Team Canada Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2011





Jean Béliveau

Message from Gord Sherven CHAIR OF THE TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

"Lead, Develop, and Promote Positive Hockey Experiences."

It's short, it's simple and it's straight to the point – it's Hockey Canada's mission statement, and it's the back bone of the governing body's beliefs when it comes to amateur hockey across the country. As alumni we have all enjoyed and been very fortunate to play a great game and to have been able to wear the Team Canada jersey. Hockey Canada has a tremendous board that continues to improve the game for Canadians at all levels of hockey.

I attended a special board meeting for Hockey

Canada on February 5, 2011 in Toronto. Under the direction of Ken Corbett, the chair of the board, and president/CEO Bob Nicholson, the board identified a four-year plan for e-learning, technology and recruitment/retention. All critical steps necessary to advance the game in these areas were identified and discussed. The board approved a motion to financially support the three initiatives to a combined maximum of \$6 million over the next four years. Initiatives such as this continue to make Hockey Canada leaders in the game!

As always, this issue has many great stories on alumni, former coaches, our hockey heritage and a great story on the special ring ceremony for Hall of Famer and legend Jean Béliveau! Enjoy!

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 within a spirit of teamwork, inclusion, integrity, and service. ■

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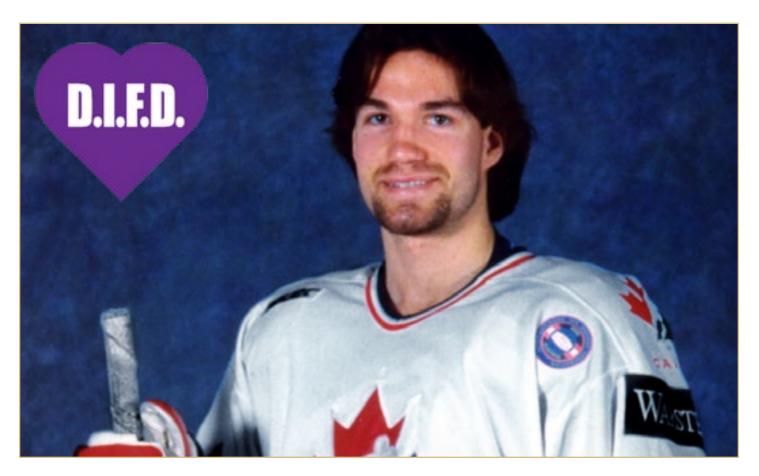
Alumni Administration: Norm Dueck



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Richardson Talks Mental Health

The Canadian Press



 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{OTTAWA}}$ – At six-foot-four and 215 pounds, Luke Richardson could never hide on an NHL rink.

After a recent profound family tragedy, he's standing just as tall off the ice as well.

Richardson, his wife Stephanie and surviving daughter Morgan are teaming up with the Ottawa Senators and an Ottawa hospital to raise awareness about teenage mental illness. Richardson's 14-year-old daughter Daron took her own life last November, a devastating blow for the former NHL defenceman, his family, friends and the National Hockey League fraternity.

"We decided to speak publicly about suicide because we wanted to make a difference in other people's lives," Richardson said Feb. 2 at a news conference at Scotiabank Place.

With his wife watching, Richardson struggled to articulate a life "filled with never-to-be-answered questions and pain."

"We are a close family," he said. "We spend a lot of time together and we talk a lot about a lot of things, whether it be sex, drugs, bullying, the internet. But we never had that one conversation on mental health and suicide."

Tuesday, Feb. 8, would have been Daron's 15th birthday, and the Richardsons and the Royal Ottawa Hospital want parents and children to mark the day by discussing mental-health concerns. They've launched a campaign called Do It For Daron, at www.doitfordaron.com. Information is also available at www.youknowwholam.com. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death, behind accidents, for Canadian youth between ages 15 and 24. Studies show that half of all mental disorders begin during adolescence.

Yet few families want to open their grief to the world, and media outlets have been reluctant to publicize suicides for fear of copycats.

The Richardsons held a huge public funeral service for Daron in November, a week after her death at their Ottawa home, and made it clear from the outset they wanted to address the scourge of teen suicide.

