

Team Canada Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER – FALL 2010



Canada's 2010 Olympic Gold Medallists (left to right): Caroline Ouellette, Kim St-Pierre, Marie-Philip Poulin, Gina Kingsbury, Carla MacLeod and Haley Irwin

Message from Gord Sherven

CHAIR OF THE TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Welcome to your Team Canada Alumni Association newsletter. In this issue we have two great articles on former Team Canada players Tim Watters and Angela James.

This past spring at Hockey Canada's Annual General Meeting in Montreal, Que., our Team Canada Alumni Association honoured some very important people in our hockey family. Hockey Canada Life Members Frank McKinnon, Frank Libera, Don Johnson, Gord Renwick, and Clair Sudsbury were recognized as Honorary Members of the Team Canada Alumni Association.

Our advisory committee felt it was very important to recognize the efforts of these five individuals who committed decades of their time, energy and passion to make our game and our communities stronger throughout the country. All volunteered thousands of hours at many levels of the game and as chairman of the board of Hockey Canada. In this issue you will find a short story on each of our Life Members. Please welcome them to our alumni family.

We hope you enjoy your Team Canada Alumni Association newsletter!

Gord Sherven
Chair, TCAA Advisory Committee ■

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. ■

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Hockey Canada Life Members Named Honorary TCAA Members – pg. 2

Where Are They Now? Angela James – pg. 5

Where Are They Now? Tim Watters – pg. 6

Julie Healy says Goodbye to Hockey Canada – pg. 8

Olympic Gold Medallists Honoured at HCF GALA and Golf Tournament – pg. 9

Molson Canadian World Hockey Summit Concludes in Toronto – pg. 10

Our Hockey Heritage: The Late, Great Bobby Kromm – pg. 11

What's New at the Hockey Canada Foundation – pg. 12

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Hockey Canada Life Members Named Honorary Members of Team Canada Alumni Association

by Debbie Elicksen



Left to right: Frank McKinnon, Gord Renwick, Clair Sudsbury, Gord Sherven, Frank Libera, Don Johnson

Don Johnson

He's been called the conscience of hockey and probably a lot of other things, too. Next year's annual general meeting will be Don Johnson's 45th consecutive appearance at the AGM.

"When it comes to hockey, you're not much different when you're 80 than when you're 10," Johnson says. "You either love it or you don't."

He was president of the Newfoundland Amateur Hockey Association when 11 branch presidents and five officers made the decision to pull the plug on Canada's participation in international play.

"December 27, 1969 in the Royal York Hotel, we passed a motion; if the IIHF wouldn't let us use pros, we wouldn't play in the IIHF World Championship or the Olympic Games. I was elected an officer shortly after that and actually made the motion to leave. I was president in 1979 when I made the motion to go back."

When he owned the Minnesota North Stars, which lost in overtime for the right to play the Montreal Canadiens for the Stanley Cup, Walter Bush spoke to Don about the negative connotation the term 'sudden death' overtime had. Thinking he had a point, Don put through a motion – for 15 years – to change the term to

'sudden victory.' Finally, in his last meeting as an officer, the motion was passed unanimously. Don wasn't really paying attention and didn't believe it.

"Gord Renwick, who led the meeting, said, 'We talked it over and we know what a stickler you are for rules and regulations. We've decided that the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association rulebook will call it sudden victory overtime. Nobody else in the room will call it sudden victory overtime, and we know it will just piss you right off. Every time you hear it called sudden death overtime, you'll think of us.'"

His involvement in hockey led to the creation of the Don Johnson Cup, the Junior B championship in Atlantic Canada.

"I'd like to tell you a story that Gordie Howe, Wayne Gretzky, and Mario Lemeux got together and decided they should name a trophy after me. But the truth of the matter is it was a pig farmer from P.E.I.," Johnson says. "The only person he could find in hockey with an address in Atlantic Canada was me. He wasn't really a pig farmer, he actually cleaned up the barns after the pigs."

Don presented the first Don Johnson Cup to his son in 1981. *Cont...*



Hockey Canada Life Members Named Honorary Members of Team Canada Alumni Association

Continued...

