

Hockey hero still connected to hometown

Local celebrities invest in Georgetown fitness centre

By DONNA DANIELI

Many years may have passed since Brian Hayward called Georgetown home, but the former NHL goalie still takes an active interest in the community. Or rather, it's the community itself, that he is hoping to make more active.

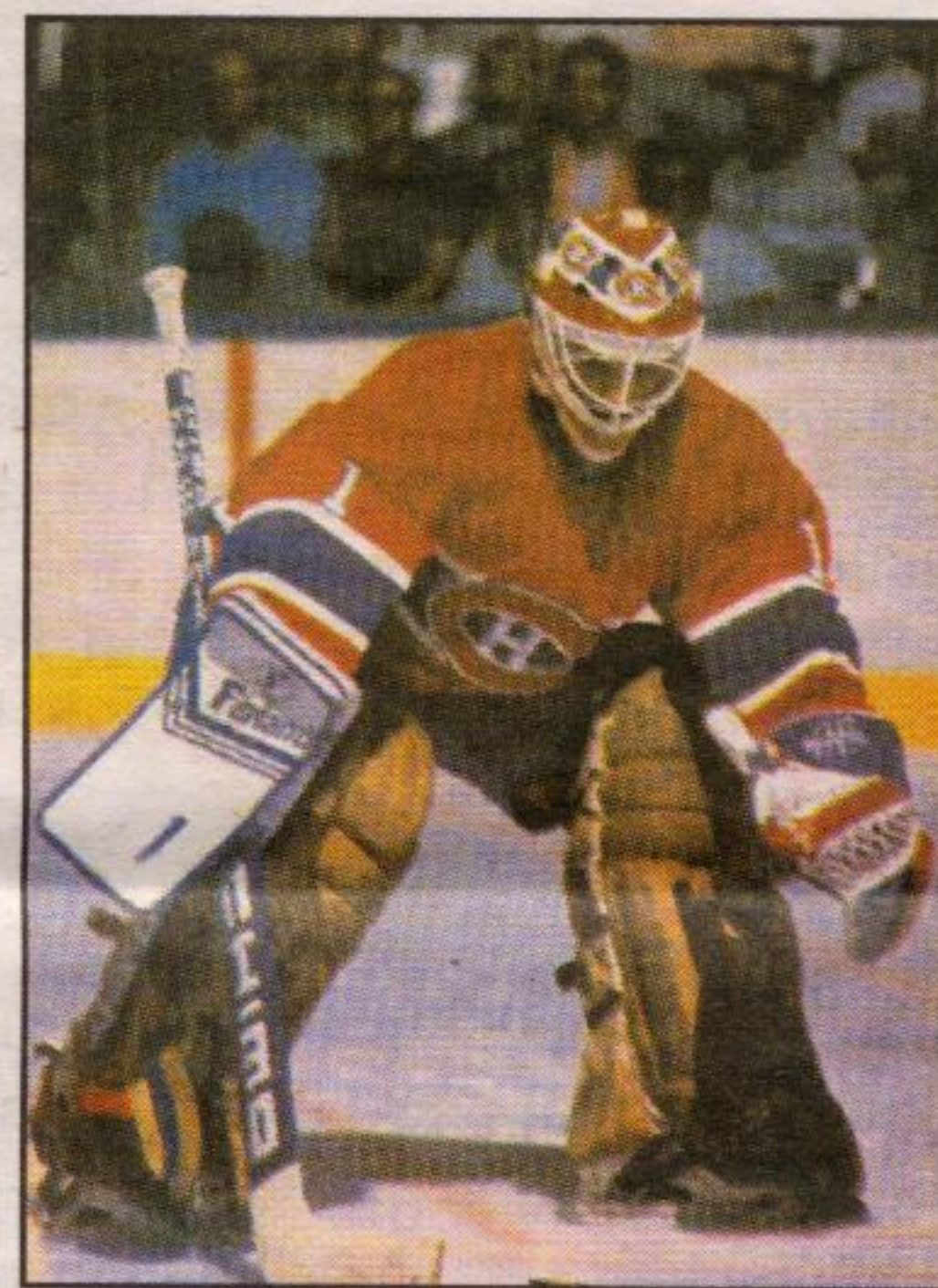
Brian is one of the owners of the Power Zone Fitness Centre in Georgetown, a state of the art fitness facility that will be celebrating its first anniversary on January 15. "There was a definite need for an upscale fitness centre in Georgetown," said Brian in a telephone interview from his home in California. It was during a visit home to his parents in Georgetown that Brian and brother Bruce had difficulty in finding a facility to work out in. "I realized then that we needed to start a business," Brian explains. "This is a "feel good" business, because you know that you are involved in something that actually helps people." Obviously, the residents in the surrounding area felt the same way, as the fitness centre now boasts over 800 members less than a year after opening, something that comes as no surprise to Brian. "The gym people we have running the facility really know their business," he says. "We have fully certified instructors and the best equipment you can buy."

Brian Hayward is perhaps best known for his eleven year career as a goalie in the NHL, which saw him play in the Stanley Cup finals twice. After a back injury ended his career with the San Jose Sharks, Brian had stayed on with the team as a television broadcaster and invested in business opportunities overseas. A graduate of Cornell University with a degree in Business Management, Brian planned to return to Cornell for his MBA. He was all set to move to Ithaca, New York, when fate came calling in the form of a telephone call from the Walt Disney Company. "Someone sent a tape of one of my broadcasts to Disney, and they offered me a job as a TV broadcaster with the Mighty Ducks." Brian, wife Angela and daughter Courtney packed up for California and haven't looked back since. Brian has also worked as independent

sports broadcaster for 12 years for such media outlets as NBC Sports, CBC Sports and Hockey Night in Canada.

"One of the best things about my work, is that it allows me to pursue a number of entrepreneurial opportunities as well," explains Brian. Hence the Power Zone Fitness Centre. Ownership in the fitness centre is shared by Brian Hayward, brother Bruce and sister in law Kellie, as well as Brian's good friends, local actor Jeff Lumby and his wife Julie LaFontaine. "You're always a little nervous about going into business with friends and family," he admits, "but it's been a really good fit. Jeff and Julie are tremendously creative people, I have my business background and my brother Bruce and sister in law Kellie are very knowledgeable in the fitness industry. We really have all of the bases covered."

Even as the NHL lockout drags on, Brian Hayward is still finding ways to stay active and on the ice. He participates in approximately thirty practices per month, coaching club calibre kids, aged 7 to 17, on their way up in the hockey industry. Although the lockout means no games to broadcast, Brian isn't too worried about seeking other employment. "The reality is that I'm virtually unemployable," he laughs. "Any employer knows that I'm going right back to hockey as soon as the lock out is over."



Brian Hayward, Montreal Canadiens goalie.

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