

Stan Long

Hockey Player, Strathroy Rockets
& Montreal Canadiens

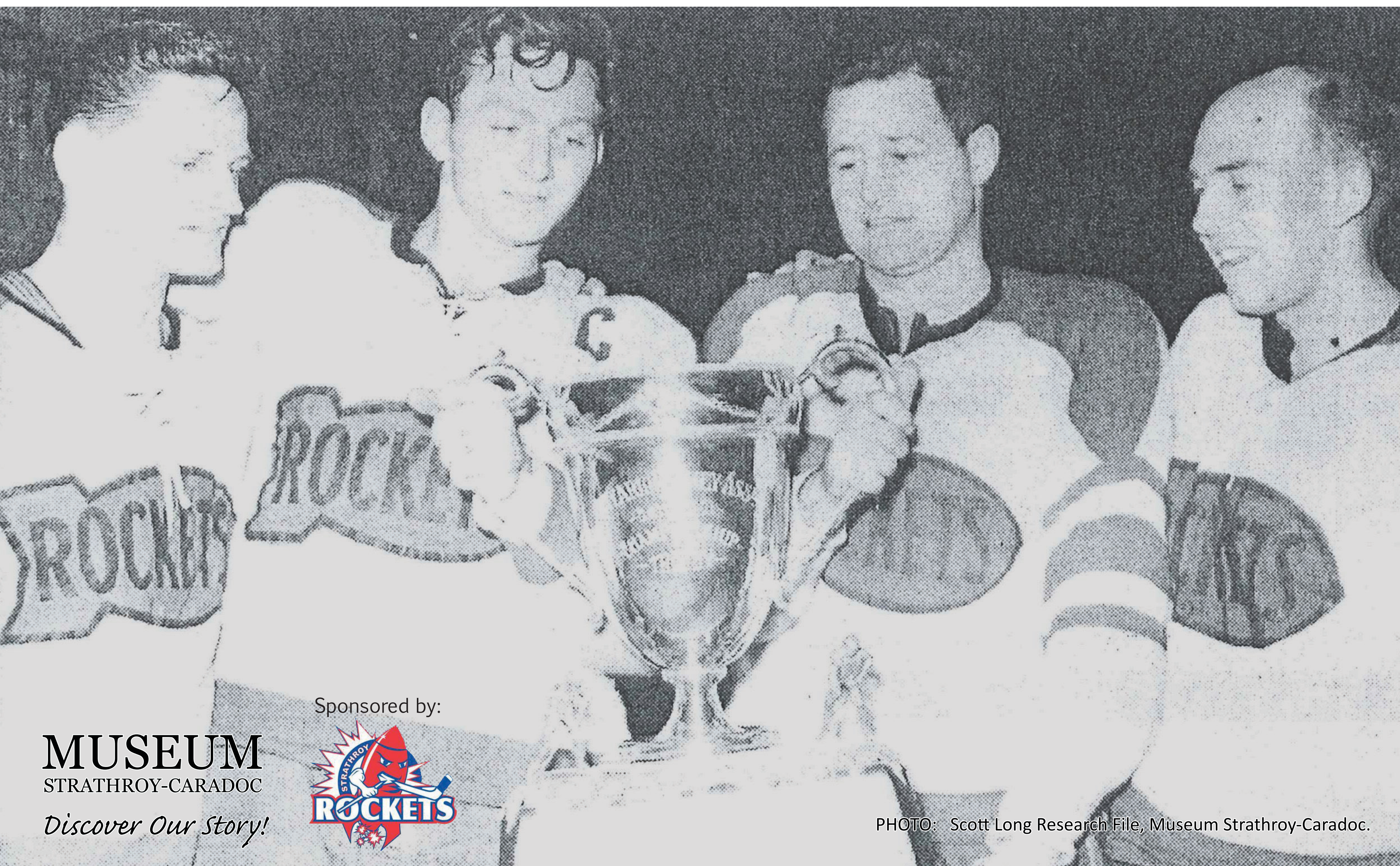
STRATHROY-CARADOC
URBAN OPPORTUNITY - RURAL HOSPITALITY

Stanley Gordon Long (born November 6th, 1929 in Owen Sound, Ontario and died January 10th, 1982 in Strathroy, Ontario) was a retired Canadian professional ice hockey defenseman who played three games in the National Hockey League for the Montreal Canadiens before playing for the Strathroy Rockets.

Long played for the Victoria Cougars in the Pacific Coast Hockey League (PCHL) and the Buffalo Bisons in the American Hockey League (AHL), where he was named most valuable player, before he was called up to the National Hockey League (NHL) in 1952 to play three games for the Montreal Canadiens in the Stanley Cup playoffs. After the three game loan, Long continued with the Victoria Cougars but was critically injured in a game against Saskatoon on February 25th, 1953 at 22 years old. Long collided with Chuck McCullough of Saskatoon in front of the Victoria goal. His stick broke and pierced his upper thigh, severing a large vein and embedding itself 8 inches deep. It was thought Long's hockey career was over.

Due to much surprise and significant rehabilitation, Long was back with the Buffalo Bisons for a short season in 1954 before arriving in Strathroy to join the Rockets in 1956. As the Captain of the team and a hard-hitting defenceman, Long was instrumental in taking the Rockets to their victory in the 1958-59 season. After the victory, Long was invited to tour Europe and the Soviet Union alongside the Chatham Maroons. Unfortunately, Long suffered a heart attack at 30 and was forced to retire.

Residing in Strathroy until his death, Long contributed greatly to its hockey heritage. Arriving in a time when the sport was at its finest, Long's history with the NHL, his skill, perseverance and passion for the sport are what make him a HOMETOWN HERO.



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