Frank Libera

"When I first joined as an officer they had one specific portfolio – finance. It was my job to keep tabs. In those days, we didn't have the money we have today."

What Frank brings to the table is thoughtfulness, organizational skills, and a desire to get things done. He also has no desire for personal acclaim.

What makes Frank most proud is his involvement in women's hockey. When the IIHF established a World Women's Championship and Canada decided to become the first host, Frank was vice-chairman.

"I don't want to sound critical here, but the other officers wanted nothing to do with it. Women's hockey wasn't high on their priority list. So I took it on and organized the first tournament in Ottawa, serving as general manager of the first team. That was in 1990."

Look at them now.

Because hockey associations couldn't afford to insure their volunteers and players, Frank looks at the board decision to become self-insuring as an important one. It didn't attract a lot of attention, but it has made a huge difference in the association.

Frank McKinnon

Frank McKinnon began serving on the board in 1968 when everyone was a volunteer. His first meeting was historic in that it was the catalyst that led to an organizational structure change and the creation of a first-time national office.

Frank can't undermine the importance of what that meant. Having volunteers develop the policy on one side with a professional staff carrying out the policy on the other was the key to the strength of the organization today.

Other changes were made for the better. Frank remembers talking with Mike Keenan in 1978-79, when they didn't have any money to send the Peterborough Petes to the IIHF World Junior Championship. Other countries were getting better because they were using all-star teams, but Canada was still sending the Memorial Cup champions. By 1982, Canada was following suit.

"I was the first chairman under the new corporate structure. We hired Murray Costello. We couldn't do all the things we wanted to do with volunteers. The development of the corporate structure really made things start to take off."

Debates at annual meetings were hot and heavy at times. Many issues and concepts were born as a result: compulsory helmets, facemasks and visors, helmets

"We initiated a national program of insurance: liability and injury. There are some major quadriplegic injuries, and those kids, now young men, are still receiving their benefits. It won't make them wealthy but it will keep them comfortable."

Frank sees that, today, Hockey Canada now has the wherewithal to make a lot of things happen.

"I think the biggest concern it faces is that hockey is becoming a North American product rather than a Canadian or U.S. product."

He thinks one of the future agendas will be revisiting residency and who is allowed to play where. With competing forces already making waves "for their own benefit," it puts the national appeals committee in an awkward position when the rules and regulations are written and cast in stone.

As far as his years of service to the organization, he says, "Everybody makes a contribution; some are small, some are big. I have friends from one end of the country to the other because of my involvement. I can't tell you how much fun I've had."

for referees, women's hockey, the birth of the Program of Excellence; but the creation of the council structure back in 1968, now that was a debate.

"We wanted to get into marketing, develop our own insurance program, develop a foundation, and women's hockey."

Frank emphasizes that the value of the Hockey Canada logo in terms of marketing can't be measured. It was developed when the organization went to the corporate structure, and to this day, it is one of the most recognized logos in the world.

While the IOC took issue with using it for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games (and that debate was expectantly hot and heavy), "in all fairness, the rule had been in there for a long time and they had given us a break all these years."

Frank is a man with dogged determination and drive. He doesn't know what keeps him going, but when he reflects back from where he began, he is proudest of the change in organizational structure. *Cont...*



Hockey Canada Life Members Named Honorary Members of Team Canada Alumni Association

Continued...

Gord Renwick

Gord Renwick seems very comfortable flying under the radar, but never underestimate what he has brought to the game of hockey.

He was heavily involved in senior hockey before he came to Hockey Canada and stepped in as chairman.

According to Frank Libera, "Gord is a tower of strength, a businessman. He knows what he wants to do, and he knows how to make it happen."

It was much of Gord's vision that led the change in the Canadian Hockey Association in terms of its overall formation. He was chairman when Murray Costello was hired as president.

"Gord had very much the corporate viewpoint in mind, bringing it from the volunteers that could meet only on a part-time basis, here and there, to a board that would meet regularly," says Clair Sudsbury. "Gord had a more comprehensive management point of view, whereby a central office would really take control. This was a difficult point for a lot of people. They felt they were passing control to the hired staff. That was the way it had to happen. Costello was the identifiable

person in the community and was paid for that. That was very difficult for a lot of board members. They felt they were packing up the little bit of autonomy that they did have."

