

Hockey legends come alive



Brian Freeman, left, creative director of They Integrated, played defence for the Montreal Canadiens during the third period. Freeman stands with Gilbert Delorme of the Montreal alumni team.



Toronto Maple Leafs Lou Franceschetti scored against Montreal Canadiens Richard Sévigny during the Legends of Hockey charity event.



Photo by Sandra Kielback
(Above) – Kevin Maguire, left, of the Toronto Maple Leafs alumni sits with Dan Daoust on the bench at the Scotiabank Legends of Hockey Charity Classic.
Photo by Nam Phi Dang
(Right) – Montreal Canadiens alumni coach Guy Lafleur autographs a fan's roster sheet during the Legends of Hockey charity event.



By David Zammit

It was once-in-a-lifetime opportunity Friday night at Yardmen Arena, as two of Canada's favourite sports teams sent their alumni to square off with one another. The game was a benefit for the Belleville General Hospital Foundation.

The game itself was hosted by the Toronto Maple Leafs, and their guests at the Yardmen Arena in Belleville, were their archrivals, the Montreal Canadiens.

"The Leafs and Canadiens use their alumni for great causes and when you can get two great teams to come together to play one another for a great cause's it's a great time for everyone," said former Leaf Kris King.

"Passionate and physical" was how King described the rivalry. The teams have been rivals since the start of the National Hockey League in 1917, with their first game on Boxing Day, 1917.

Since then they have played 782 against each other, with the upper hand going to the Canadiens with 378 wins, 310 losses, and 88 ties. The games were "something you always had to get up for, something that didn't take a lot of motivation to get going," King said.

The game featured some great talent, including right wing Mike Gartner, who had scored more than 1,300 career points, and left wing

Gary Leeman, a one-time 50-goal scorer.

Hall of Famer Steve Shutt, a former forward, played for Montreal and scored 30 goals in nine different seasons. The biggest name, Guy Lafleur, was behind the Montreal bench. He scored 50 goals six different times in the NHL to go along with his numerous other awards.

The game was an interesting one, as Montreal received two penalty shots in the game, scoring on one of them. The game was dominated by the Leafs' line of left wing Gary Leeman, centre Dave Reid, and right wing Mark Osborne.

The game was close until the start of the third, when the Leafs came out with guns blazing, and got three goals within three minutes to make the score 7-4. Lafleur tried to rally his team on the Montreal bench but had no luck as Mark LaForest played great between the Leafs' pipes, holding off the late-surging Canadiens at the end.

The event "raised over \$90,000 for the hospital" said Jenn Barrett the director of development for the hospital foundation. The game was a sellout and funds will buy orthopedic equipment to help with hip and knee replacements.

"When you can help out with any community and especially a smaller hospital like Belleville's, it can really make a difference," said King.



Toronto Maple Leafs alumni goaltender Mark LaForest steps on the ice as the Legends of Hockey charity event goes underway.