



Team Canada Alumni Association



Winter 2015 Newsletter



Canada's National Junior Team watches the Canadian flag raised at the Air Canada Centre after its 5-4 win over Russia in the gold medal game at the 2015 IIHF World Junior Championship.

Message from Gord Sherven

Chair of the Team Canada Alumni Association Advisory Committee

Welcome to your 2015 Team Canada Alumni Association Winter Newsletter.

I recently attended the 2015 IIHF World Junior Championship in Toronto, where Chris Bright (executive director of the Hockey Canada Foundation), Norm Dueck and I hosted more than 25 players from Canada's gold medal-winning 1993 and 1994 National Junior Teams.

It was great to meet so many former players, and get to see them reconnect and relive their gold medal wins. Adrian Aucoin, Jason Allison, Marty Murray, Jamie Storr, Anson Carter, Jason Botterill and head coach Jos Canale were just a few that were there.

What a thrill it was, as well, to watch Canada's National Junior Team bring gold back to Canada, with a tremendous victory over Russia in the gold medal game on home ice!

The Hockey Canada family recently lost a number of legends, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Jean Béliveau, Pat Quinn, J.P. Parise and Seth Martin.

Included in this newsletter are articles on Hockey Canada's 100th Anniversary celebration, alumni Bernie Nicholls and a great heritage piece on the 1955 world champions, the Penticton Vees. Enjoy!

We currently have contact with over 2,400 alumni. The Team Canada Alumni Association was founded to help connect alumni with former teammates and offer alumni opportunities to help Hockey Canada grow the game and make the best sport in the world accessible to all Canadians. If you have not already registered (at no cost), please contact Norm Dueck, who oversees the alumni association's activities, at ndueck@hockeycanada.ca. We want to be sure that we have updated email addresses, mailing addresses, and phone numbers of all of our alumni, so invites can be sent for future alumni events across the country!

Thank you,
Gord Sherven
Chair, TCAA Advisory Committee ■

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Where We Want To Be – Team Canada Alumni – Coming
Together, Reaching Out.

Why We Want To Go There – 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 – 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 recon-
nect and celebrate the game and their experiences.
These objectives will be within a spirit of teamwork,
inclusion, integrity and service. ■

Gone, but not forgotten

Remembering Team Canada alumni

by Jason La Rose



Seth Martin

**(May 4, 1933 –
September 6, 2014)**

Martin was a mainstay with Team Canada during the 1960s, appearing in four IIHF World Championships and one Olympic Winter Games; the goaltender led the Trail Smoke Eaters to a gold medal at the 1961 worlds – the last amateur team to win gold for Canada – and earned bronze with Canada's National Men's Team in 1966 and 1967.

Martin's importance to Team Canada was evident with one glance at his trophy case; in the five major international tournaments he played, he was named Top Goaltender at four of them: the 1961, 1963 and 1966 worlds, and 1964 Olympics.

He was inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame in 1997. ■



Pat Quinn

**(January 29, 1943 –
November 23, 2014)**

Quinn stood behind a Team Canada bench on seven occasions, and worked as a general manager or assistant general manager on four others, helping Canada to five medals and a World Cup championship.

He was Canada's head coach at the 1986 IIHF World Championship (bronze), 2002 Olympic Winter Games (gold), 2004 World Cup of Hockey (first place), 2006 Olympic Winter Games (sixth place), 2006 Spengler Cup (second place), 2008 IIHF World U18 Championship (gold) and 2009 IIHF World Junior Championship (gold).

Quinn was an NHL head coach for parts of 20 seasons with the Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Vancouver Canucks, Toronto Maple Leafs and Edmonton Oilers, winning the Jack Adams Award as NHL coach of the year in 1979-80 with the Flyers and 1991-92 with the Canucks. He sits sixth all-time in NHL history with 684 wins (in 1,400 games). ■



Jean Béliveau

**(August 31, 1931 –
December 2, 2014)**

Béliveau was one of the first five Distinguished Honourees of the Order of Hockey in Canada in 2012, and was the honorary captain of Canada's gold medal-winning Men's Olympic Team at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C.

He spent parts of 20 seasons with the Montreal Canadiens from 1950-71, cementing his place as not only one of the greatest Canadiens ever, but as one of the greatest players the game has ever seen.

A 10-time Stanley Cup champion as a player (he added seven more as an executive with the Canadiens), Béliveau averaged more than a point a game during his career, scoring 507 goals and adding 712 assists for 1,219 points in 1,125 games. He was a two-time winner of the Hart Trophy as NHL MVP, won the Art Ross Trophy as the league's top scorer, and was the very first recipient of the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. ■



J.P. Parise

**(December 11, 1941 –
January 7, 2015)**

Parise represented Canada only once, but it was a memorable appearance; he played in six of the eight games in the 1972 Summit Series, recording two goals and two assists while skating on a line with Phil Esposito and Wayne Cashman.