Gord's vision of how to run a corporation not only served well in Canada, he also made a difference at the international level. He was Canada's representative on the International Ice Hockey Federation council and brought a lot of the same concepts to that organization, which has made it strong around the world.

Libera adds that Gord was more than qualified to become the IIHF chairman.

"When you're dealing with the European federations, they'll trade a vote for a puck. When he ran, he didn't have a chance. That was about the time the Russian federations all broke up but they all kept together in terms of how they voted."

"You needed a central organization to become the leader and oversee the decisions being made by its representatives," explains Sudsbury.

Gord Renwick was definitely that leader.

Clair Sudsbury

Clair Sudsbury first sat around the board as the P.E.I. representative. At the end of his term as P.E.I. president, he announced he wanted to run for chairman of finance.

"As part of the involvement with the election in Halifax, the guys in P.E.I. were quite excited about that and brought a lot of mussels and lobster from P.E.I. to Halifax. Whether that was successful in swaying any votes or not, we had a lot of fun doing it."

He shakes his head when he sees the difference between then and now.

"Oh my God, how did all this happen? I have to give credit to the people, that as it grew, they just kept working at it and working at it."

One of the board decisions that helped shape the organization into what it is today was making each project cost-efficient on its own basis.

In the early days, the organization had not tapped into marketing and the benefits that could accrue from it. After Clair became chairman of finance, the branches had to dip into their pockets in order to bring up the association.

"Their assessments doubled. At that time, branches were struggling, too, but they believed strongly enough in the organization, they went along with it for one year. I wanted it for two. They told me I was a bit greedy. In that process, the marketing concept was really worked on, then the assessments fell back substantially. From thereon, the pay as you go concept was in place. At the end of my five-year term in finance, I was quite pleased. When I compare it to today, it was very minute, yet it was part of the road to success."

Each organization gets a mindset and becomes very entrenched in what it believes and won't move away from that. Because they won't move away, they cause more damage than benefits. Hockey Canada learned how to meld together organizations and individuals to get on the same page.

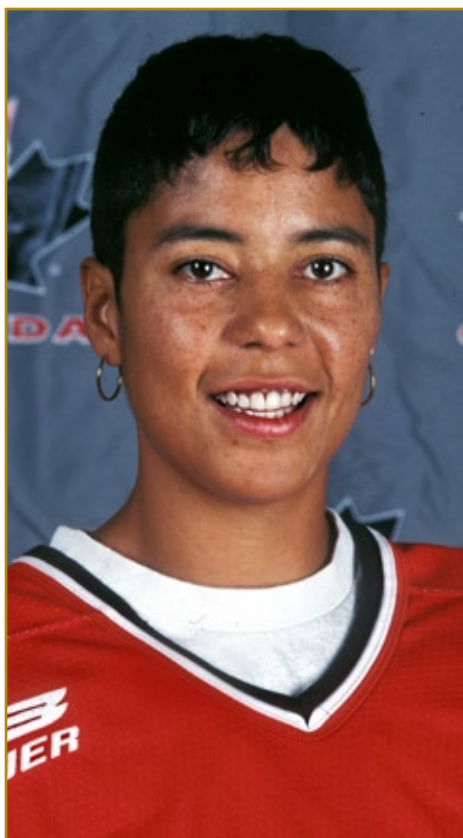
"It was the success of doing this in early days that has really made it such a strong organization today. That is a testament to some very good people." ■



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Angela James

by Kristen Lipscombe



Bobby. Gordie. Wayne. And now, Angela.

Team Canada alumni Angela James says it's "overwhelming" to see her name alongside many of the most talented hockey players to have ever stepped onto the ice.

But that's exactly where her name will be permanently when she's inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame this November.

James is making history as one of the first two women, along with U.S. hockey great Cammi Granato, to be added to the walls of the Hall in downtown Toronto as a 2010 inductee.

"Going into the Hockey Hall of Fame, with all of the greatest hockey players that ever existed?" James said, the thrill of such an honour clearly still sinking in. "It's like 'wow, how come I'm in this class?'"

