


# The Independent Weekend & Free Press

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## Local Leaf fan has just the ticket for season opener

**G**raeme Goebelle has been a dedicated Toronto Maple Leaf fan for decades and a season's ticket holder since 1973.

But this year, as Leafs fans file through the turnstiles at Air Canada Centre to watch their favourite hockey team face off against arch-rival Montreal Canadiens, October 11, Goebelle's picture will grace the tickets for the season opening game.

"It was quite a pleasant surprise," said Goebelle, "I received a call in mid-July inviting me to go down to the ACC (Air Canada Centre) for a photo session, to be used on the tickets. When I went, I was hoping I could have my picture on the season opener, but there were no guarantees."

Goebelle said the people who appear on the tickets are randomly picked from those holding 'Leafs Nation Passports' a marketing package for season ticket holders which is designed to look like an official passport. All the tickets and promotion material are packaged in the passport, with the holder's name inside.

"We were all photographed in the Raptors' dressing room where a temporary studio was set up," said Goebelle, "They fed us coffee and goodies after our photo session."

"After I was finished, I was lucky enough to attach myself to a tour of the Leafs' dressing room," added Goebelle, "And saw where the team sit to prepare for each game. There's a blank seat beside Mats Sundin's place—that's where the newest rookie sits, to be 'fathered' by Sundin."

Goebelle also told of the Maple Leafs logo in the dressing room carpet, where the players perform their pre-game ritual before heading out to the ice.

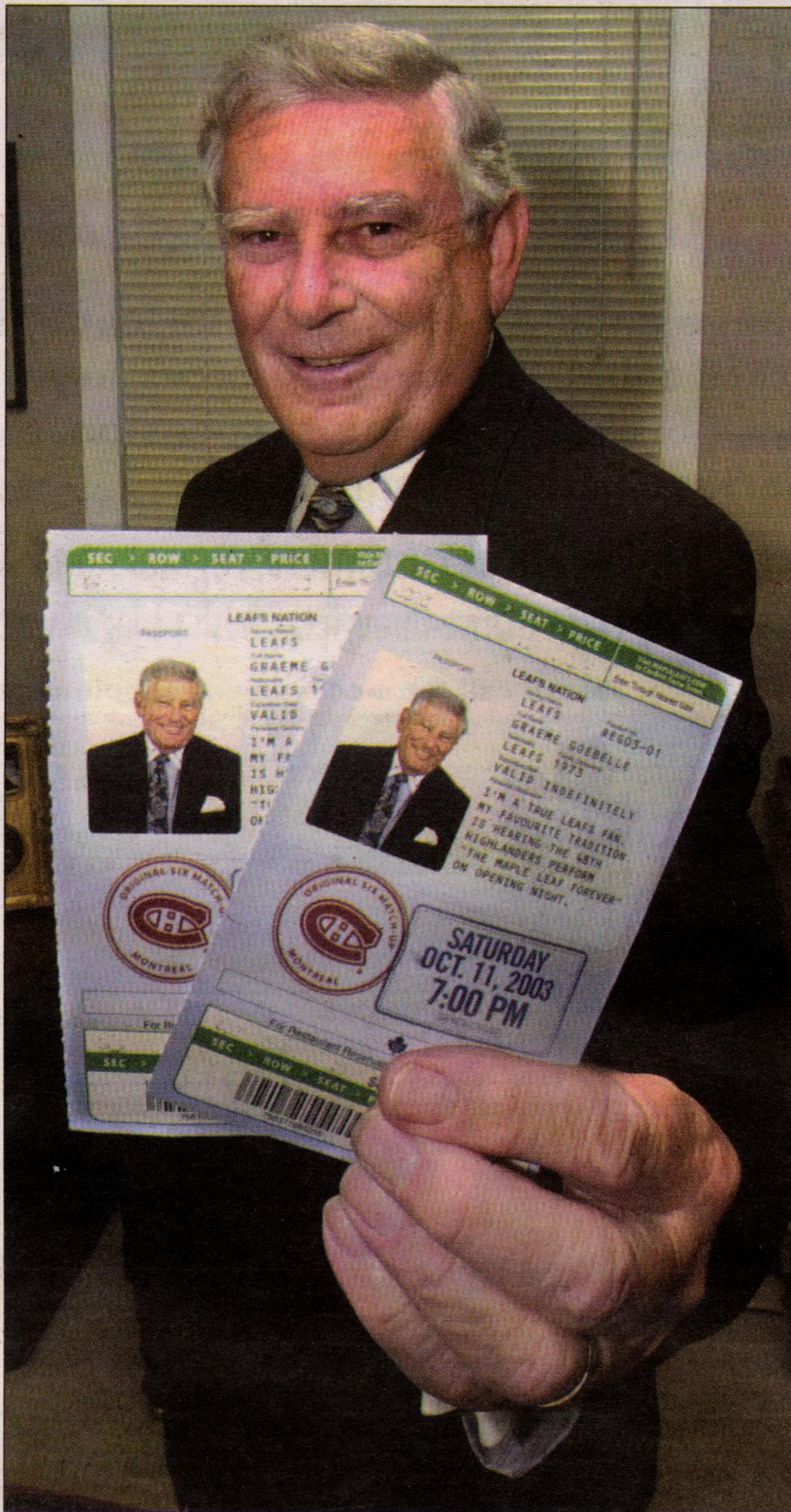
After the photos were taken, each person in the photo shoot was requested to make a comment that appears on the ticket. Goebelle is certain his comment was one of the major reasons his photo is gracing the ticket.

"I wrote 'I'm a true Leaf fan. My favourite tradition is hearing the 48th Highlanders perform *The Maple Leaf Forever* on opening night,'" smiled Goebelle. "I'm sure it was the reason."

Goebelle said he was an avid Leaf fan when he first arrived in Georgetown in 1960, when there were only six teams in the NHL. He applied for a subscription at that time, and it took until 1973 before there was an opening.

Even today, there's a 10-year waiting list, says Goebelle, as several of the ticket-holders have been buying tickets for two or three generations.

—By Ted Brown, staff writer



Georgetown resident and longtime Toronto Maple Leaf fan Graeme Goebelle has an extra reason to be excited about tomorrow's season opener at the Air Canada Centre—his face is on the game ticket. Goebelle was randomly picked from season ticket-holders holding Leafs Nation Passports.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Doctors flocking to Halton

**H**alton has impressively increased its stock of family doctors by nearly 10 per cent in the last year.

Since November, 20 general practitioners (GPs) have decided to set up a Halton practice, adding to the contingent of 250 GPs currently spread out among the region's four municipalities.

Specifically, seven have agreed to set up a practice in Halton Hills, three in Milton, six in Burlington, and three in Oakville.

Another GP is still deciding whether to locate in Burlington or Oakville. Of the 20, 14 were expected to start their practice by this week.

Also, the task force is working with another five GPs about locating to Halton.

"Staff is confident that even more physicians will choose to locate in Halton in the near future," stated a report released to the region's health and social service committee meeting last week.

To put the recruitment of 20 GPs in Halton into perspective, a

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