Tim Kluke, the president and CEO of the Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health, said the Richardsons' selfless act has opened the floodgates for public inquiries.

"Once we began to talk about suicide and parents started to realize the statistics that were in front of them, immediately it was: 'How do I have the conversation? Give me some tools, give me some information.'"

"I think for all of us it has been a taboo subject," said Kluke.

Richardson personally donated \$100,000 to the cause Wednesday, matching the total already raised by the Do It For Daron campaign begun by his daughter's friends.

The Ottawa Senators also announced they will hold an annual Youth Mental Health Awareness Night, the first one on Feb. 26 when the Philadelphia Flyers – one of Richardson's longtime NHL homes – are in town for a game.

"We need to change the culture of this topic and make it OK to speak about mental health and suicide," said Richardson. \blacksquare



Tom Renney: From The Canada Games To The NHL, Via The Canadian Olympic Team

by Coaches of Canada



COC: What was the catalyst for you to pursue coaching as a career?

TR: I started to identify with coaching when I was attending the University of North Dakota in the mid-70s. Like most Canadian kids, I hoped to play in the National Hockey League, but coaching seemed the more legitimate shot to get to the NHL since I was on the small side for a defenseman.

Father David Bauer was an important role model to me. I recall how impressed I was that a priest would be coaching Canada's National Men's Team. I was impressed by the fact that a man of the cloth was speaking of the virtues of commitment, perseverance, sacrifice, and the pursuit of excellence through hockey. Ultimately and over time, I understood that these were important virtues for me to pursue in my journey through coaching, and I have Father Bauer to thank for that. He was the first coach I had ever heard speak of and demonstrate those most valuable coaching essentials.

Prior to leaving school, I recall writing down the five things I wanted to have accomplished by the time I was thirty-five years old. One being, coach Canada's National Men's Team. In 1993 I was named head coach of Canada's Men's Olympic Team, destination Lillehammer, Norway.

COC: Can you outline the pathway you took to get to the Canada Games as a hockey coach?

TR: Through the B.C. Best Ever program I had been given many terrific opportunities, one of which was coaching British Columbia's entry in the Canada Winter Games in Halifax and Sydney, N.S., in 1987. I had been coaching the Trail Smoke Eaters in the Kootenay International Hockey League in the mid- to late-80s, and had met with some reasonable success. I had attended and successfully participated in the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) during the 80s, and was chosen along with Derek Spring of Cranbrook to co-coach Team B.C. It was a unique and exhilarating experience in every way, and served to "set the hook" in what would be my life's passion: coaching.

COC: How did your coaching experience at the Canada Games set the stage for coaching at the next level?

TR: It was the Canada Games experience that convinced me that coaching in the highest competitive stream possible was what I wanted to do, and to coach the Canadian Olympic Team was my goal. Since a visit to my minor hockey banquet in Cranbrook, B.C., in 1967 by Father David Bauer, the then coach of Team Canada, I could identify with coaching, and would often think of that visit. And I actually still do when it comes to my continued motivation to coach. From the Canada Winter Games, came the Quebec Esso Cup, the national under-17 festival, the National Under-18 Team, National Junior Team, national teams, Olympic teams and numerous IIHF World Championship teams, and luckily enough, the National Hockey League ... all as a head coach. All in all, I have coached in 10 world championships and Olympics for Canada. I feel very lucky.

COC: How would you sum up your coaching career to this point in your life?

TR: When I think back on my coaching career the one thing I really hoped to do was help win a gold medal for my country. We came oh so close in Lillehammer in 1994. With under two minutes to go, we were ahead of the Swedes 2-1 when we were called for a holding penalty. We were crushed when they scored to tie the game at two and although we pushed as hard as we could to win, the famous Peter Forsberg goal in the first shootout in Olympic history erased any hope of Canada's first gold medal in hockey in 39 years. This feat would finally be recognized by Team Canada in Salt Lake City in 2002. The great irony from a personal point of view is that I was never driven to coach in the NHL ... only for my country. Coaching in the NHL appears to a by-product of that determination and drive. ■

HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION Investing in the Future of Canadian Hockey

Melody Davidson To Be Inducted Into Canadian Olympic Hall Of Fame

by Kristen Lipscombe



Almost a year after leading Canada's National Women's Team to Olympic gold on home ice, the accolades continue to pour in for Hockey Canada's very own Melody Davidson.

