Title: **The Story of** **Orillia’s Greatest Hockey Team**

Presented by: **Dave Town**

When: **7pm, February 5, 2018**

Where: **Orillia Museum of Art and History**

Orillia’s greatest hockey team?  Nope, not the 1973 Allen Cup champion Terriers, not even the 1986 Travelways junior Canadian champs.  It was a remarkable group of home-grown teenagers way back in 1913!  Back in the days of “rovers” and no substitutes, one referee and minimal padding, these seven lads went to the Ontario Hockey League junior finals four years in a row, winning the provincial titles in 1913 and 1914.  Then they moved up to Intermediate and went to the provincial finals two more times winning in 1915.  Six seasons, six finals appearances and three titles.  Remarkable.  For 50 years every good Orillia hockey team was measured against the incredible “Younkers”.

The whole team retired and enlisted in the army at age 20 to fight in WWI.  During basic training their commanding officer, Major Conn Smythe, formed a battalion hockey team with three of the seven players being veterans of that Younkers team:  Love Jupp, Ken McNabb and Quinn Butterfield.  They were tearing up the Ontario hockey league when they got the call to head to France and the fighting in the trenches.  Three of the Orillia boys were killed in action there.

Twenty years later Conn Smythe, now the general manager and owner of the defending Stanley Cup champion Toronto Maple Leafs, was asked who the best player he ever managed was.  His answer?  Lovering Jupp!  Comparing him to the great Leaf stars Ace Bailey and Charlie Conacher, Smythe said Jupp would make his first line today!  He also said Ken McNabb, who the best defenceman award in Orillia minor hockey is named after, would make his championship Leafs too.  They were outstanding hockey players who had their careers cut short by the Great War.

Come out and hear the remarkable story of another era in hockey, when seven boys from Orillia ruled.

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