



## Introduction

If you've been a member of Team Canada, you are part of the fabric and culture of the Hockey Canada organization and helped shape its success.

Because we value your contributions, we want you to get excited about reliving those moments, hearing new stories, reconnecting with old teammates, and staying involved in the game. This is why we made this newsletter all about you.

Our purpose is to have you read these pages and get you excited about hockey. We want to inspire you to sign up and participate with the alumni association and help spread the word by telling your teammates. ■

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## The Team Canada Alumni Association:

### Where We Want To Be...Our Vision:

Team Canada Alumni – Coming Together, Reaching Out

### Why We Want To Go There...

**Our Mission:** To engage, encourage, and enable Team Canada alumni to maintain a lifelong relationship with Hockey Canada and our game

### Who We Will Be Along the Way...

**Our Values:** We are committed to honouring Canada's international hockey heritage, assisting with the growth of Canadian hockey and the pursuit of international hockey excellence for Canada, while providing an opportunity for our alumni to reconnect and celebrate the game and their experiences. These objectives will be achieved within a spirit of teamwork, inclusion, integrity, and service. ■



MESSAGE FROM

**Bob Nicholson**

PRESIDENT & CEO, HOCKEY CANADA

**Hockey Canada has never lost sight** of the importance and the historical significance of recognizing those very special people who have proudly put it all on the line for our country. Our recent gold medal successes would not have been possible without the efforts of all those who blazed many difficult trails over the years, helping build Canada's incomparable international hockey resume. We now have the opportunity to enter a new era and partnership with one of our most valued hockey assets: our Team Canada alumni.

I am honoured on behalf of Hockey Canada and our Canadian hockey community to be able to extend a personal invitation to all Team Canada alumni to come together and take part in our newly formed alumni association. Hockey Canada has made a firm, long-term commitment to this important new initiative. It is vital that we continue to honour and celebrate our rich hockey traditions and work together within this new hockey community to ensure a better game for us all. ■



MESSAGE FROM

**Ryan Walter**

ON BEHALF OF OUR ADVISORY GROUP

**Let's capture the past...**celebrate the present...and build for the future.

It is hard to believe that it was 25 years ago that I last put on the most special jersey of them all and represented Canada in international competition. When speaking with other alumni, there is one consistent comment I have heard – “I miss the room” – the magic that happens between teammates, when they have sweated together and put it all on the line together representing our country.

This is why I and the other alumni who have been working behind the scenes with Hockey Canada and the Hockey Canada Foundation are so excited about our Team Canada Alumni Association.

The Team Canada Alumni Association must be more than just another social networking site. Our “new room” will provide us with a chance to rekindle relationships with teammates and the many others who have over the years proudly worn the Team Canada jersey. It also creates an opportunity to give back and create ways to grow the game and the great organization of Hockey Canada. ■





## Team Canada Alumni Association:

### MAKE A PLAY AND HELP US BUILD A WINNING ORGANIZATION

**You remember what it felt like.** You reached down to the deepest part of your competitive soul to execute a play and heard the fans ride the rollercoaster of emotions based on how your team excelled.

We know hockey creates character, exudes power and strength, and stirs the sensations of the most diehard followers, but it's the memories that drive our love of the game.

Because you've been in the room and on our team, we want to stir up your senses and have you feel that energy once again. We want you to feel that test of character, the fire in your gut.

We invite you to help us create a brand new hockey community – one that would make you a valuable contributor, much like you were in the past. We want you to continue to wear the maple leaf with pride.

Sign up today by contacting our system administrator at [alumniadmin@hockeycanada.ca](mailto:alumniadmin@hockeycanada.ca) ■

