Sports celebrity event raises \$10,000 to fund scholarships

from HULL on page 4

wards," McBean quipped during her brief address with the Fan 590's Gord Stellick, who emceed the event.

Sharing the spotlight with Hull — at least from a popularity and sheer recognition standpoint — was beloved former Maple Leaf Wendel Clark.

Toronto's ex-captain certainly didn't shy away from the joviality of the night, but also took time to provide a serious point of view about Canada's sport of choice.

"Let your kids play soccer and baseball in the summer," Clark stressed, addressing the ever-increasing trend to turn youngsters into hockey machines with year-round competition. "The worst fallacy is that you fall behind if you go a month or two without playing. Fact is most kids who play 12 months a year get burned out by Christmas.

"And when you think that only .3 per cent of kids go on to the NHL, parents should never expect their kids to make it. It should be a fun time, not a stressful one."

Completing the celebrity cast were harness racing great Luc Ouellette and Toronto Argonaut veterans Mike O'Shea and Mike Morreale.

An hour-long autograph session preceded the dinner and auction, which once again benefited the Chamber's scholarship program. An estimated \$10,000 was raised this year, matching the 2003 total.

"Things went tremendously well. I was very impressed with all the celebrities, their willingness to interact with the public and just enjoy the event. And our sponsors deserve a lot of credit. Without them, this



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Olympian Marnie McBean signs autographs.

tive director Sandy Martin.

Among those in attendance were members of the Milton Jr. A hockey club, with owner Mario Forgione once again acting as the platinum sponsor.

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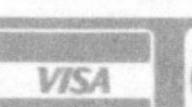
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