

In **1959** the first Riverside Bantam tournament was played at the old Riverside arena. That tournament is now know as the RMHA International Christmas Tournament and is still rated as "Ontario's Best Tournament".

In the early years the competition consisted of twenty teams playing over two days. It was a "you play whoever came" with A teams playing AAA teams and C teams playing AA teams. There was little concern with performance ratings. As word spread and teams began coming from farther and farther away the tournament was changed to three days Dec 26-28 in order to allow teams to spend Christmas at home before leaving for the tournament.

In 1989, to celebrate the tournament's 30th anniversary, a team from Kalvesta Sweden attended becming our first European competitor. Since then we've seen teams from England, Hungary, Latvia, Israel, Czech Republic, Russia, Kazakhstan, Denmark, and Slovakia with local families billeting the players.

In 2007, the tournament was played for the last time at the old Riverside Arena. The next year the tournament moved to our current home, the WFCU Centre.