He played 890 NHL games with Boston, Toronto, Minnesota, the New York Islanders and Cleveland from 1965-79, finishing his career with 594 points (238 goals and 356 assists), along with 58 points (27 goals, 31 assists) in 86 playoff games.

He was a driving force behind the success of the Shattuck-St. Mary's School program in Faribault, Minn., serving as a coach and director of hockey, and helped develop players like Sidney Crosby and Jonathan Toews. ■

Alumni called to the Hall in B.C.

Andrews, Fraser, Matthews and Niedermayer earn induction into B.C. Hockey Hall of Fame

by Jason La Rose



David Andrews



Curt Fraser



Allan Matthews



Rob Niedermayer

The B.C. Hockey Hall of Fame announced its Class of 2015 on Jan. 27, and four men with ties to Hockey Canada will be inducted this summer – two for their individual contributions, and two as part of a team.

Curt Fraser, who won bronze with Canada at the 1978 IIHF World Junior Championship, and Rob Niedermayer, a two-time gold medallist (1993 IIHF World Junior Championship and 2004 IIHF World Championship) will be enshrined as players.

Niedermayer will go into the B.C. HHOF alongside older brother – and fellow Team Canada alumnus – Scott, who was inducted in 2012. The brothers won gold together at the 2004 worlds in the Czech Republic.

David Andrews and Allan Matthews, both of whom have already been inducted as builders, were part of the staff of British Columbia's gold medal-winning men's hockey team at the 1979 Canada Winter Games, which is being inducted in the team category.

Both have had long relationships with Hockey Canada, and both continue to have a role in the growth and development of the game; Andrews is vice-chair of the Canadian Hockey Foundation U.S., while Matthews is treasurer of the Hockey Canada Foundation and a former chairman of the Hockey Canada Board of Directors.

The four men will be inducted July 24 in Penticton, B.C., along with the rest of the 1979 CWG team, former Canucks captain Markus Naslund, and longtime minor hockey volunteer Cam Kerr. ■

'V' is for victory

60 years ago, the Penticton Vees brought IIHF World Championship gold back to Canada

NOTE: The following is a chapter from "Canada on Ice" by Dave Holland

It is one of the great ironies in international hockey that the Penticton Vees were named after three types of peaches: the veteran, the valiant and the vedette. Canada's representative at the 1955 IIHF World Championship, led by the Warwick brothers, Bill, Dick and Grant, was anything but soft and sweet. Its style of play was one of the most physical ever seen since the inception of the event.

The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) faced increased scrutiny when it sat down to select its 1955 representative. Several options were being considered, including sending the Allan Cup champions. In the end, the CAHA opted to select a team from those that applied for the privilege. There were only two applications. The CAHA was relieved that one of the applicants was the Penticton Vees, winners of the 1954 Allan Cup.

The Vees were set to open the world championship and compete against the United States in Dortmund, Germany. A few small obstacles needed to be cleared up, however. During the IIHF pre-tournament passport examination, several of the players has listed their occupancy as "hockey player," causing some fuss among the other delegates. All of them were eventually cleared to play, having been reinstated as amateurs two years earlier.

Canada easily handled its opening match against the Americans, followed by a closer win over Czechoslovakia. Strangely, after only two days of play, Canada and the Soviet Union were the last undefeated teams. Through the final day of the tournament, the Canadians and Soviets remained the only undefeated teams, with seven wins each. The final game was a match between the two nations.