While the reality of being recognized by the Hockey Hall of Fame is still marinating with James, she admitted she looks forward to sharing in the celebration with fellow alumni, friends and family, including partner Angela McDonald and their children, 10-year-old Christian and four-year-old twins Toni Rae and Michael.

The humble James, who won four IIHF World Women's Championship gold medals with Canada, claims she's not much of an activist when it comes to women's rights, but there's no denying she's a ground-breaker when it comes to women's hockey, across the country and around the world.

From playing ball hockey with the boys while growing up in Toronto to being one of the first women to represent Canada internationally and draw attention to the women's game by wearing pink and white jerseys at the inaugural IIHF World Women's Championship in Ottawa, Ont. twenty years ago, James has become a hockey legend in her own right.

But she's quick to point to her former teammates, such as France St-Louis, Shirley Cameron and Dawn McGuire to name a few, as having just as big an impact on the women's game and being just as deserving of Hockey Hall of Fame honours.

"If I was on the selection committee, I'd be looking at some of those girls," she said, adding the Hockey Hall of Fame likely took its time inducting women because "there had to be some history within our game."

Along with rising women's hockey stars such as the members of Canada's National Women's Team who won gold at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C., and new generations of daughters and granddaughters who are strapping on the skates, James said the history of women's hockey will continue to grow stronger.

"Attitudes change – girls are just as much involved as boys are," James said. "I'm just glad the door is open." ■



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Tim Watters

by Debbie Elicksen



Quiet intelligence might be one way to describe Tim Watters' 741-game career in the National Hockey League. He was one of those players who might have easily fallen under the radar with fans, but his teammates and coaches always knew what he brought to the table. The unassuming defenseman was solid and reliable – the very qualities that warranted him an invite to Team Canada.

Having grown up in Kamloops, B.C., Tim suited up for the local junior team and then chose to head south to Michigan for college. His professional career included several years with both the Winnipeg Jets and the Los Angeles Kings.

Tim was in his second season with the NCAA's Michigan Tech University when he was tapped for the

Canadian national team in the middle of the season. Making the squad ensured he would play in the 1980 Olympic Winter Games.

It was one of those moments that he finds very difficult to describe.

"As a 20-year-old, to get to represent your country as an amateur is an unbelievable experience," Watters says. "I remember the year vividly, like it was yesterday."

There were a number of players he had to compete with at camp. Just having the opportunity to try out was special enough.

"When I look back, it just sends chills down my spine."

The memories of playing in the tournaments leading up to the Olympics that year were also memorable, along with the living conditions.

"I don't know if a lot of people know this," Watters says, "but we lived in ATCO trailers at the site where the Saddledome is."

The tight quarters of the trailers created a special bond with the team.

"I remember some of the pranks we did and how upset a few of the guys got. We called the place that we lived at 'The Rig,' because some of the trailers were used on oil rigs. I think everyone knew everything about each other when we were living in The Rig. *Cont...*



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Tim Watters

Continued...



Canada's 1988 Men's Olympic Hockey Team

"The doors on the rooms were like meat lockers. You'd slam them, and it was like opening and closing a meat locker. Nobody got away with anything in The Rig. It made for pretty interesting times."

One of the more vivid memories was the reception the Canadian contingency had during the opening ceremonies at Lake Placid in 1980.

"It was the time in history, when I believe a Canadian politician helped get the Iranian hostages released. The reception for the Canadian contingency was second to none."

In 1988, Tim had another chance to play in the Olympics in Calgary, this time as a professional. Although a late addition, he joined the team about six weeks before the tournament. Like his first Olympics eight years earlier, this one was equally special and a unique experience.

Tim also played at the IIHF World Championship in 1983.

He wasn't a big player, only 5'11" and 185 pounds. His style of play has been touted as solid and unspectacular, meaning he was an intelligent and good skater, who knew how to stay in position, tie up players' sticks, and angle shooters out of the way. He was also the master of the hip check.

"I'd like to think that I was somewhat of a role player and stepped in with a defensive specialty."

