

# LACROSSE

It's the fastest game on two feet! Here are 10 fun facts about Canada's national summer sport!



## HISTORY

- Lacrosse was originally played by the Algonquin as far back as the 1100s. Games could last for days, involved hundreds of players and the goals could be several miles apart. <sup>1</sup>
- The game has had many names: baggataway, tewaathon, stickball, the medicine game or the Creator's game. "Lacrosse" was a term coined by French settlers because the stick reminded them of a bishop's staff.
- First Nations peoples believe the game was a gift from their Creator, to be played for his enjoyment. Lacrosse should not be played for money, fame or personal gain. <sup>2</sup>



## LACROSSE TODAY

- Some of the best players are family! John Grant Sr. and Jr. dominated their respective generations, while brothers and cousins like the Thompsons, Evanses or Smiths abound today!
- Box lacrosse was developed in the 1930s as a way to fill empty arenas during the summer. Today it's played on either cement, carpet or wood. Many players prefer wood for the bounce and fewer injuries, but it's currently the least common (and most expensive!) surface.
- National Lacrosse League players are as skilled as their NHL counterparts but don't make a living from the sport. All have day jobs - John Tavares, all-time NLL leading scorer, is a math teacher in Mississauga!

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Lacrosse was an Olympic sport in 1904 and 1908 - Canada won gold both times! <sup>1</sup>
- The Iroquois Nationals are the only First Nations team sanctioned to compete as a sovereign nation in international sporting events. <sup>3</sup>
- The Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame is located in New Westminster, British Columbia.
- Trophies and their 2016 defending champions:
  - MLL - Steinfeld Cup - Denver Outlaws
  - NLL - Champions Cup - Saskatchewan Rush
  - Canadian Sr.A Box - Mann Cup - Six Nations Chiefs
  - Canadian Jr.A Box - Minto Cup - Coquitlam Adanacs
  - Canadian Lacrosse League - Creator's Cup - Durham Turfdogs
  - Canadian University Field - Baggataway Cup - Western Mustangs
  - NCAA Field - Men's Lacrosse Championship - North Carolina Tar Heels



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