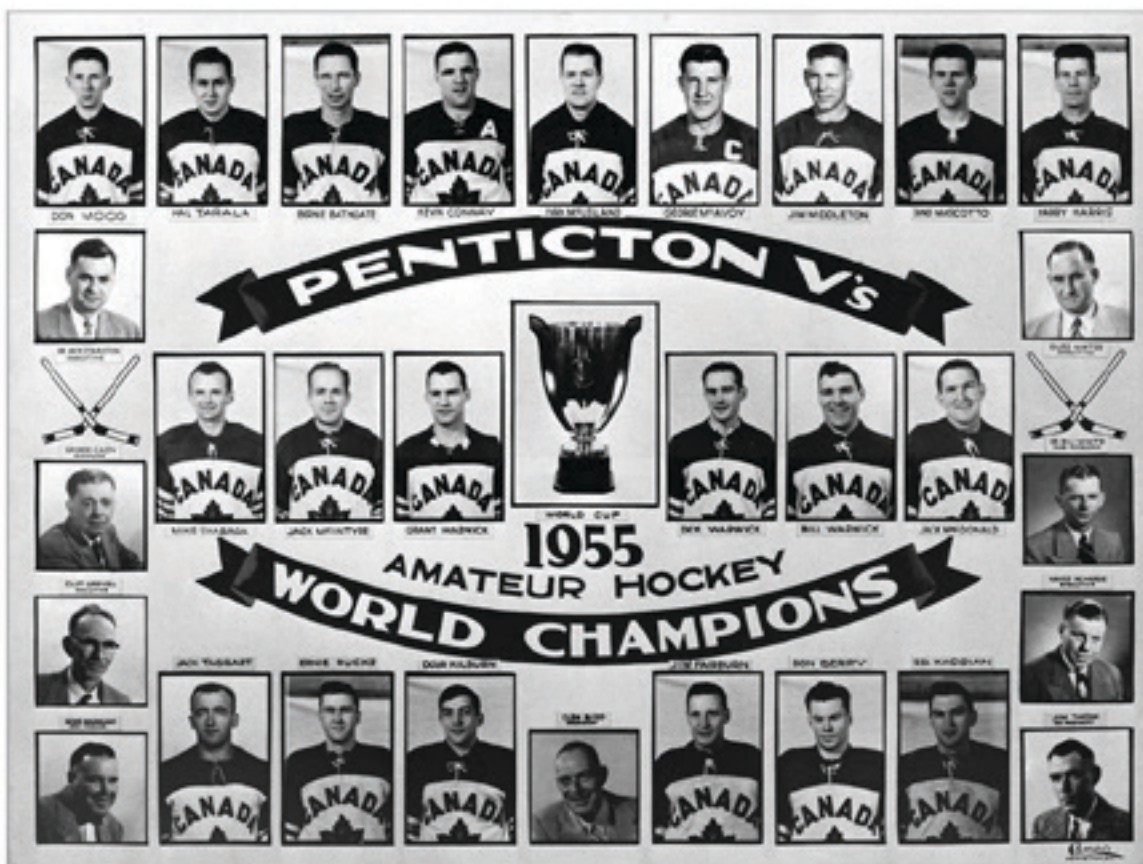
Interest in the Vees heightened throughout the tournament, fueled by extensive coverage in Canadian media. The legendary Foster Hewitt, reported to have captured the largest listening audience on any sports broadcast in Canada, called the final game on CBC from coast to coast. Fans across the country were able to celebrate each goal, five in total, almost in unison with the Vees. The team from Penticton cruised to a 5-0 victory, reclaiming the world title that it considered to be rightfully theirs.

Additional cheers were heard in the Warwick Restaurant, as Warwick senior, the proprietor, promised a free beer for each goal scored by the Vees. By the end of the tournament, 66 rounds were enjoyed by the Vees faithful.

The Penticton players were shocked and disappointed to find the championship trophy in three pieces when it was presented to them. Having seen how the Soviet Union had treated the cup, the Warwicks vowed the Soviets would never again see the trophy.

A Vancouver jeweler was persuaded to make a replica of the trophy. It was this remarkable reproduction that was eventually returned with the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen for presentation by Bunny Ahearne and the IIHF at the 1956 world championship. The Warwicks were smugly satisfied when the Soviets accepted the trophy for their 1956 win, later to be proudly displayed by Soviet president Nikita Khrushchev.

When asked about the original, Bill Warwick claimed to still have possession of it, assuring the trophy was in a safe place. He was unwilling to say where. He did, however, say that the fake trophy, long since retired, could be easily identified, simply by removing the crest and revealing the words, "Eatons, Made in Canada."



Team Canada Alumni Association / Hockey Canada Foundation

Recent Events

Taking a look back

Three gold medals highlight Team Canada's recent international action

by Jason La Rose

It was another busy two months for Team Canada, with national teams taking to the ice for events in five provinces and three countries between early November and mid-January.



2014 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge

Nov 2-8, 2014 | Sarnia-Lambton, Ont.

A new era began for the Hockey Canada Program of Excellence and the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Sarnia-Lambton, with Canada's three national under-17 teams (Black, Red and White) replacing the five regional entries. The future of Canadian hockey was on display, and the future looks bright, but the pucks didn't bounce the way of the red and white (and black), leaving Canada White in fifth place, Canada Red in sixth and Canada Black in seventh.

2014 4 Nations Cup

Nov. 4-8, 2014 | Kamloops, B.C.

Canada's National Women's Team saw its first action since winning Olympic gold, with a new-look roster (only 10 returnees from Sochi) on the ice in the B.C. interior. A perfect preliminary round set up another Canada-United States showdown for gold, and the North American rivals didn't disappoint. Jennifer Wakefield scored late in the second period to tie the game, Brienne Jenner had the lone shootout goal and Geneviève Lacasse was a perfect 3-for-3, giving Canada a 3-2 win, and a 14th gold medal.