Davidson, currently the head scout of women's national team programs and a two-time Olympic gold medal-winning head coach of Canada's National Women's Team, will be inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame this spring.

The Canadian Olympic Committee announced this year's five inductees Tuesday, Feb. 8, with Davidson being called to the Hall along with cycling builder Marc Lemay, bobsledder David MacEachern, swimmer Curtis Myden and figure skater Elvis Stojko, who are all described as "legendary Olympic figures."

Davidson has been an influential force within the women's hockey world for more than three decades, from coaching her younger brother's team while growing up in Oyen, Alta., to coaching Canada to three Olympic gold medals.

She served as assistant coach at the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, where Canada won its first-ever gold, and took the reins as head coach at both the 2006 Olympics in Torino and the 2010 Games in Vancouver, where Canada successfully defended its title as the best women's hockey team in the world.

"Davidson is globally admired for her dedication to the women's game, her core belief in values and her leadership," the COC described in a news release. Davidson is also the only person to be named to the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity's most influential women list for five straight years, an accomplishment announced just last month.

"I am both honoured and humbled to be regarded so highly by the Canadian Olympic Committee, alongside my amazing fellow inductees," Davidson said. "This is an unexpected thrill that should be shared with women's hockey supporters and fans across the country."

Since Canada's double hockey gold at Vancouver 2010, a celebration also shared with ecstatic fans across the country, Davidson has received several prestigious recognitions, including the 2010 Petro Canada Coaching Excellence Award from the Coaching Association of Canada, the 2010 C. Vivian Stringer Coaching Award from the United States Sports Academy and the 2010 Jack Donohue Coach of the Year Award from Coaches of Canada. The University of Alberta also named Davidson a 2010 Distinguished Alumni.

This year's Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame Gala Dinner and Induction Ceremony are set for Saturday, Apr. 16 in Moncton, N.B. It will cap off a week of festivities and feature a full artistic program, the details of which will be revealed at a later date, according to the Canadian Olympic Committee.

"The Vancouver Games ignited Olympic spirit and passion all across Canada," said COC president Marcel Aubut. "The Hall of Fame is the COC's most prestigious event, and we are thrilled to share this incredible experience with the gracious people of Moncton, as we recognize this truly outstanding class of Hall of Fame inductees." ■

TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/ HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION

Recent Events



OUTDOOR RINK OPENING January 14, 2011 – Verdun, Que.

The Hockey Canada Foundation proudly partnered with the Montreal Canadiens to construct an outdoor, refrigerated, NHL-sized rink for the Montreal borough of Verdun. More than \$400,000 in proceeds from the 2009 HCF Gala Dinner & Celebrity Classic, which was held in Montreal, were directed specifically to this Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation-led initiative. The opening was well attended by local media, children of Verdun, various dignitaries as well as four members of the Montreal Canadiens – Hal Gill, Matthew Darche, Alexandre Picard and Team Canada alumnus Benoit Pouliot. ■



ALUMNI MIX 'N' MINGLE December 21, 2010 – Toronto, Ont.

In efforts to have alumni connected to one another as well as connected to Hockey Canada, the Team Canada Alumni Association reached out to registered alumni in the Greater Toronto Area for a gathering at the Air Canada Centre during the Canada-Sweden pre-competition game ahead of the 2011 IIHF World Junior Championship.

TCAA chairman Gord Sherven and HCF manager Chris Bright were joined by 27 alumni to cheer on Canada's latest World Junior entry. Alumni from Canada's men's, women's and sledge teams were in attendance, including Billy Bridges, Angela James, Therese Brisson, Rick Vaive, Ron Ellis and Todd Hlusko.