He also credits his making the team from his experience in playing on the international stage.

In the latter years of his career as a player, he helped influence the younger players, acting sort of like an on-ice coach, which in turn led to the natural transition of his officially becoming one. From 1996 to 2000, he

went back to Michigan Tech as the team's bench boss.

"I retired from my career when I was with the Phoenix Roadrunners as an assistant coach," he says. "A fellow hockey father was in commercial real estate. He suggested that I should look into it. One thing led to another, and I've been in it for 10 years now."

Hockey has impacted his career through work ethic and focus.

"To play the sport of hockey at the level that I did, you can't help but have the focus and the work ethic in the business world."

While he doesn't always get the opportunity, it's always fun to get together with former teammates.

"When we do reconnect, we do have some special memories." ■



Julie Healy says Goodbye to Hockey Canada

by Kristen Lipscombe

Matthew Manor/HHOF-IHF Images



Jeff Vinnick/HHOF-IHF-IOC

Julie Healy and Canada's 2010 Women's Olympic Hockey Team

In male-dominated environments, including the hockey world, females who want to join have to be confident, strong, and sometimes even tough.

But that doesn't mean they can't show emotion either, and there was plenty of that to go around when Hockey Canada staff in Calgary gathered this July to bid adieu to Julie Healy, who served as the organization's director of female hockey for eight years.

Trina Radcliffe, hired by Healy as manager of female development five years ago, became especially choked up as she reminisced about her boss's many accomplishments, from helping the women's game come a long way in under a decade to being one of those confident and strong female figures that sets a positive example for others.

"She's an unbelievable role model and leader in women's hockey," Radcliffe said. "Other countries look to Canada and wonder what we do to be successful, and in particular what we have done in the past 10 years to be successful in the female game."

"What we have done is that we have had people like Julie spending countless hours travelling across the country, educating people about female hockey and fighting the necessary battles to get the game where it is today."

Since Julie's start with Hockey Canada in August 2002, registration in female hockey has grown from 61,177 in 2002-03 to 85,624 players across the country during the 2009-10 season.

Additionally, Hockey Canada's national female programs have developed to include not just the senior National Women's Team, but also the National Women's Under-22 Team that participates internationally in the MLP Cup and, most recently, the National Women's Under-18 Team, which has participated in three IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championships.

Along with winning gold at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy and the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C., Healy said seeing the National Women's Under-18 Team win its first-ever gold medal at the 2010 IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championship in Chicago, Ill. was a personal career highlight.

"It was a great team with a great staff and they really came together," Healy said. "To see them battle back and win a world championship in overtime, and how excited and genuinely proud everybody was to be a part of that program, that would probably rank up there."

It is unforgettable moments such as that, and the passion it takes to get there, that have made working eight years without much slowing down, and taking on those tough battles, worthwhile for Healy.

"In terms of acceptance in society, I still think there are challenges to overcome," Healy said. "(But) people are starting to realize that it is an exciting game to watch and that these players, these athletes, are no different than the boys and men that play the game."

Eventually, Healy will return to the hockey world, most likely as a grassroots level coach, but in the meantime she's taking a break and contemplating her next career move.

"For me, work is always about the people you work with (and) the people you impact," she said. "I've never been a person to do a job just for doing a job; it's always got to be something that I care about."

And it's that attitude that has helped Healy propel the women's game forward, and will subsequently be an unspoken job requirement for the next person who steps into her former role.

"They're going to be someone who cares, they're going to be someone who's passionate," Healy said. "And they're certainly going to fight the fight to make the game better for everybody."

NOTE: Kalli Quinn, based out of Hockey Canada's office in Calgary, was promoted to the position of Director, Female National Teams, in Sept. 2010 ■

Olympic Gold Medallists Honoured at HCF GALA and Golf Tournament

by Jason LaRose



Sidney Crosby during the Canada Celebrates event

Another year, another successful gala and golf tournament for the Hockey Canada Foundation.

The 2010 edition of the HCF Celebrity Classic took place June 28 and 29 in Edmonton, the City of Champions, where Canada's 2010 Men's and Women's Olympic gold medal-winning teams, as well as the 2010 IIHF World Women's Under-18 Champions, were honoured.

