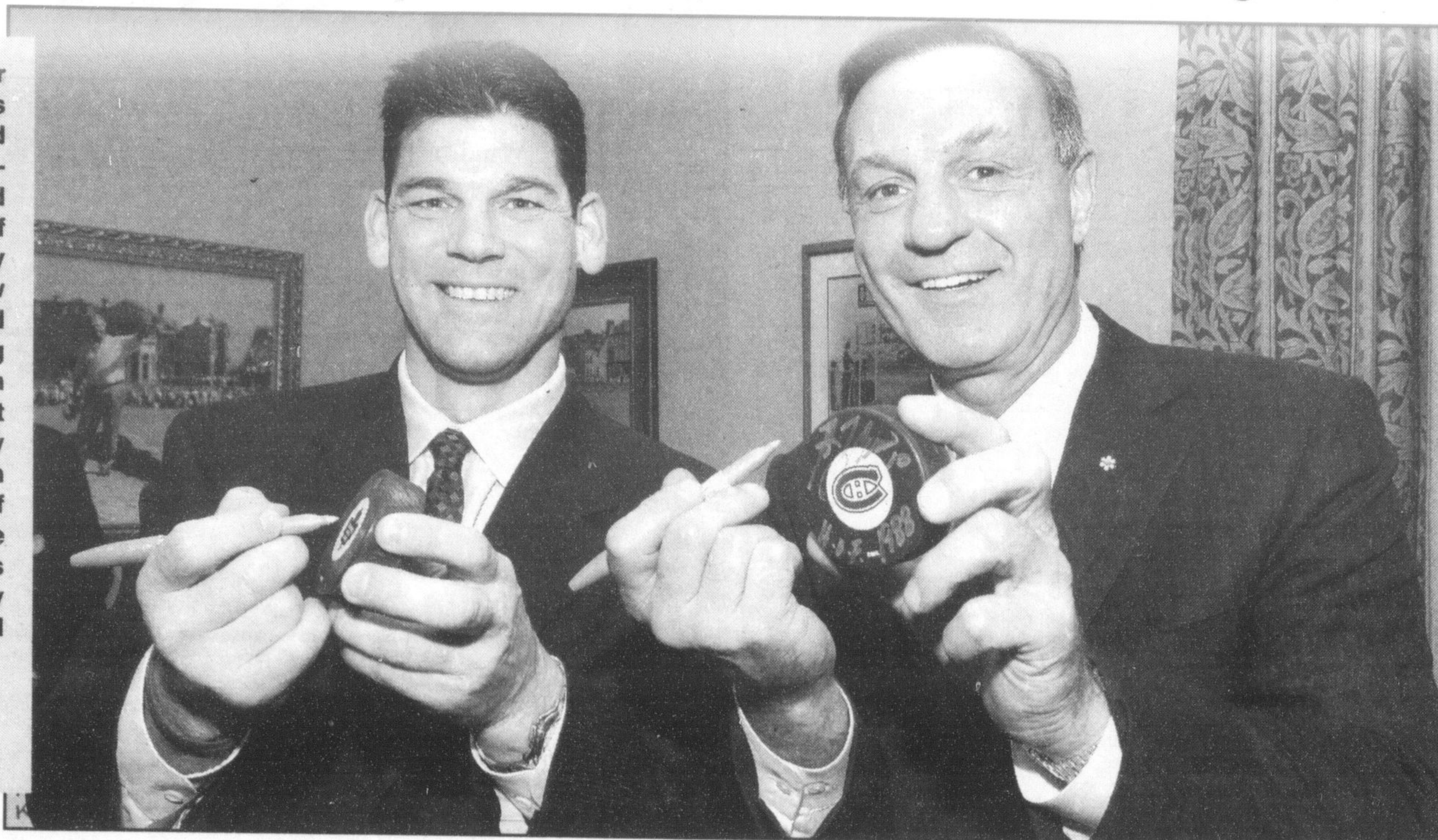


# Lafleur scores with fans at celebrity dinner/auction

Former Maple Leaf Kris King (left) and Canadiens legend and Hockey Hall of Famer Guy Lafleur show their signed pucks during the autograph session at Tuesday night's Milton Chamber of Commerce Sports Celebrity Dinner and Auction.

Photo by  
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PAINE



*Montreal great highlights annual Chamber fundraiser*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

**G**uy Lafleur no doubt received his share of jeers across southern Ontario during his memorable tenure with the Montreal Canadiens.

However, the reception he received at Glencairn Golf Club Tuesday night was the furthest thing from hostile.

Highlighting a star-studded cast at the fourth annual Milton Chamber of Commerce Sports Celebrity Dinner and Auction, the highly-decorated five-time Stanley Cup champ scored big with Leafs and Habs fans alike — much like he did shortly before Christmas while visiting Canadian troops overseas.

"I saw some Maple Leafs flags there and even signed a few," quipped the 'Flower', as he's known, during a brief chat with emcee Gord Stellick that capped off the evening.

Poking fun at some of his fellow Montreal alumni, Mr. Lafleur said he's 'not crazy enough' to try his hand at coaching — adding players who make that transition tend to be on the defensive side of things.

"The creative guys like me don't like going to meetings and watching game film," he remarked.

Rounding out a one-two main attraction punch at the fundraising event — no pun intended — was Canadian boxing great George Chuvalo.

While holding his audience captive with a recount of his epic 15-round clash with Muhammad Ali — among other pugilist icons like George Foreman and Joe Frazier — his address would eventually take on a somber tone. But that was hardly surprising to anyone who knows anything about Mr. Chuvalo, whose tragic family tale includes the loss of three sons and a wife to drugs and suicide.

"It was the love of friends and family that sustained me," recalled the well-known heavyweight who was never knocked out and whom Ali once referred to as "the toughest man I ever fought."

"I don't think I would have survived without them. Love is the cornerstone of happiness."

With a celebrity cast rounded out by champion thoroughbred driver Sandy

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JANUARY 2006

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