

Mural pays tribute to Falcons

By Jen Skerritt

CANADA'S original hockey champions officially returned to their West End neighbourhood yesterday morning when their larger-than-life portrait was unveiled on the corner of Portage Avenue and Furby Street.

In front of a modest crowd of family, friends, and West End business partners, black tarps were ripped off the side of Foster's Shoes to reveal a mural of the Winnipeg Falcons — the first team to win a gold medal in Olympic hockey in 1920.

Two photos of the team in their Olympic uniforms and Allan-Cup-winning uniform from 1920 now adorn the building along with the Allan Cup ribbon and Olympic gold medal the team brought home to Winnipeg.

The mural was created in 2005 by Mandy van Leeuwen and Michel St. Hilaire. Yesterday, descendants agreed having the painting in the West End is a fitting tribute to local hockey heroes. "I think they're up there looking down on us and grinning because it's taken a long time, 86 years," said 78-year-old Viola Perkins, the daughter of right-winger Slim Halderson.

The Falcons represented Canada in the 1920 Olympics in Belgium at the first official Olympic hockey match.



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