

HOCKEY HEROES

Larry Kwong only played one shift for the New York Rangers at the Montreal Forum in 1948, but it was an important one. He was the first person of Chinese heritage ever to play in the NHL.

All 14 children in the Chin family of Lucknow, Ont., played hockey. Older son Morley Chin coached future legend Paul Henderson as a youth. The Chin family gave him his first pair of gloves and shin pads.



Hockey's Future Safe if There Are Many Canadian Families Like the Chins



From Vancouver's Yip brothers and the Chinese Hi Y Hockey Club in Calgary in the 1920s to Montreal's Atlas in the 1930s and Ottawa's Chinese Aces in the early 1940s, there's a long hockey history among Canadians of Chinese descent. Many teams started at language school or church. (The Montreal team's name comes from the first letters of the words "Aim To Love And Serve.") The Aces practised on the frozen Rideau Canal. They played exhibition games to raise money during the Second World War to help relatives in war-torn China. A 1929 newspaper article about the Hi Y team said, "They are all popular school boys of this city and one day may be figuring prominently in the National League." Racism meant they never got that chance.



Chinese Aces, Ottawa, 1941



Chinese YMCA hockey team, Calgary, 1917.