

Montgomery Memories from David Dunbar



The Lloyd and June Dunbar family of two boys and a daughter (Bill, Dave and Jacquie) lived at 3145 Ortona Street in Montgomery Place, Saskatoon.

The Matlocks were neighbours. When my brother Bill and I played with them, depending on the kind of game and the turnout, we sang “O Canada!” before the start of the games. As I recall, our next-door neighbor, Tommy Shillington, took another page from the “Hockey Night in Canada” script to assign the game’s three stars (he always did the selection). One time when there were only four of us scrimmaging, he picked the three stars, including himself, and assigned me “special mention” so I wouldn’t feel left out.



In the above shot (1958), left to right, Tommy Shillington (age 6), me (5) and Bill (6). That’s the Shillington house behind us (no trees!). This location and the low boards were part of an early incarnation of our backyard rink. I believe our mother handcrafted those hockey pants!



This shot (March 1960, according to the date stamp), back row, left to right, Brian Shillington (Tommy's brother, in the toque and hood), Jim Hook (I'd recognize that forehead anywhere), Bill and next to him, maybe Tommy (?). Front row, left to right, I think those are two Matlock boys, then me and maybe Bobby Gill? (Jacquie and Bill, sing out if I have this all scrambled.)

In this 1959 photo you can see some of the improvements to the rink — Dad salvaged the boards from a public rink that was being upgraded and one of the two chicken-wire goalie nets welded by our uncle Duncan Campbell. Not shown: floodlights behind each net, which extended the action into the evening; blue lines and a center line that we painted on the ice sheet and flooded over; and my front teeth.

I came across this photo of our father's platoon, in Peterborough, Ont., for basic training. Lloyd is front row, fourth from the left.



I also found a couple of Montgomery Place team photos: 1963-64 "D" Division (Westside finalists, losing to the loathsome Westleys, argh) and 1967-68 "B" Division (city champs).



WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY HOCKEY TEAM 1965-66



CITY CHAMPS "B" DIV. 1967-68

I drove by years ago (maybe 20 years ago?) and knocked on the front door of our old Montgomery Place home. The owner at the time was very gracious and let me take a little tour. The place had been seriously renovated, as one might expect (as one might hope), although I found two oddball holdovers from our days there — the sliding closet doors in the main bedroom that Lloyd made out of three-quarter inch plywood and varnished to a high gloss; and, in Bill's basement bedroom, the original imitation wood paneling. Everything else was transformed, so how those two items made the cut over all those years, I'll never know.