2014 Deutschland Cup

Nov. 7-9, 2014 | Munich, Germany

Canada's National Men's Team went in search of a fifth gold medal at the Deutschland Cup, bringing together some of the best Canadian talent playing in Europe. Led by 15 players from Germany's Deutsche Eishockey Liga, Canada finished off the podium but ended its tournament on a strong note; Steve Reinprecht and Brandon Buck scored in the final 6:09 to lead Canada to a 4-2 win over tournament champion Germany in its finale of the round-robin event.



2014 World Junior A Challenge

Dec. 14-20, 2014 | Kindersley, Sask.

For the first time since the inaugural tournament in 2006, the World Junior A Challenge returned to Saskatchewan, with Kindersley welcoming the world. Playing with emotion after a serious early-tournament injury to forward Neil Doef, Canada East came within 91 seconds of upsetting the U.S. in the preliminary round and beat Canada West in the quarter-finals - its first win in six all-time tries over the westerners - before coming up short in the medal round, finishing fourth.

2014 Spengler Cup

Dec. 26-31, 2014 | Davos, Switzerland

Canada's National Men's Team returned to Davos for the 31st consecutive year for another of the country's holiday hockey traditions, the Spengler Cup. After posting a .500 record in the preliminary round and knocking off Finnish team Jokerit Helsinki in the quarter-finals, the Canadians faced defending champion HC Genève-Servette in the semis for the second year in a row. The Swiss side opened up a 5-0 lead, but Canada twice got to within one, at 5-4 and 6-5, before finishing a goal short.

2015 IIHF World Junior Championship

**Dec. 26, 2014-Jan. 5, 2015 |
Toronto, Ont. & Montreal, Que.**

The World Juniors returned to Canadian ice with the country's two largest cities playing host, and Canada's National Junior Team didn't disappoint the home crowd. After a perfect preliminary round, capped by another New Year's Eve win over the U.S., Canada rolled past Denmark in the quarter-finals and Slovakia in the semis, setting up a gold medal game against Russia. Canada would not be denied, taking a 5-1 lead and holding on for its record 16th gold medal, and first since 2009.



2015 Nations Cup

Jan. 3-6, 2015 | Füssen, Germany

Canada's National Women's Development Team crossed the Atlantic for the Nations Cup and was dominant in claiming its 10th gold medal in the last 13 years. The Canadians scored victories over Finland (4-1) and Russia (5-1) to advance to the gold medal game, where Sweden awaited. In the final, Ann-Renée Desbiens made 10 saves for the shutout, Victoria Bach added to her tournament-leading point total with a goal and an assist, and Canada blanked the Swedes 4-0 to win gold.

2015 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship

Jan. 5-12, 2015 | Buffalo, N.Y.

Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team made the short trip south to Buffalo in search of an unprecedented fourth consecutive world championship. After a tournament-opening shootout loss to the host Americans, Canada rebounded with wins over Russia (twice) and the Czech Republic to set up another face-off with the U.S., this time with gold on the line. The Canadians struck first, and goaltender Marlène Boissonnault got the game to overtime, but Canada settled for silver after a 3-2 loss.

2015 World Sledge Hockey Challenge

Feb. 1-7, 2015 | Leduc, Alta.

Canada's National Sledge Team started its season in Leduc, looking for back-to-back gold medals at the World Sledge Hockey Challenge. The Canadians opened strong, posting consecutive shutouts in wins over Korea and Russia, but couldn't find the back of the net in a 2-0 loss to the U.S. Facing the Russians again in the semifinals, Canada dropped a narrow 2-1 decision on a last-minute game-winner, but rebounded to top Korea 4-1 for bronze, ensuring it would leave with a medal for the eighth year in a row. ■

Team Canada Alumni Association / Hockey Canada Foundation

Upcoming and past events

Coming together again

As the 2015 World Juniors hit the medal round, members of two past gold-medal-winning teams were recognized

by Wendy Graves



Members of Canada's 1993 and 1994 National Junior Teams gathered in Toronto during the 2015 IIHF World Junior Championship.

Ask Dean McAmmond what he remembers most about winning a gold medal at the 1993 IIHF World Junior Championship and the first thing that springs to mind has nothing to do with what happened on the ice.

"I (felt like) Santa Claus on Christmas Day because it was the first time I was away from home," he says. "Our team doctor dressed up."

The hockey part was pretty memorable, too.

"(We were) a bunch of young-faced hockey players who were just in the beginning parts of their budding careers," he says. McAmmond himself would go on to play 18 seasons in the NHL, reaching the Stanley Cup Final with the Ottawa Senators in 2007.