## How This Newsletter Came About

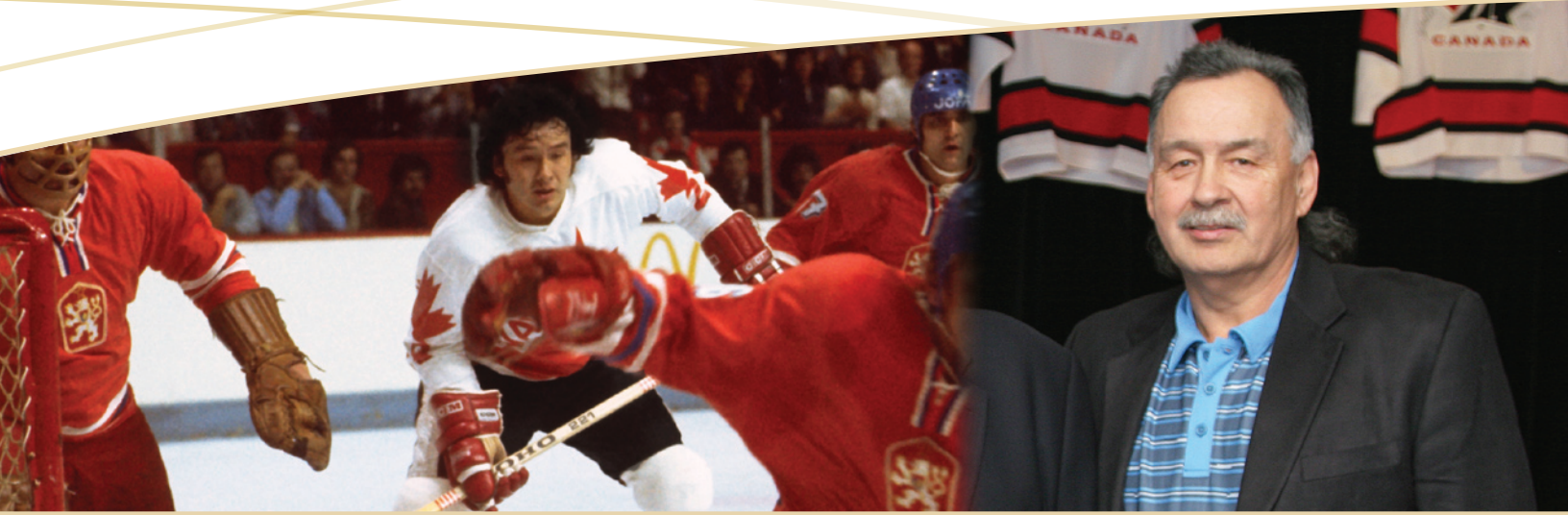
**At every opportunity,** Hockey Canada has always honoured its alumni but wanted to move forward with an initiative to create even closer ties with this important group. As part of the celebrations during the 2006 IIHF World Junior Championship in Vancouver, Hockey Canada and the Hockey Canada Foundation worked together to reunite the 1982 and 1985 World Junior teams. The event was so successful, it resulted in a similar reunion of the 1990 National Women's Team the next year, as part of the 2007 IIHF World Women's Championship in Winnipeg.

In further discussions, Hockey Canada and the Hockey Canada Foundation created a more formal mechanism to reach out to alumni in a more frequent and organized fashion.

Although our organizations were committed and felt confident an alumni initiative would be well received, we felt it was important to engage the alumni and get their viewpoint. We convened a representative focus group of the alumni to test the concept and how to move forward with this initiative.

The results of the focus group were very positive. We created an advisory group and a planning session to flesh out a program plan for the creation of the Team Canada Alumni Association. Since that time, HC and the HCF have worked with dedicated alumni to fine tune the model and take the first steps to launch this very special organization. This newsletter is one of those ongoing steps. ■





## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

# Reggie Leach: The Riverton Rifle

“I can talk to a thousand kids, and if I can get through to one or two, then I think I’ve done my job.”

**Coming off a Stanley Cup win** with the Philadelphia Flyers, the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP, and a career high for points (61-30-91 in 80 games), the 1976 Canada Cup was the pinnacle of Reggie Leach’s career year.

When the 1976 team reunited at the 2008 IIHF World Championship in Halifax (see page 6), Leach reflected on being a part of Canada’s first ‘dream team.’

“Being a member of that team, you don’t realize what an accomplishment it is at the time. I think there were 18 guys on that team that went to the Hall of Fame.”

Leach says participating on that team changed his life – to being a respectable citizen and the work he does today.

He works with First Nations communities to try and point kids in the right direction and not to make the mistakes he made as a youngster, because bad choices can ruin your life.

“I’ve been an alcoholic since 1985. I tell the kids the truth. I speak through my heart. I tell them exactly what I did wrong. I accomplished all my goals in hockey, except I did not make the Hall of Fame because I screwed up so bad.”

Leach couldn’t get a job in the NHL because of his drinking habits. He tells the kids you can have all the talent in the world, but if you abuse alcohol and drugs, you’re not going to go any place.

“I can talk to a thousand kids, and if I can get through to one or two, then I think I’ve done my job.”

