

PULLAR STADIUM - AN ICE RINK RICH IN HISTORY GIVING THAT "PULLAR FEELING"

by Ronald M.



Pullar Stadium in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan was constructed in 1939 and is one of the oldest artificial ice rinks in the U.S. still in operation. The Pullar has always been known for having excellent hard and fast ice. 2014 was the 75th Anniversary of the rink and the community of Sault Ste. Marie has begun a Building Renovation Project to preserve what I call, the "Pullar Feeling" for decades to come. The "Pullar Feeling" to me is that when I walk into the ice rink it feels as familiar as home. Over the years, the Pullar Stadium has always been the community hub for hockey, figure skating, dances, public skating, fishing tournament banquets, the place to see the Circus when it came to town, and much more. It is currently the home ice for the Sault Area High School Blue Devils Hockey Team and the Soo Eagles Jr. "A" Hockey Team. In the past, it has been the home ice of Lake Superior State University's (Division 1) Laker Hockey Team, the Soo Indians Jr. "B" Hockey Team, and the Detroit Red Wings training camp ice from 1948-1958. Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan is the original "Hockey Town USA". I remember the Pullar Stadium being adorned with "Hockey Town USA" banners in the 1960's. Many a hockey player or figure skater has spent their formative years learning on the ice of the Pullar Stadium. I, myself, starting playing hockey at the Pullar in the 1960's and continue to play in a Men's Hockey League there to this day. I got to meet Gordie Howe and get his autograph sometime in the 1960's when the Red Wings came to the Sault (pronounced "Soo") Pullar Stadium. I have many fond memories watching my son practice and play hockey along with my daughter learning to figure skate at the Pullar. The rink is a great asset to our community and families. It holds great memories for so many community members who watched their children/grandchildren skate for the first time, score their first goal, or adorn a special costume and take to the ice for the Annual Hiawatha Skating Club Figure Skating Revue. The Pullar Stadium has made many people proud of their accomplishments or the accomplishments of their loved ones. The Pullar Stadium has always been a place for people to gather and enjoy a good hockey game. These are the reasons why the Pullar Stadium is loved by the community and community members are giving to preserve that "Pullar Feeling" for a stadium rich in community history. What better ice stadium to have a pre-season NHL game in other than the Pullar Stadium?