The two-day celebration was highlighted by the Canada Celebrates event, which recognized Canada's gold medallists and members of the Canadian military, on the afternoon of Monday, June 28. Proceeds from the event, which drew thousands of fans to Commonwealth Stadium, went to the Hockey Canada Foundation and the Canadian Heroes Fund (www.herofund.ca), a charity that provides academic scholarships to spouses and children of soldiers killed in combat.

It was at Canada Celebrates that Canada's Olympic and world champions – who were led into the stadium as part of a Parade of Heroes, along with the Canadian military and event ambassador Mark Messier – were presented with their championships rings.

"I don't know how often I am going to wear it," Canadian captain Hayley Wickenheiser told The

Canadian Press with a laugh, looking down at the glittering monstrosity on her hand. "But it is a beautiful ring to display."

"It's always nice to get a ring," gold medal game hero Sidney Crosby said to CP. "It's always a real good sign."

In total, 61 of 64 players were in attendance. Only men's team members Martin Brodeur and Chris Pronger (previous commitments) and women's team member Catherine Ward (studying overseas) did not take part in the celebration.

On Monday night, the festivities moved indoors to the Marriott at River Cree Resort & Casino for the annual Celebrity Classic gala, hosted by the voices of hockey on TSN, Gord Miller and Pierre McGuire, SportsCentre host Jennifer Hedger and Canadian actor Alan Thicke.

Close to 1,000 guests, including Olympic medallists Alexandre Bilodeau, Jennifer Heil and Kevin Martin, took part in an evening that included a silent auction with a number of unique Olympic items, a live auction during the gala dinner and a hot stove session hosted by Gord and Pierre that featured men's team members Jarome Iginla and Jonathan Toews and

executive director Steve Yzerman, along with women's team members Wickenheiser, Jennifer Botterill and Meghan Agosta.

The weather gods smiled on Edmonton on Tuesday as the gold medallists, sponsors and their guests took to courses at the Blackhawk Golf Club and Edmonton Petroleum Golf and Country Club in sunny weather, with temperatures hovering in the mid-20s. The golf tournament capped off the event, with players headed home Tuesday night with gold medals and championship rings in tow.

Overall, the 2010 HCF Celebrity Classic was the most financially successful to date, raising more than \$700,000. Of that, close to \$500,000 will go towards the building of an outdoor facility at TELUS Field, thanks to the generous support of the HCF Celebrity Classic steering committee, Hockey Canada sponsors and the Edmonton community. The facility is slated to be completed by the fall of 2011.

The remaining \$200,000 will go back into minor hockey programs across Canada. The HCF focuses on five areas of funding: skill development and qualified coaching, accessibility and diversity, health and wellness, athlete and alumni support, and next-generation programming. ■



Molson Canadian World Hockey Summit Concludes in Toronto

STEERING COMMITTEE AND SUMMIT PARTNERS TO REVIEW RESULTS OVER COMING MONTHS



Bob Nicholson, President & CEO - Hockey Canada, Bill Daly, Deputy Commissioner - NHL, Dave Ogrea, Executive Director - USA Hockey, David Branch, Commissioner - CHL, Pat McEleney, Director Sports & Entertainment - Molson Coors

The Molson Canadian World Hockey Summit concluded on Thursday, August 26 in Toronto, with over 400 delegates participating in the four-day event. The summit was a global hockey symposium, attracting leaders of the game and interested stakeholders to share and enhance hockey knowledge around the world. Full event details and coverage is available online at www.worldhockeysummit.com.

The steering committee, comprised of the seven summit partners (IIHF, NHL, NHLPA, Hockey Canada, USA Hockey, CHL and Molson Coors), will be reviewing all of the results from the work group discussions on player skill development, junior development in the hockey world, an evaluation of Vancouver 2010, a global hockey event agenda, women's hockey after Vancouver 2010 and growing participation in the game.

Event proceedings, including formal presentations and the results from the discussion groups, will be provided to all IIHF member federations and summit partners, providing these organizations with the opportunity to develop their own action plans.