As the medal round for the 2015 World Juniors played out in Toronto, Ont., members of the 1993 and 1994 teams reunited in recognition of their golden achievements.

"I think everyone at Hockey Canada and the Hockey Canada Foundation recognizes the importance of celebrating the game and the successes we've had," says Chris Bright, executive director of the Hockey Canada Foundation. "It's part of the mandate for the foundation to celebrate Canada's hockey heritage."

Some of the alumni hadn't seen each other in 20 years.

"We're talking about minor hockey and about our kids and grandkids and how they're playing," says Jos Canale, who was an assistant coach in 1993 and the head coach in 1994. "It's nice to be part of a winning tradition. When you win you become a very close family."

Brent Tully was also a member of both teams. In 1993 he was named to the tournament all-star team; the following year he served as Canada's captain.

After winning in 1994 Tully proudly called his team "a bunch of no-name hockey players" in a televised interview. The team was an underdog, he says now, and wanted to prove they were better than people pegged them to be.

The team went undefeated but it wasn't until the dying minutes of the last game against Sweden – medals were awarded after an eight-time round-robin – that the gold was iced.

"Aaron Gavey made a play with his stick that was unbelievable – a blind pass that would've been an empty net goal for them," he says. Shortly after, Rick Girard scored an empty-netter and made it 6-4 Canada.

That was the first of three World Juniors gold medals for Jason Botterill. The groundwork for the team's success, he says, was laid in Switzerland in the lead up to the event.

"I think the support that guys felt on the bench, whether they played a lot or not, really started at that training camp," he says.

Now in his role as associate general manager of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Botterill watches and evaluates his team's prospects from all the countries.

He wants to see future Penguins succeed, just not necessarily their teams.

"You're always a fan at heart," he says. "You're certainly cheering for the maple leaf."

The 1993 team didn't wait as long to clinch its medal: it was secured with two games still to play.

"We luckily had a lot of time to enjoy our championship because we still had over half a week left of hockey," says Adrian Aucoin. "It was probably a lot more fun than it should have been."

The alumni were kept busy in Toronto. In addition to a celebratory brunch, the players were recognized during Canada's quarter-final game against Denmark, and they made appearances at the McDonald's Fan Zone and helped launch a new public rink that was built with funds raised by the Hockey Canada Foundation.

Their weekend kicked off Thursday night when they met and mingled with Canada's current National Junior Team. The alumni talked to them about facing adversity and staying confident in the team. Mostly, though, the players simply shared their love of hockey.

Current defenceman Josh Morrissey told Aucoin about watching him play with the Flames when he was growing up in Calgary, Alta. And McAmmond and Morrissey talked about playing their junior hockey with the Prince Albert Raiders.

The players may have been meeting for the first time, but in the small world of hockey they quickly learned there's far fewer than six degrees of separation.

"I've been on the ice with (Curtis) Lazar's little brother," says McAmmond, who coaches minor hockey in Lazar's hometown of Vernon, B.C. "He's a Peewee, same age as my son, so we connected on that level."

The popularity and visibility of the World Juniors has grown considerably in the past two decades. But what doesn't change is the pride one feels in playing for his country.

"Twenty-some years later to be brought back – it makes you feel like you're still part of it," says McAmmond. "I've been retired for four years now; my playing career's done but you always feel like you're wearing the leaf on your chest." ■

CLICK HERE for a video highlighting the reunion.

Moving on

After decorated international careers, five Team Canada alumni have stepped away from the game

by Jason La Rose

As the future of the Canadian game stepped into the spotlight at national and international events this fall, five Team Canada alumni – who combined more than 375 international games – called it a career and announced their retirements.



Tessa Bonhomme
(Canada's National Women's Team)

Bonhomme made her debut with Canada's National Women's Team at the 2004 4 Nations Cup in Lake Placid, N.Y., and finished her international career with 51 points (10 goals, 41 assists) in 107 games. She retired as the fifth-highest scoring defenceman in Team Canada history.

The Sudbury, Ont., native won gold with Canada at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C., and at the IIHF World Women's Championship in 2007 and 2012, setting up Caroline Ouellette for the overtime winner in the 2012 gold medal game. Bonhomme also won silver at the world championship in 2009, 2011 and 2013. She participated in the 4 Nations Cup on eight occasions, winning six gold medals (2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2013) and two silver (2008, 2012).



Graeme Murray
(Canada's National Sledge Team)

Murray originally joined Canada's National Sledge Team in 2001 and finished his Team Canada career with 64 points (33 goals, 31 assists) in 163 games after the national team became part of Hockey Canada in 2004. He ranks tied for third in all-time games played, sixth in scoring and second in scoring among defencemen.