One of the stories Leach is most proud of involves a 15-year-old girl who was actually drunk in school. After he talked to her, she wanted help. Her parents couldn’t help her because they drank more than she did. He then got her into rehab and she quit drinking. He gave her his home phone number and she called when she was having problems.

“I haven’t talked to her for a few years, but she did have a little baby and she’s having a great life right now,” Leach says. “You really don’t know which ones you connect with and which ones you don’t. The ones I do hit home with and they see me again, they come up and thank me for telling them what I did wrong.”

Today Leach serves as the head coach and director of hockey operations for the Junior A Manitoulin Islanders of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League.

His son Jamie has two Stanley Cups with the Pittsburgh Penguins and was with Team Canada in 1994-95. They are the first Canadian father-son duo to win the Stanley Cup. His daughter Brandie represented Canada in 1992 at the World Lacrosse Championships. ■



# Therese Brisson

## PLAYING FOR THE FUTURE

**“I wasn’t going to get another chance to play in the Olympic Winter Games when I was 50.”**

**Therese Brisson admits that** anything she learned in life that was important, she learned with the National Women’s Team.

She played in an era where women’s hockey went from grassroots to the Olympics. Brisson participated in two Olympic Winter Games (1998, 2002) and owns numerous gold medals from a 15-year international career.

What makes her story interesting is that she has always looked at playing hockey as a business, and that set her up for life after the game.

“I guess I began my hockey career with the end in mind. I never had any illusions that this was going to be the end game for me.”

She kept with her education throughout her playing career and worked – mostly full-time, except for the times the team was centralized.

“I think I played hockey for so long because you knew the environment that you were in, the values that were shared: excellence, perseverance, the passion for winning.

“I’m amazed at how important some of the skills and lessons learned – how transferrable they are.” All of these skills helped her transition to the corporate world.

Therese came to a crossroads while getting ready for the 2002 Olympics. As a professor at the University of New Brunswick, she requested leave to prepare for the Games and was denied.

“It was probably the best thing that ever happened to me. It forced me to make a decision. I knew I wasn’t going to get another chance to play in the Olympic Winter Games when I was 50.”

She focused on Salt Lake City and, upon the Games’ end, reassessed her life’s direction and went back to school at York University to get her MBA.

While at York, she discovered Proctor & Gamble, where she felt as comfortable as she did with the national team. Her current position with P&G is in a marketing role, looking after the dish care division in Canada.

She still stays in touch with the game through Hockey Canada, serving on the Finance Standing Committee and with AthletesCAN, but doesn’t lace up the skates anymore. She coaches a little – recreational women’s – but spends more time on recreational running and has participated in marathons.

“I’m really enjoying things I’m not particularly good at,” Brisson says. “Think about a high performance hockey player who spent 20 years trying to become bigger, faster, stronger, and more powerful. Becoming bigger, faster, and stronger is a real important piece to the game of hockey, but not so helpful when you’re trying to run a marathon. I joke that I spent 20 years trying to build up my quads and now I have to haul them around when I run.” ■





1976 Canada Cup Team

## Alumni Events

### THE 1976 CANADA CUP TEAM REUNION IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

**Some say it was the greatest team ever.** General manager Scotty Bowman assembled one of the best teams in Canadian hockey history, a line-up that produced 18 members of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

The 1976 Canada Cup represented Canada's re-entry into international hockey. Following on the heels of the 1972 Summit Series, which served as a wake-up call for Canadian hockey fans, the tournament gave NHL players a chance to represent their countries.

Canada claimed first in the round-robin, winning four of its five games, before sweeping Czechoslovakia in a best-of-three final, capped off by Darryl Sittler's historic overtime winner in a 5-4 Game 2 win in Montreal.

This special moment in hockey history was celebrated at the 2008 IIHF World Championship in Halifax, when 12 members of the team gathered for three days to reminisce and share their experiences. A special public event – Lunch with the Legends – was attended by more than 450 people. The team's accomplishments were also recognized at the Halifax Metro Centre during the first intermission of the Canada-United States game. This special reunion served as the introduction to the newly-formed Team Canada Alumni Association – a collaborative effort between Hockey Canada, the Hockey Canada Foundation, and those who have represented Canada in international competition. ■

