

Sports

Boxing | Past

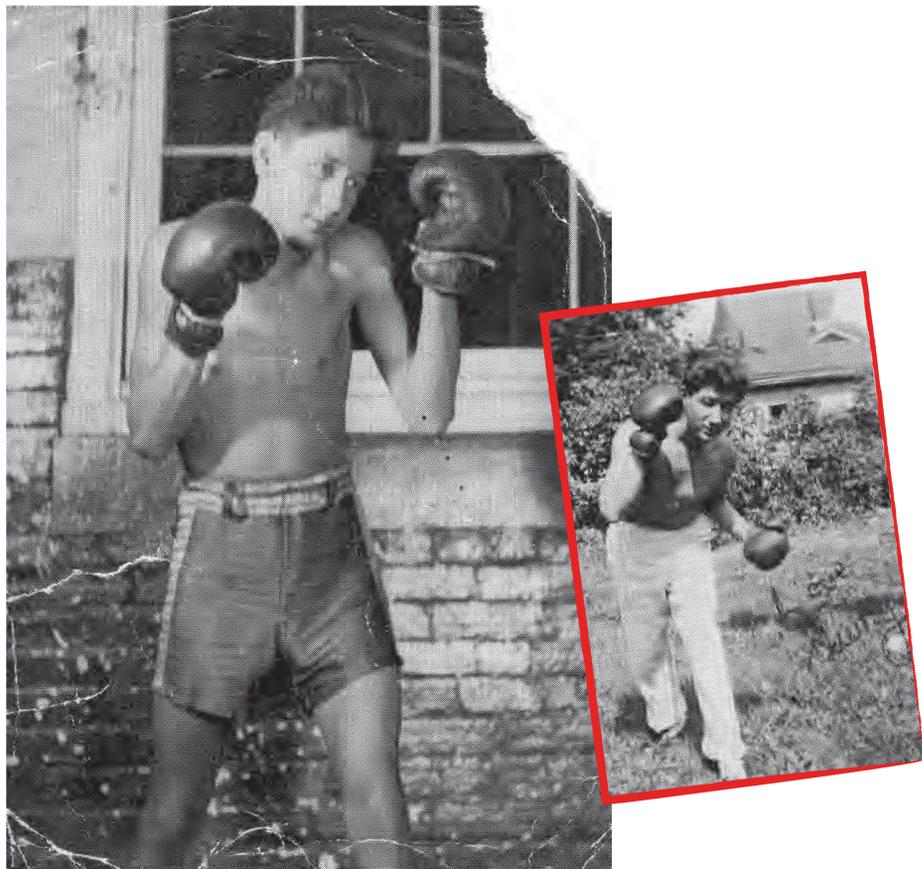
Amateur Fights Held in Victoria Hall's Beautiful Opera House!

Somehow it's hard to imagine, but some sixty years ago **fight nights were among the entertainment highlights for visitors to Victoria Hall.**

One didn't have to look far for an eager audience or even competitors. **The Market Building next door was home to the Cobourg Boxing Club,** with a legal sized ring for sparring and training. It was a haven for the young men who had grown up with their dads away at war.

Emerson "Chief" Charles and his younger brother, George "Gung" Charles were among the best of the local fighters. "Chief" Charles went on to fight out of Patterson, New Jersey, compiling a very respectable record of 15 wins, 10 losses and 3 no decisions from 1948-1953. In one memorable bout he **lost a six round decision to Joey Giardello,** then World Welterweight Champ.

While he was still fighting out of Cobourg, local coverage had this to say about one of the "Chief's" matches:



Cobourg's new found pugilistic hero invaded the rings of Peterborough last Thursday night and scalped another victim.



The day after a fight.

...and about "Gung":

Another Indian chap from Cobourg, George Charles, won a decision. He started like a buzz saw with a two fisted attack and showed a lovely left. It was a nice fight.

Pictures from: Life Was A Game – A Cobourg Story 1942-1952 by George "Gung," Charles & Jack "Darce," Campbell
All pictures are of "Gung" Charles

Sports

Boxing | Present

Mandy Bujold: Fly-Weight Dynamo

Olympics 2016 - Rio de Janeiro: **Watch out for Mandy Bujold**, a former Cobourg resident who has qualified to compete as a boxer!

Born in 1987, Mandy is no boxing novice. She was introduced to the sport at age 16 and soon after decided to pursue boxing competitively. She quickly experienced success and has garnered an extensive resume in the male dominated sport. Her accomplishments include:

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- 2007-2015 Canadian National Champion
 - 2011 Pan American Games- Guadalajara, Gold Medal
 - 2013 Canadian Golden Gloves Champion
 - 2014 Commonwealth Games, Glasgow, Scotland, Bronze Medal
 - 2014 International Boxing Association World Championship, S. Korea, Top 8
 - 2015 Pan American Games, Toronto, Gold Medal
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Mandy now trains at the Toronto Atlas Boxing Club with **coach Adrian Teodorescu who had guided Lennox Lewis to Gold** at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

She is currently a student at the University of Waterloo studying part time for a Liberal Arts Degree and is also an in-demand speaker at youth and community events:

an inspiration to all who wish to pursue their dreams regardless of gender.

In addition to her fights in the ring, Mandy has recently undertaken one outside it. She has been actively protesting a controversial ruling that would see the removal of headgear for both female and youth boxers. She believes that the ruling would have a tremendously negative effect on the health and safety of athletes in the sport.



Pictures:
Mandy Bujold 1 - www.makeachamp.com
Mandy Bujold 2 - www.cbc.ca