Feedback from the alumni was overwhelmingly positive and all look forward to the next opportunity to connect in efforts to improve our great game and national programs. ■

JEAN BELIVEAU DINNER WITH FRIENDS December 14, 2010 – Montreal, Que.

The Team Canada Alumni Association was proud to partner with the Hockey Canada Foundation as they hosted the Jean Béliveau Dinner with Friends evening at the historic Mount Stephen Club in Montreal. The evening was held to present Béliveau with his Olympic ring; the Hockey Hall of Famer served as Canada's honorary captain at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

Stan Mikita, Ron Ellis, Yvan Cournoyer and Bob Gainey were among the many Team Canada alumni in attendance, while greats like Henri Richard, Dick Duff and Bobby Baun also took part in the evening. Guests of the dinner were treated to a fascinating hot stove lounge, hosted by RDS's Pierre Houde, as the speakers recognized Béliveau's illustrious career and his professionalism as an ambassador of the game.

Capping the evening was the Olympic ring presentation from Hockey Canada president/CEO Bob Nicholson and 2010 Men Olympic Team staff member Kevin Lowe, which included Béliveau's sincere acceptance and humble appreciation of the night.



Bob Nicholson, Jean Béliveau and Kevin Lowe

esting in the Futu Canadian Hocke



TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/ HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION

Upcoming Events



HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION GALA AND CELEBRITY CLASSIC June 27-28, 2011

Ottawa, Ont.

Ottawa Convention Centre, Eagle Creek Golf Club, The Marshes Golf Club For information contact Chris Bright at cbright@hockeycanada.ca or Kristine Trudel at ktrudel@hockeycanada.ca.

2ND ANNUAL TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT September 13, 2011

Calgary, Alta. Lakeside Greens Golf Club For more information contact Gord Sherven at gsherven@wellwest.ca or Chris Bright at cbright@hockeycanada.ca.

2012 IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

December 26, 2011-January 5, 2012 Calgary/Edmonton, Alta. More than 50 alumni took advantage of a special presale ticket offer Billing to commence in March Ticket mail out will begin in late fall



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Eakin Ready For Next Chapter Of Hockey Career

by Francis Dupont



When Cody Eakin celebrates his birthday on May 25 he'll see 20 candles on the cake, meaning his junior hockey days are coming to an end.

But Eakin isn't concerned about where he'll be lacing up his skates next season – the 85th overall pick in the 2009 NHL Entry Draft was the last player cut by the Washington Capitals in training camp this season and could soon be looking for a place to live in the American capital.

"I was always told to play hockey for the right reasons," Eakin says. "The most important thing is to have fun and that's what I'm doing. I simply transformed a sport into a true passion."

For the Winnipeg, Man., native, the 2010-11 season has been particularly satisfying. First, he won a silver medal with Canada's National Junior Team at the 2011 IIHF World Junior Championship and then, two days after the tournament ended, he was traded from Swift Current to the Kootenay Ice, a team with legitimate WHL championship aspirations.

Eakin finished with 195 points (100 goals, 95 assists) in 212 games with Swift Current, which received five players and three draft picks in return.

"I understood the Ice's message when they made the trade; the team gave up a lot for my services and management wants us to go deep into the playoffs," says Eakin, who put up 29 points in his first 17 games with Kootenay.

While he pursues his NHL dreams, Eakin can count on the support of his father, Grant, who played professionally following a great career in the Western Hockey League with Winnipeg and Lethbridge. The elder Eakin was also an NHL pick, an eighth-round selection of Cleveland in 1977.

"My father helps me in difficult times," Cody says. "He talks to me and reminds me that I must let myself be guided by my passion for hockey."

But father and son aren't the only ones with hockey experience in the Eakin family – Cody's uncle, Bruce, had a long pro career in North America and Europe, including 13 NHL games with Calgary and Detroit, and was the first Eakin to play

for Canada's National Junior Team, winning gold in 1982.

"Cody plays hockey for the right reasons," says Bruce. "You can see him smile as soon as he steps onto the ice. Success often comes when someone is guided by passion."

When Cody earned a spot on Canada's roster for this year's World Juniors in Buffalo, Bruce was more than happy to share his experiences with his nephew.