## 2009 IIHF World Junior Championship

### OTTAWA, ONTARIO

**In what is fast becoming a tradition** at international events hosted in Canada, another of Canada's gold-medal-winning teams will be honoured at the upcoming 2009 IIHF World Junior Championship in Ottawa. Members of the 1988 National Junior Team, which won gold in Russia, will be in Ottawa for three days of festivities, including Team Canada Alumni Day on December 31. Watch this space in future editions for a full report on the event. Any alumni seeking further information, please contact Rob Dunlop at [rdunlop@hockeycanada.ca](mailto:rdunlop@hockeycanada.ca). ■

1988 National Junior Team





## News from the Hockey Canada Foundation

**Supporting the Hockey Canada Dream by Promoting Passion, Participation, and Excellence in Our Game**

**Athlete and alumni support** is one of five principle funding areas of the Hockey Canada Foundation. During the last three years, the HCF has worked with Hockey Canada to bring alumni together and support the celebration of our hockey history during the festivities at recent international events held in Canada. The HCF also provided a grant to Hockey Canada to fully fund the development and design of the Team Canada Alumni web page. The HCF remains committed to working with our alumni on future activities that will help build a better game for us all. To learn more about the HCF, go to [www.hockeycanada.ca/hcf](http://www.hockeycanada.ca/hcf). ■

## 2008 Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic:

### SUPPORTING THE DREAM



**Held in Calgary for the second year** in a row, the 2008 Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic was highlighted by the presentation of championship rings in recognition of the gold-medal-winning performances by the National Men's Under-18 Team, National Junior Team, and National Sledge Team. We were also privileged to acknowledge the many outstanding contributions Bill Hay and the late Ed Chynoweth made to our hockey community.

This event provided the HCF with the opportunity to show our ongoing commitment to the celebration of our hockey heritage. As part of the evening's festivities, the HCF hosted a renowned panel of well-known alumni for a thoughtful discussion and sharing of their personal Team Canada experiences.

The next day, event sponsors and corporate supporters played golf at Priddis Greens Golf and Country Club. The two-day event raised almost \$300,000, bringing the five-year total for our signature fundraising event to over \$1.6 million. ■

## Montreal to Host 2009 Celebrity Classic

**The HCF's 2009 Celebrity Classic** will be held in Montreal on June 29 and 30 and will revolve around the theme "HCF Salute to the Habs." In conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Canadiens, members of the Habs who played for Team Canada will be recognized, with Canadiens' legends Serge Savard and Yvan Cournoyer serving as Honourary Chairmen.

June 29 is the gala, with a golf tournament the next day at the Summerlea Golf and Country Club. If you would like further information on the Celebrity Classic, please contact Rob Dunlop at [rdunlop@hockeycanada.ca](mailto:rdunlop@hockeycanada.ca). ■





# Hockey Heritage

**1952 – EDMONTON MERCURYS FROM “CANADA ON ICE” BY DAVE HOLLAND**

The Norwegian prime minister was eventually forced to intervene.

**The 1952 IIHF World Championship** was competed for at the Winter Olympics in Oslo, Norway, and strict amateur status of the players was required before they could participate, which posed an added challenge to the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association. Several teams requested consideration to represent Canada abroad. The CAHA eventually decided the safest option was the Edmonton Mercurys. Jim Christianson backed the team financially with a contribution of \$100,000.

Nine teams entered the tournament and faced each other once in a single round-robin. Under this format, the three teams with the best records would leave with Olympic medals. Czechoslovakia and Sweden were expected to be competitive, and the entry from the United States could never be underestimated.

Though readied by its European tour, the Mercurys were afforded easier opposition to open the competition before facing the stronger teams.

The Canadians sat atop the standings with only the game against the Americans left to contest.

The closely-played game saw the Americans match the Mercs two first-period goals with two of their own in the second period. The Mercurys went ahead late in the second, and the Americans tied the game late in the third. With no overtime, the game ended in a 3-3 tie, giving the Edmonton Mercurys the world title and an Olympic gold medal.

The physical play used by the Canadians and Americans drew such indignation from the Norwegian fans that the Norwegian prime minister was eventually forced to intervene. He called for fans to calm down and stop throwing orange peels on the ice when the game became too rough for their tastes. The LIHG (now the IIHF) also warned the two teams against rough play. The berating of the Mercurys did not go unnoticed by CAHA president W.B. George, who would not enter a team in the 1953 IIHF World Championship, due in part to the constant criticism of the Canadian style of hockey. (To learn more about Canada On Ice, see [www.canadaonice.ca](http://www.canadaonice.ca)) ■