

McAfee, Wilson families revel in card collecting

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

No longer does Marty McAfee leave his belongings scattered all over his Acton home.

A few years back, the 21-year-old could admit to having 12 Wayne Gretzky rookie cards that are presently valued at \$700.

That was before they were tossed into the fireplace by his mother, who became fed up with the cards on display all around the house.

'They're in my room now; lock and key,' says a smiling McAfee, who works part-time for Gene and Janet Clarke of Sports Card Connection on Mill Street East. He claims to have 150,000 mostly National Hockey League and National Basketball Association cards

from his five years of collecting. McAfee's most expensive card is that of The Great One, his favourite player.

'I like his attitude toward the game and the way he promotes it,' says McAfee, who picked up his 13th Gretzky card from Gene. 'Hockey wouldn't be what it is without him.'

If Gretzky retired in the near future, the card's value would jump \$50 to \$100, says Gene.

Two years ago; McAfee received a Los Angeles Kings hockey stick with all the players' names adorning it, courtesy of his aunt, who knows former King player John Tonelli.

'I kind of knew I was getting it, but it was still a surprise,' he states. McAfee lists his best trade as



MARTY MCAFFEE

the pickup in which he received the 1983-84 hockey set worth between \$175 and \$225. It includes top stars Doug Gilmour, Cam Neely and Steve Yzerman.

'I can get a better deal here than at card shows,' admits McAfee of Sports Card Connection and adds, 'working here I get a percentage off as well.'

He has been to a number of shows in Toronto, Cambridge and Guelph and finds the card dealers easier to confront now as opposed to past years.

'They're trying to be more honest in giving you a fair price,' he says, while adding he'll collect cards "forever" and that 3 and 4-year-old kids are even involving themselves in the collecting craze.

Jim Wilson and his two sons, Matthew, 12, and Josh, 13, have made collecting a family affair as they own 50,000 sports and non-sports cards.

Matthew mentions he has about

100 comic books and considers his favourite to be the Death of Superman issue that his dad gave him last Christmas. He and his brother also collect stamps.

'The boys were given a box of cards from their uncle, found out its worth and we got started,' said Jim, 37, who started collecting cards at 8 and says he probably had all Bobby Orr's and Bobby Hull's cards. 'Back then I just flung them against the wall, he shrugs.

'I do it for the kids. I'll probably never sell the cards and when I die I'll leave them for the boys.'

The boys covet rookie cards of ex-teammates (with St. Louis Blues) Brett Hull and Adam Oates, presently valued at \$90 and \$45, respectively.

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Worry free vacation tips

All of the tips that I have outlined in the last few weeks are important for thief-proofing your home when you leave on vacation. Next week I will include a checklist of items that you don't want to leave home without!

1. Are you sure not to hide house keys under doormats, flower pots, or similar places?
2. Did you check basement windows, garage windows, and other openings?
3. Did you make a list of all your valuables, with serial numbers whenever possible, and keep this list in your safety deposit box?
4. Did you arrange to leave a car in the driveway and to have a neighbour shift its location from time to time?
5. If possible, do you avoid loading your car for vacation in plain view?
6. Spotters for burglars sometimes work for garbage collectors. Do you ask neighbours to use your garbage cans or blue box while you are away?

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How to treat a sunburn

Here is a hot health tip to remember during vacation time. If you happen to end up on the toasty side, make sure you give your sunburn the proper attention.

To soothe the hot burning, use cool compresses soaked in water or milk. Spray the area with a first aid spray to prevent infection and relieve the pain. Once the burn has cooled, you can spread on the burn cream.

Creams and foams sold to treat hemorrhoids are surprisingly effective for sunburns. If the burn starts to seriously blister or bubble, you should see a doctor.


To avoid burns altogether, use a strong sunscreen when you are out in the sun. Or better yet, stay out of the sun's harmful rays during the mid-day period.

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