The Gravenhurst, Ont., native played in three Paralympic Winter Games, winning gold in 2006 in Turin, Italy, and bronze in 2014 in Sochi, Russia. He was also part of the Canadian team that finished fourth in 2010 in Vancouver, B.C. His career also included five IPC Sledge Hockey World Championships, winning two gold medals (2008, 2013), and two bronze (2009, 2012), and six World Sledge Hockey Challenges, winning four gold medals (2007, April 2011, November 2011, 2013), and two silver (2009, 2012).



Benoit St-Amand
(Canada's National Sledge Team)

St-Amand originally joined Canada's National Sledge Team as a forward in 2004 before making the move to goaltender, and finished his Team Canada career with a record of 39-5-1 in 51 games with the national team. He ranks second all-time in games played and wins among goaltenders.

The Longueuil, Que., native won Paralympic gold in Turin, Italy, in 2006, and earned bronze in his final Team Canada appearance in 2014 in Sochi, Russia. He was also part of the Canadian team that finished fourth in 2010 in Vancouver, B.C. St-Amand tended goal at four IPC Sledge Hockey World Championships, winning two gold medals (2008, 2013), and two bronze (2009, 2012), and was a part of five World Sledge Hockey Challenges, winning three gold medals (2007, 2008, 2013) and two silver (2009, 2012).



Ray Whitney (Canada's National Men's Team)

Whitney quietly announced his retirement on Jan. 21, bringing an end to a career that included four appearances with Team Canada, all at the IIHF World Championship. He is among the top 10 in all-time Canadian scoring at the world championship (since 1977), and wore the 'C' at his last worlds in 2010.

The Fort Saskatchewan, Alta., native never won a medal with Team Canada but was always among the team's scoring leaders, topping the list in his first appearance in 1998 and last in 2010. In all, he had 25 points (8-17—25) in 29 games at the world championship. Whitney played 22 seasons in the NHL with San Jose, Edmonton, Florida, Columbus, Detroit, Carolina, Arizona and Dallas, recording 1,064 points (375-679—1,064) in 1,330 games and winning a Stanley Cup with the Hurricanes in 2006.



Martin Brodeur (Canada's National Men's Team)

Brodeur played 27 games in a Team Canada sweater, finishing with a 17-7-2 record, 2,28 goals-against average and one shutout. He will forever be remembered as the goaltender who helped Canada end a 50-year Olympic gold medal drought at the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City, and for his perfect 5-0 record two years later to help Canada win its first World Cup of Hockey championship.

The Montreal, Que., native won a second Olympic gold in Vancouver in 2010; he was part of the Canadian roster at four Olympics in all (1998, 2002, 2006, 2010), although he never appeared in a game in his first Olympic experience in Nagano. Brodeur also played in two IIHF World Championships, helping Canada to silver in 1996 and 2005, and at the 1996 World Cup of Hockey, where the Canadians were runners-up. ■

Where are they now? Bernie Nicholls

The Team Canada alumnus has kept his hands in hockey, on and off the ice

by David Brien



It has been 16 years since Bernie Nicholls decided to hang up his skates after 1,127 NHL games, 475 goals and 1,209 points, but that hasn't stopped the former NHLer from keeping close ties to hockey.

After 17 NHL seasons – nine in a Los Angeles Kings uniform – and suiting up for Canada at the 1985 IIHF World Championship, it's no surprise Nicholls has had a hard time staying away from the game.

So how has the Haliburton, Ont., native spent his retirement?

Consulting with the Kings

When Los Angeles decided to replace former head coach Terry Murray with Darryl Sutter during the 2011-12 season, no one could have predicted it would be a season that would end with the Kings' first Stanley Cup.

At the time, Bernie had no clue that he would contribute to the franchise's first-ever championship.

"I felt their power play struggled at times in 2011 and I wanted to offer my services to help in any way," he remembers. "Terry [Murray] didn't think it would work if I wasn't there full-time, so when Darryl [Sutter] got hired, I phoned him and offered the same help."

After talking with Sutter, Nicholls accompanied the team on a road trip. When the team flew back home after a series of wins, Sutter thought it appropriate to keep Nicholls around.

"It was awesome and funny because I pretty much hung out with the players more than the coaches," he says. "I knew what type of challenges they were going through and what Darryl wanted; he knew what I would bring since it's sometimes easier for a former skilled player to talk with the players than the coaches, since we can relate."

Although Nicholls never saw his name engraved on Lord Stanley's mug as a player, or even as a consultant, he still owns a Stanley Cup ring and feels pride for his contributions to the team.

"It was an amazing ride and I couldn't have asked for a better opportunity," he says.

The AllSportsMarket app

Nowadays, it's a new smart phone and tablet application that is keeping Bernie busy; he has been the spokesman and sports industry liaison for the AllSportsMarket app for the past few months.

