

A Brief History Of The WHL In BC



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The Western Hockey League (WHL) provides a high level of exciting major junior hockey action. This league has a rich history of play throughout BC. I thought it would be interesting to put together a list of the various WHL home arenas in BC and the respective teams that have played in them over the years.

Chilliwack Coliseum



- Chilliwack Bruins (2006-2011)

Kamloops Memorial Arena



- Kamloops Chiefs (1973-77)
- Kamloops Junior Oilers (1981-84)
- Kamloops Blazers (1984-92)

Sandman Centre



- Kamloops Blazers (1992-Present)

Kelowna Memorial Arena



- Kelowna Wings (1982-85)
- Kelowna Rockets (1995-99)

Prospera Place



- Kelowna Rockets (1999-Present)

Cranbrook Memorial Arena



- Kootenay Ice (1998-2000)

Western Financial Place



- Kootenay Ice (2000-2019)

Frank Crane Arena



- Nanaimo Islanders (1982-83)

Queen's Park Arena



- New Westminster Bruins (1971-81)
- New Westminster Bruins (1983-88)

Kopar Memorial Arena



- Prince George Cougars (1994-95)

CN Centre



- Prince George Cougars (1995-Present)

Kerrisdale Arena



- Vancouver Nats (1971-72)

Pacific Coliseum



- Vancouver Nats (1972-73)
- Vancouver Giants (2001-2016)

Langley Events Centre



- Vancouver Giants (2016-Present)

Victoria Memorial Arena



- Victoria Cougars (1971-94)

Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre



- Victoria Royals (2011-Present)

South Okanagan Events Centre



- Penticton Vees (2025-Present)

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WHL Teams-Gone But Not Forgotten

The following is a list of WHL teams that are gone but not forgotten:

Billings Bighorns, Calgary Buffaloes, Calgary Centennials, Calgary Wranglers, Chilliwack Bruins, Edmonton Ice, Estevan Bruins, Flin Flon Bombers, Great Falls Americans, Kamloops Chiefs, Kamloops Junior Oilers, Kelowna Wings, Kootenay Ice, Lethbridge Broncos, Moose Jaw Canucks, Nanaimo Islanders, New Westminster Bruins, Seattle Breakers, Spokane Flyers, Tacoma Rockets, Vancouver Nats, Victoria Cougars, Weyburn Red Wings, Winnipeg Clubs, Winnipeg Ice, Winnipeg Jets, Winnipeg Monarchs, Winnipeg Warriors.

References: Western Hockey League 04-05, 06-07, 16-17 and 19-20 Guides
Western Hockey League website

Note: The author welcomes any corrections to the facts listed, by email: vpkreiser@gmail.com

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