"I spoke to him before the action got underway and told him about the pressure of playing for one's country," says Bruce, who retired after the 1998-99 season and now owns a TCBY frozen yogurt store in Orlando, Fla. "Most of the players are not used to playing in front of crowds of 15,000 to 20,000 people and it requires a major adjustment."

But its more than just World Junior experience that gets shared – with 20 years of pro hockey knowledge, Bruce wants to make sure Cody is ready for whatever challenges come next.

"The National Hockey League is big and closely followed by the media," Bruce says. "Players' smallest actions are scrutinized. You must constantly be on your guard and mindful of what you say. A few photos on the Internet can cause major problems if one is not careful. You must keep in mind that if teams are ready to invest millions in us, they will want to keep an eye on us to make sure that their investment doesn't crumble."

For Uncle Bruce, there is no doubt that Cody will be in the NHL when the puck drops to start the 2011-12 season.

"He is so strong and fast. I'm sure that he will be in Washington as early as next year."

In the meantime, Cody isn't thinking too much about that next step.

"I'm excited to be with the Ice and the thought of going deep into the playoffs with them motivates me. I can't wait to step onto the ice. We have a very good hockey team and I want to fully enjoy my last days in junior hockey."



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Beefing Up The Bench: Walz Joins Staff Of Son's High School Team

by Mike Longaecker - South Washington County Bulletin



Doug Long believes that every few years something magical happens on the hockey rink.

Maybe you don't realize it at the time, the East Ridge boys hockey coach said. But eventually it sinks in.

Long thinks he's going through one of those experiences right now – and this time the magic of the moment is crystal clear to him.

"This is going to rank right up there," Long said, "regardless of how the season ends up."

He's talking about the new addition to his coaching staff: former Minnesota Wild player Wes Walz.

The retired NHLer last year returned to Woodbury, where he and his family lived while he played for the Wild. Walz said the move – he lived in Florida the last two years while he worked as an assistant coach for the Tampa Bay Lightning – was all about giving his son Kelvin a chance to play a higher level of hockey in his final high school year.

"It's awesome to be back in real Minnesota hockey," said Kelvin, currently the Raptors' team leader in points scored.

Walz serves as an assistant coach and as team's unofficial video analyst. Long said Walz spends up to three hours creating about 10 to 15 minutes of video footage to go over with the players and coaches.

"He just breaks the game down into easy teaching points for the kids and I think it's making a huge difference," Long said.

The former NHLer also has a keen eye for player positioning on the ice, Long said.

Kelvin agreed, saying his father's teaching points "are really paying off." He said his father has helped players concentrate on smaller aspects – penalty kills on power play, for example – where "we've never been taught at that depth and detail."

Walz said his focus has been on moving away from X's and O's on the ice and getting the high schoolers to concentrate on team aspects.

"No one player's more important than the next in order to have success," he said. "That's the message I'm hoping to bring."

He expects this coaching stint to be a one-year affair at East Ridge, but said he hasn't nailed down what the future might bring.

Long figures that will continue to be somewhere in the hockey world.

"That's where his skill set lies," he said.

Regardless, he said he's thrilled with the unique opportunity to have a former NHL player on board and glad to call Walz a friend.

"It's been a lot of fun," Walz said.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Rob Blake Joins NHL Hockey Operations Department

NHL Communications



A Stanley Cup champion, Norris Trophy winner and one of the best defensemen to ever play the game, Rob Blake will join the NHL's Hockey Operations department as a manager, the National Hockey League announced Jan. 27.

Blake will work with senior executive vice-president of hockey operations Colin Campbell and his staff on all aspects of the game. He will work closely with hockey executives on the club level and be involved with the Competition Committee and the NHL's summer Research and Development Camp.

Blake officially retired from the game on July 18, 2010 following a remarkable 20-year NHL career with the Los Angeles Kings, Colorado Avalanche and San Jose Sharks. He finished his career with 777 points (240 goals, 537 assists) in 1,270 games which places him 18th all-time among NHL defensemen all-time.