The app allows people to purchase shares from their favorite professional sports teams and to generate profit whenever they win.

"I was approached a few years ago with the concept and thought it was perfect," he says. "There have been stocks available for different companies, gold and silver, and many more for quite some time, but this is about sports teams."

"What's fun about shares is that you can buy, sell or exchange them at any time. For most people currently betting on sports, it's about that immediate rush."

"We want to offer them something similar where they can invest nightly if their team is playing. The cool thing here is that, unlike gambling, you don't lose your investment if your team loses; only your stocks are affected. And whenever your team wins, well then you get paid dividends for owning its shares."

The process is relatively simple and can benefit anyone, from people who love gambling to the everyday fan looking to own a piece of his or her favorite franchise. As a bonus, teams will receive 50 per cent of every stock purchase and all they have to do is play.

To learn more about the ASM app, visit www.asmfreet.com.

Man in the wild

When he is not at the rink, on the golf course or promoting the sports market app, you may have a hard time tracking down Nicholls.

"I go home to Haliburton, Ontario, in the summer and then I hunt from September to Christmas time in Western Canada. I usually hunt moose, white tail deer, elk and black bears," he says with passion.

And for the man who was once considered a pure sniper in his NHL days, sniping is no longer in the equation when he's in the wild.

"My main objective is to hunt a grizzly bear soon," he adds, "and I plan on doing it with a bow."

Hockey and adrenaline have long been associated with one another, and a simple discussion with Bernie Nicholls shows us that he still craves both. ■



A party 100 years in the making

Hockey Canada celebrated its centennial with a gala in Ottawa

by Wendy Graves



The Ottawa Convention Centre hosted a who's-who of Canadian hockey for Hockey Canada's 100th anniversary gala.

On Dec. 4, 1914, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) – now Hockey Canada – was born inside the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. One hundred years to the day later more than 500 current and former players, coaches, staff, executives and volunteers gathered steps away in the Trillium Room at the Ottawa Convention Centre to celebrate a century of success.

"The gala connected where the CAHA started, with a small group of people who had a big vision, to what it's become today," says Dean McIntosh, who as the senior director of events and properties for Hockey Canada was in charge of planning the party. "It was about 100 years of history and 100 years of heritage in Canada, but it was also an opportunity for us to springboard into the next 100 years."

It was a chance to acknowledge everyone who's important to Hockey Canada, says Tom Renney, president and chief executive officer. Having taken on his role only five months earlier, Renney says he felt both humbled and honoured to be there.

It was a sentiment echoed throughout the evening, says McIntosh, with many guests saying they were thrilled to celebrate a sport they love with people they never would've met if it weren't for their involvement in the game.

Guests were welcomed with an open concept set-up – no formal sit-down dinner on this night – with attractions such as a photo booth, trophy displays and even a to-be-completed painting encouraging an interactive evening.

"I think that led to a lot of history being shared and a lot of terrific visiting that often doesn't happen during events like this," says Renney.

With invitations sent out to all gold-medal-winning captains and coaches, Ryan Smyth (2003 and 2004 IIHF World Championship), Caroline Ouellette (2014 Olympic Winter Games) and Greg Westlake (2013 IPC Sledge Hockey World Championship) were among the players in attendance. They were joined by coaches including Danièle Sauvageau (2002 Olympic Winter Games), George Kingston (1988 Spengler Cup and 1994 IIHF World Championship) and Rick Polutnik (1990 and 1992 IIHF World Women's Championship).

An off-the-side hot stove with the former captains gave guests insight into what it means to be the very public face of a Canadian hockey team. "They

had the chance to speak about their experiences not only as champions but as captains of championship teams and what the game has brought to their lives," says McIntosh.

This followed an earlier session during which former president Murray Costello, Sheldon Kennedy, an alumnus of Canada's National Junior Team and the co-founder of the Respect Group, and Hockey Canada chairman Joe Drago talked about what the game brings to Canadians and how it helps develop its players as people.

Knowing the importance of hockey in Canada and the impact the country has had on the game globally, representatives from home and abroad paid their respects. Bal Gasol, Minister of State (Sport), and Peter MacKay, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, came on behalf of the federal government. Treasurer Hans Dobida brought well wishes from the International Ice Hockey Federation, and representatives from the French, Danish and Swedish ice hockey federations all came to celebrate Hockey Canada's centennial.

Among the conversations starters for guests were the trophies on display throughout the venue. One of the newer additions was the Canadian Tire Hero of Play, which recognizes 100 volunteers across the country who have made a difference in their communities.

