



QUÉBEC 1870-1950 (#6) (03/05/2021)

Handball has had a certain recognition in the Province of Quebec since its establishment in the 19th century. But the little information found proves that the current exercise linked to history is essential to preserve the past of our sport. Our readers undoubtedly have testimonies or photos which could enrich this memory. Let us know about them through BAMQ (info@sports-4murs.qc.ca). For the moment, enjoy the actual sources available for everybody.

The sport of handball has entered our province, among young people, through classical education colleges. The Catholic clergy in Canada would have favored this sporting option, which represented an ancient practice (palm game, see Theme 1), more in accordance with the French tradition at a time of strong boiling of physical activity in the Anglo-Saxon world. In the 1870s, the Sulpicians, community of priests coming from France and the founders of the College of Montreal, spent large sums of money to erect five wooden structures, also called "courtyards", for their students to play handball. These structures have been used until the early 1970s. Handball then became very popular in classical colleges.

There were mainly 3-walls type of court: they could be found at the Jean-de-Brébeuf College, at the Quebec Seminary, at the Sainte-Anne College in La Pocatière, at the Joliette Seminary, at the Rimouski Seminary and at the Saint-Alphonse College in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré. In 1896, at the Joliette Seminary, there was even an imposing handball court built at a cost of \$ 1,038, which represented 6% of the school's expenses for the year.

The Quebec Seminary offered courts on the school site itself as well as in the Jardin de Maizerets, owned by the Seminary. Moreover, an article on sport at Laval University tells us that in 1904, "*a regulation provides that the students of Laval University will now be able to use the new court of the Seminary, once a week, on Sundays, provided they do not bring other young people with them and they are supervised by a priest from the Seminary.*" (The history of sport at Laval University).

In 1851 we find in Old Montreal the 1st YMCA built in North America. The Young Men Christian Association movement was created in 1841 in England by Georges Williams with a social mission to which will be added a sporting mission afterwards. We will talk about the importance of these facilities in the next issue.

NEXT THEME: QUEBEC 1950 - 1975

PICTURES SECTION



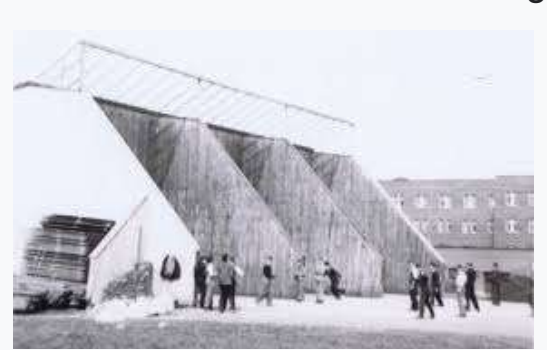
Joliette Seminary



Ste-Anne de La Pocatière College



Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu Seminary



Saint-Joseph Seminary, Trois-Rivières, 1915.
Note the players are wearing cassocks



1st YMCA in Quebec City, beginning of the 20th century. Now Le Diamant close to the Capitole. The tramway is already in place !!!

Reported on the College de Levis newspaper, end of 19th century. "At the College, the students were not only studying but many games were available mainly outdoor. Handball was the most popular. The ball was hitten with the hand and afterwards with some wooden paddle mainly in Automn. This game requested a high wall with 2 or 3 sides being used. A new court has been built in 1872 close to the upper terrace. Around 1895 with more students attending the school, another 3-walls court has been added near Mont-Marie avenue."

ADD-ONS THEME #5 : AUSTRALIA ET CANADA

In sports history much attention is paid to the exploits of the players but we often forget to talk about the administrators who allow the athletes to perform in the best possible conditions.

In Canada, the associations and federations officers, the coaches, the referees are volunteers motivated by their passion for handball.

Here is a list of the past Presidents of the Canadian Handball Association (CHA):

Les Robinson, Packy McFarland, Don Brownell, Robert Pruden, Brian Goto, Ian Ross, Mike Wilson, Chris Simmons, Colleen Deckert, Pat Brennan. Note also that Robert Pruden and Pat Brennan also acted as presidents of the World Handball Council responsible for the World Championships.

At Balle Au Mur Québec as past presidents we have Raymond Morin, Alain Pélissier, Étienne Pélissier, Gilbert Barbeau, Jean-Pierre Labadie, Pierre Desruisseaux, Robert (Bob) Robitaille and Danny Bell.

The faces of the CHA in Edmonton - 1987 :



L to R: John Friesen, Jean-Pierre Labadie, Donald Côté, Dave Ross, Warren Haller. Robert Pruden, Brian Goto, Ted Hill, ???, Terry O'Toole, Lavonah Muloin, Richard Kearney, Wayne Amminson, Myron Borys, Packy MacFarland.
Edmonton 1987

Thanks to: Nadeau, Jean-François, *Petite histoire de la balle au mur*, Le Devoir, January 3rd, 2017. Gilles Tougas, Kathleen Bédard and Marie-Michèle Trudel.