The summit partners will also collaborate on developing recommendations and collective action plans going forward, and expect to announce details over the course of the 2010-11 season.

"Coming into the summit we really didn't know what to expect, but I could sense that this would be a suc-

cess after one day," said IIHF president René Fasel. "We discussed the most pressing issues in our game and we had a very good and healthy exchange of views in front of more than 400 keen delegates. These were four very good days for hockey. The next step is to evaluate the proposals from the delegates and see if we can work out any recommendations."

"The discussion and dialogue here over the last four days has clearly extended hockey knowledge and enriched hockey insight at all levels," said Bill Daly, NHL deputy commissioner. "The National Hockey League was proud to play a meaningful part in that dialogue and I believe the game – both at the NHL level and all other levels – will be better for it."

"The NHLPA was pleased that the major stakeholders in hockey were part of the Molson Canadian World Hockey Summit to discuss how the global game can prosper," said Mike Ouellet, NHLPA chief of business affairs. "NHL players bring forth a key perspective in growing the game worldwide and we hope to build off of this week's momentum. In particular, we look forward to expanding best-on-best tournaments, such as the World Cup of Hockey and the Olympics, where fans watch their favourite players participate."

"It has been a very productive week here in Toronto," said Hockey Canada president & CEO Bob Nicholson. "Hockey Canada and the representatives of our member branches throughout the country have been very excited about being part of this collaboration,

discussing matters ranging from skill development to hockey at the Olympic Games with the major hockey stakeholders. We look forward to working together and coming up with a plan to make our game even better."

"This event has exceeded my expectations," said Dave Ogrea, executive director of USA Hockey. "With the relatively diversified audience, and designed by seven different entities, there was a pleasingly high level of interaction and engagement."

"The Canadian Hockey League is extremely pleased with the success of the Molson Canadian World Hockey Summit in attracting global hockey leaders to one stage," said CHL president David Branch. "It was energizing to be around so many passionate hockey people that were all focused on the betterment of the game, which will undoubtedly result in positive changes to hockey in the years to come."

"Molson Canadian was there back in 1999 for the very first Open Ice Summit and continues to support the development and evolution of 'our game'," said Pat McEleney, director of sports and entertainment for Molson Coors Canada. "The dialogue, discussion and debate from this year's Molson Canadian World Hockey Summit should unlock clues to help grow the game and improve the sport at all levels."

For further information on the World Hockey Summit, go to: www.worldhockeysummit.com . ■



OUR HOCKEY HERITAGE

The late, great Bobby Kromm

by Gerry Warner – Cranbrook Daily Townsman



Yes, yes. I know it's summer out there and the weather is pretty darn hot so what better time to write about a cool sport? Hockey, no less. But no, I'm not going to write about the Kootenay Ice or Scott Niedermayer as deserving as they may be. So if you're disappointed about that you can tune out now.

My topic is the recent passing of a Canadian (and personal) hockey hero whose ascent to that Great Rink in the Sky didn't get the attention it deserved. He was the first Canadian hockey coach that realized the Russians were on to something and the first Canadian coach to defeat the Mighty Red Machine and win a world championship.

I'm talking about Trail Smoke Eaters coach Bobby Kromm, of course, who passed away from cancer in June at the age of 82 in Trail, the true "City of Champions" (forget about Edmonton).

Kromm was actually born in Calgary, but spent many of his storied hockey years in Trail coaching the iconic "Smokies" and is a symbol of Trail as much as the great smoke stack at the Cominco smelter on top of the "Hill," as Trailites call it. A gritty and tenacious centreman as well as a coach, Kromm played with his heart on his sleeve and expected no less from his players.

This wasn't always appreciated and caused friction with some of the players he coached, but no one could doubt the effectiveness of his coaching methods. In 1961, he took a talented, but relatively inexperienced, group of players from Trail to the World

Amateur Hockey Championship in Geneva, defeating the mighty Russians 5-1 in the final game.