Blake has also had an illustrious International career, representing Canada in the Olympics three times (1998, 2002 and 2006) and appearing in five IIHF World Championships (1991, 1994, 1997, 1998 and 1999). Blake was also selected to play for Team Canada for two World Cup of Hockey tournaments (1996 and 2004) but did not play in 2004 due to injury.

He is one of only 24 players in hockey history to join the IIHF Triple Gold Club, winning an IIHF World Championship (Canada, 1994 and 1997), Olympic gold medal (Canada, 2002) and the Stanley Cup (Colorado, 2001). Blake became the 11th member on Feb. 24, 2002 with Team Canada's Olympic gold medal at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. ■



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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Katie Weatherston Finds Way To Stay In The Game

by Peter Clark



Girls from three Ottawa Valley high schools got up close and personal with an Olympic gold medallist at the Ma-Te-Way Activity Centre on Jan. 20.

Katie Weatherston, a member of the Team Canada's 2006 gold medal-winning team, was in Renfrew conducting a two-hour clinic for girls from the high school hockey programs of the Opeongo Wildcats, Arnprior Redmen and Renfrew Collegiate Raiders.

The 27-year-old Thunder Bay native has enjoyed much success on the ice. After winning two gold medals with Canada's under-22 team, Weatherston's progress in hockey continued. She became a member of the national team in 2004 and won gold at the 4 Nations Cup in 2004, 2005 and 2007.

But highlighting her career was gold in Turin. Weatherston had four goals and

one assist in five games at the Olympics. Included was the game-winning goal in the semifinal victory over Finland. She also notched three goals at the 2007 IIHF World Women's Championship en route to the gold medal, and two goals in the 2008 tournament when the team finished with silver.

Despite a concussion ending her playing days, Weatherston's career in hockey is far from over. She is owner and head instructor of the Superior Edge Hockey School, an all-girls hockey school which she founded in 2005.

"We run team clinics every week, and hockey camps, usually in the evenings," Weatherston noted. "We have 35 kids signed up (for Renfrew Jan. 31). There are not many girls clinics run by a female instructor."

And perhaps none by an Olympic gold medallist.



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Hurricanes Honour Lethbridge Maple Leafs



To help celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Lethbridge Maple Leafs winning the 1951 IIHF World Championship, the WHL's Lethbridge Hurricanes wore a replica of the Maple Leafs' jersey during their Jan. 25 game against the Brandon Wheat Kings.

"The sweaters are great, they are an exact duplicate of the sweaters we wore in 1951," said former Maple Leaf Tom Wood at the unveiling on Jan. 17. "I think they make a wonderful souvenir of that special event in the history of sport in the City of Lethbridge."

After being selected as Canada's representatives, the Canadian team dominated play in Europe – outscoring the competition 62-6 in wins over Finland (11-1), Norway (8-0), England (17-1), the United States (16-2), Switzerland (5-1) and Sweden (5-1) in the gold medal game.

The Maple Leafs followed up their gold medal by winning the Winston Churchill Ice Hockey Series in England, downing the United States 5-0 and the English All-StarTeam 4-3.

The Maple Leafs played in front of 400,000 people and travelled 30,000 miles through 14 countries in their four-month long adventure before heading home to be welcomed as heroes. Thousands celebrated the players by hosting a special banquet and holding a parade in their honor. The Hurricanes players representing Lethbridge hockey today were very proud to wear the replica jerseys in honor of the players who represented Lethbridge on the world stage 60 years ago.

"It's a beautiful jersey and carries with it such a great storyline – it's rich in history and tradition and we know our players will be proud to wear them," said Hurricanes business manager Jim Bradley during the unveiling ceremony. "The historical significance of this team to hockey in Lethbridge and to the sport as a whole cannot be over emphasized and the jerseys will make a great souvenir for any fan of the game."

The jerseys were auctioned off following the Jan. 25 game, with proceeds going to the Lethbridge Hurricanes Onside Committee.

For more information on the 1951 Lethbridge Maple Leafs, log on to www.lethbridgemapleleafs.com. \blacksquare



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YOU'VE WORN THE JERSEY



NOW REGISTER AS AN ALUMNI MEMBER

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