In the summer of 1996, this shop would become a cultural crossroads and social hub when Mike McNamee lined the walls with boots and opened Stompers Boots, a “pop & pop boot store”. Outside, the black boot print mural greets the neighborhood. Inside, a motorcyclist tries on highly polished dress boots while a fetishist gets measured for custom thigh-high boots and a local nightlife regular chooses new, red laces for their well-worn work boots. These three might not cross paths again in their daily lives until the store’s two annual Backyard Boot Parties, a celebration of boots that brought together many communities and cultures that might not meet anywhere else.