But the score, impressive as it was, doesn't tell the whole story. What often gets overlooked is that in the previous year, the Smokies lost in the Allen Cup finals to the Chatham Maroons and weren't supposed to go to the Worlds at all. But Chatham opted out of the international tournament, choosing a European tour instead, and the Smokies were asked (reluctantly) by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association to go instead. The CAHA only offered the Smokies token financial support because they didn't think the small town Trail team had a chance of winning. So Kromm and the team went door-to-door in the Smelter City and the rest, as they say, is history.

But there is more. What the Canadian hockey establishment didn't understand at the time they so sorely underestimated Trail's chances in Europe is that Kromm and the Smoke Eaters were one of the first Canadian hockey teams to ever play against the Russians. That occurred in 1958 when a Russian team toured Canada for the first time and played a game in Trail taking on the WHL All-Stars, which was loaded with Trail players. More than 5,000 fans jammed Cominco Arena that night (including yours truly sitting in the aisle) and the slick skating Russians scored first in one of the most memorable games ever, with the home team winning 6-5 in the end.

Not that the score was that important. What was important was how the Russians played – the precision passing, smooth skating and incredible athleti-

cism of the Russian players. Kromm watched it all and it wasn't long before he had the Smoke Eaters working out in the Cominco Gym on the mats and the ropes. No hockey team in Canada was doing this sort of training at the time, including the NHL, but Kromm saw the value of it and he also saw the weaknesses in the Russian style that he exploited when Smokies winger Norm Lenardon poke-checked the puck away from a Russian defenceman and tucked the puck in the corner to win Trail its second World Amateur Hockey Championship, the only city in Canada to do so.

Small wonder that Kromm went on to a successful coaching career in the NHL, including coaching the then struggling Detroit Red Wings to their first playoff berth in eight years and being named NHL Coach of the Year. He also coached Bobby Hull and the Winnipeg Jets to an Avco Cup title in his first year in the World Hockey Association and was an assistant coach for Team Canada in the inaugural Canada Cup hockey series.

Quite a resume for a coach that began his career as a glass-blower at Cominco.

In my university years, I once ran into Kromm in front of the old Devonshire Hotel in Vancouver when he was coaching the Seattle Totems of the Western Hockey League. He didn't know me from Adam, but he talked hockey with me for at least 10 minutes in front of the Dev. I was thrilled.

Bobby, they don't make 'em like you anymore. I truly miss you. ■



What's New at the Hockey Canada Foundation

RECENT AND UPCOMING HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION & TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

August 16, 2010 TELUS Going Fore Gold golf tournament
Redtail Golf Club – London, Ont.

September 14, 2010 1st Annual TCAA golf tournament
Western Canada event, Lakeside Greens Golf Club – Calgary, Alta.

**September 20 & 22, 2010 Hockey Canada Foundation
Dreams Come True** delivering funding and accessibility to the game:
Sept. 20 – equipment fitting for 50 Calgary kids – NES
Sept. 22 – skate at the Saddledome with Team Canada alumni, –
Calgary, Alta.

October 23, 2010 (tentative) Team Canada Alumni Association
Eastern Canada event, hockey clinic and sponsors banquet – Ottawa, Ont.

**November/December 2010 (TBD) Jean Beliveau event – Hockey Canada
Foundation/Montreal Canadiens** – Montreal, Que., details to follow

**December 8-13, 2010 National Junior Team announcement
& Dreams Come True** – Toronto, Ont., details to follow

January 10, 2011 Los Angeles Kings/Hockey Canada Foundation event
Los Angeles Kings vs. Toronto Maple Leafs, Hockey Canada Day in L.A.,
– Los Angeles, Calif., details to follow

To get involved in your area, please contact Chris Bright, manager of Hockey
Canada Foundation and Team Canada alumni, at cbright@hockeycanada.ca. ■



1990 & 1991 National Junior Team Alumni – Back row L-R: Dick Todd, Trevor Kidd, Steven Rice, Mike Needham, Mike Sillinger, Jeff Thomas, Karl Dykhuis
Front Row L-R: Stewart Malgunas, Jason Herter, Mike Murray, Dave Chyzowski, Chris Snell, Pat Falloon, Scott Thornton

You've Worn the Jersey but have not Registered as an Alumni Member.

Please contact Norm Dueck at ndueck@hockeycanada.ca to sign up!