

# **The Story of Deaf Hockey in Canada**

## **A Marathon Road To Success**

### **A Preview**

This article exemplifies a series of historical activities where Deaf Hockey was first started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century long after minor Deaf schools in Canada were born in early 1800s to mid-1850s. Unlike the United States, Canada had no department of education at the federal level at that time. There were a few federal laws that applied equally in all provinces to the Canadian children whether it be deaf or hearing. After the provinces' responsibilities were implemented, they built residential schools for deaf children. Later, they developed recreational activities and houseleagues. Hockey started it around 1890s. Beyond the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many founding Deaf clubs followed the suit to form own teams for local/regional meets. Along the paths, the residential and integrated schools for the Deaf and Deaf communities grew popularity for hockey program that never looked back as it is still today.

In this story, Gerald Griffore, an author, collected historical stories, not only given in every detail but just a good number of highlights performed by many great deaf hockey players in local and regional amateur leagues in some provinces where they were acquired to play on the hearing teams. There were numerous occasions happened in Canada that you probably do not know much of their athletic achievements in hockey. All along the road, Deaf Hockey still lingers on its steadfast activity which captivated several big showdowns among the competitors from Quebec-Ontario-USA during 1970s until Deaf Team Canada who grabbed their first-ever Gold medal at Deaflympic Winter Games in 1999 and another Gold medal in 2003. It reflects a marathon road to success from where it was started in the 130-year span. Thus, it instills Canada's pride, and that makes Deaf Canadians feel so proud of. So, this collective information being placed in Gerald's 12-page story entitled "The Story of Deaf Hockey in Canada" is now ready to publish here on FB for all Deaf Canadian readers. – **Wayne Goulet, Editor**