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The Case for Charlie Gardiner Arena

When one is looking at the history of great hockey players who called Winnipeg their home, one only has to look at the subjective opinion of an august group of hockey researchers who were tasked with the job of choosing the best of all time in Manitoba hockey back in the year 2000. In that millennium year, everyone was looking back at *the best of the century!*

That year, the Manitoba Hockey Foundation recognized a century of hockey excellence in Manitoba, with its announcement of its **Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame All-Star Teams**
1st All-Star Team
Goal - Terry Sawchuk
Defence - Babe Pratt, Jack Stewart
Forwards - Andy Bathgate, Bobby Clarke, Bill Mosienko
Coach - Dick Irvin
2nd All-Star Team
Goal - Chuck Gardiner
Defence - Ching Johnson, Ken Reardon
Forwards - Frank Fredrickson, Bryan Hextall, Reg Leach
Coach - Billy Reay
Player of the Century
Terry Sawchuk

There are many rural Manitobans on those All Star teams, **Black Jack Stewart** from Pilot Mound, **Bobby Clarke** from Flin Flon, **Bryan Hextall** from Poplar Point and **Reggie Leach**, the Riverton Rifle to name a few. Of the remaining celebrants, the majority are from the City of Winnipeg and two of those named to the first all-star team already have arenas named after them: **Terry Sawchuk** (inducted into the MB Sports Hall of Fame in 1982) and **Bill Mosienko** (inducted into the MBSHOF in 1980).

When one stops to think of all the great NHL goaltenders that Manitoba has produced over the years: **Turk Broda, Ron Hextall, Bill Ranford** and **Glen Hanlon** of Brandon, **Ed Belfour** of Carman, **Trevor Kidd** of Dugald and fellow-Winnipeggers **Sugar Jim Henry** and **Joe Daley**… this august group of hockey experts chose Charlie Gardiner second only to Terry Sawchuk in all-time goaltenders produced in Manitoba. That would be the same Terry Sawchuk that they named Player of the Century in their deliberations.

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Gardiner played seven seasons with Chicago, winning **two Vezina Trophies** as the NHL's best goaltender, he was named to the First All-Star team three times and Second All-Star. Gardiner was the first goaltender who caught with his right hand to win the Vezina Trophy. He is the only NHL goaltender to captain his team to a Stanley Cup victory. In 1945, Gardiner became a charter member of the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. In 1998, he was ranked number 76 on *The Hockey News'* list of the 100 Greatest Hockey Players. Gardiner is an Honored Member of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame (1975), Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Museum (1989) and the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame.

If anyone deserves a Winnipeg hockey arena named after them, it would be **Charles Robert Chuck Gardiner.** The classic tale of a Scottish immigrant coming to Winnipeg at the age of seven, learning the game of hockey here in his hometown and taking that skill to the big city lights of Chicago in the NHL… it's a story that should be remembered, retold and celebrated.

Thank you for your time.

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