"We felt it was a neat tie-in between the volunteers who represent grassroots hockey and make the game go, right up to the world championship trophies and the Stanley Cup, which for many people is the pinnacle of the game at the pro level and something a lot of Canadians have been a part of winning," says McIntosh.

A paint-by-numbers canvas encouraged guests to help create a keepsake of the event. The completed painting – a scene of an outdoor game, an image familiar to those who first laced up their skates just outside their backdoor – will hang at Hockey Canada's head office in Calgary.

It's this grassroots level that Renney says is most imperative to preserve.

"I think it's really important to celebrate the game, the people in the game, the culture of hockey and how it very much, in my mind, identifies the very fabric of being Canadian." ■

Cederstrand's second chance

After a construction accident took his leg, Chris Cederstrand found sledge hockey, and found his way to Canada's National Sledge Team

by Wendy Graves



Chris Cederstrand made his debut with Canada's National Sledge Team at the 2015 World Sledge Hockey Challenge.

It has only been four years since Chris Cederstrand first strapped himself into a sled and gave sledge hockey a try. The sport gave him the chance to reclaim a part of his life he thought he'd lost.

In 1997, the native of Martensville, Sask., was drafted by the Red Deer Rebels of the Western Hockey League. Concussion issues limited him to 27 games over the following two seasons.

By 2005 Cederstrand was working a job in construction and dreaming of a future career as a firefighter. While driving a road packer at a construction site, Cederstrand was forced to make a split-second decision when the machine malfunctioned and started going down a hill.

"In order for me to save it from going into traffic," he says, "I rode it into a meridian and as I jumped off it flipped and landed on me."

Cederstrand needed to have his right leg amputated above the knee.

A poor prosthetic that left him nearly immobile and a lack of rehabilitation support systems at the time – one hospital visitor told him his biggest physical activity was bowling – left Cederstrand feeling defeated.

That started to change when the World Sledge Hockey Challenge came to Calgary in 2011.

"I saw Kieran (Block) on the ice and found out he was a former Western League guy," says Cederstrand. "I was hooked right away once I saw it, and (once) I saw it could be played at a very elite level, it was almost a no-brainer."

The forward set a less-than-modest goal right from the start: play for Canada's National Sledge Team. Within three months of getting in a sled, he was picked up by Canada's National Sledge Development Team.

In early February, Cederstrand made his national team debut at the 2015 World Sledge Hockey Challenge in Leduc, Alta., as the oldest member of the Team Canada roster.

"It's something you dream of as a kid, to be able to represent your country," the 33-year-old says. "With my hockey background, you always looked at those guys (playing for Canada) and wished you could be there. To be able to put on that jersey, there are not a lot of other feelings like it."

As important as the sport has been for Cederstrand – "I don't know where I'd be if I wasn't able to progress the way I have and get that normalization back" – his daily life has been made exponentially easier thanks to a new prosthetic leg.

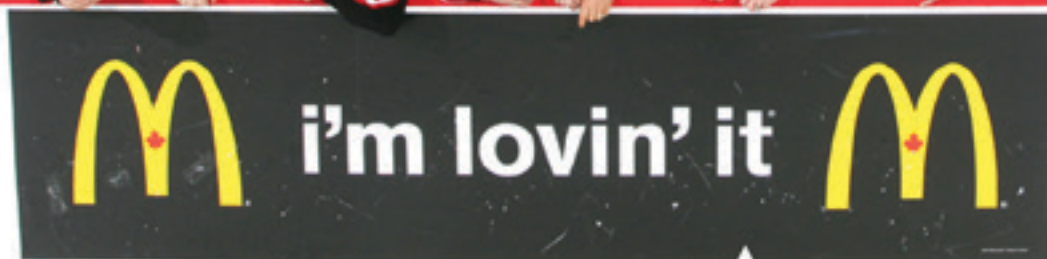
It mimics his natural gait and requires far less effort for each step, he says. "You're able to go up stairs, you can run, you can swim – there's literally no limit to what the leg can do." He even took his firefighter fitness exam with it. The programmable limb allows Cederstrand's body to go from sitting at the fire hall to walking in 10-pound shoes while bearing 60 pounds' worth of gear with the flick of a switch.

The leg cost \$100,000. Getting it was possible thanks to the fundraising efforts of friends both old and new.

A group of women from his home base of Okotoks, Alta., got the ball rolling, scheduling him for a series of talks to minor hockey players. Soon country singer George Canyon was on board, telling fans about Cederstrand's cause during concerts. More donors followed with their support.

"When the ladies initially started the initiative, you're very leery of it – \$100,000 is a huge amount of money," he says. "Not in a million years did I think we'd get there (in) just shy of six months."

Cederstrand is now paying it forward, setting up a foundation to help other people with disabilities get what they need to play sports again. ■



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