded?" "No, I told you..." It was funny though the things I got from Lewis. That interview was way back in '96 I think or '98 here in the Whitney Lounge. Tim died too.

Donnie: They had a closed funeral.

Larry: That was another guy I wanted to interview.

Donnie: He has so many friends. Like the last time I was talking to him the store was open here and I was working and he says "What the hell do you think you're doing you old bastard?" He's older than I am. He came over to shoot the breeze for a half hour and I see this lady standing over there and it's his wife "Ah, she can wait." And we talked for another 15 minutes. Yeah, I liked all the Viponds.

Larry: I want to talk to Sully for sure. I keep saying I'm going to do these before you know it, they're gone. Every year I go down to Texas someone dies, two or three.

Donnie: Hey, they're all getting old. I'm about the oldest now. I know Gord was still and I've seen Hughie at one of the senior B games.

Larry: But Gord's in better shape. He actually goes to the odd game.

Donnie: Gord does? What Redmen games?

Larry: Merchant games because he lives out in Brooklin.

Donnie: So does Hughie. Far as I know.

Larry: But Hughie I think was in an Old Age Home.

Donnie: It could be because he had a house up the road, up through the Curch there but I see the property's been sold so maybe he is.

Larry: I've never met either of those guys. I met Gord's son last year and he was going to introduce me to his Dad. I never got around to that yet. I said I'd do two interviews each year. I'm going to try to do four this year.

Donnie: When are you getting your book out?

Larry: Well after I do this interview it takes about a month to write it up so you can read it, then put that chapter up. I've got chapters to nine done and I've got chapter eleven. Chapter ten was going to be the Green Gaels since they became junior B and then your will be before Mike's so I might have two interviews together. What I'm trying to do is write a chapter or get the newspaper then a chapter just for an interview. I want to have about 20 chapters. Mike Mitchell's got a book coming out.

Donnie: Did you see that piece that was done about me in the Times?