

# Greying hockey heroes of '72 remain toast of our nation

Frank Mahovlich, the senator and Leaf great, says Canadians are still enthralled with Canada's win over the Soviet Union in the 1972 hockey summit. He was in Stouffville on his way to a reunion of players Thursday.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Even Hockey Hall of Famers and off-ice senators need their caffeine fix.

Frank Mahovlich was on his way to a golf game when he popped in at a doughnut shop bearing the name of a late, great Toronto Maple Leaf teammate in Stouffville Thursday morning.

Coffee drinkers at Tim Hortons recognized the former Leaf and Hab great, more for his work on the ice than in the Senate, and stopped him.

When he told them he'd be golfing with Paul Henderson, Serge Savard and many of the other members of Team Canada 1972, they all had a story or a question.

"Everyone still wants to talk about it," he said. "It is amazing."

The former Unionville resident, who now lives in Toronto when not in Ottawa, is less than four months from turning 70.

Gary Bergman and Bill Goldsworthy from the fabled team that defeated the Soviet Union 35 autumns ago have died. John Ferguson, the team's assistant general manager and assistant coach, died earlier this year.

"Just a great guy," Mr. Mahovlich said. "John was one of our leaders and a big part of this team."



Jim Mason

Marcel Dionne, the youngest member of Team Canada, went for a beer with goalie Tony Esposito the night before the golf event.

Talk of on-ice glory was replaced by discussion of one's latest medical procedures.

"It used to be we'd all meet in the bar at these events," he said. "Now most of them are in bed."

### 'CAN'T BE DUPLICATED'

More than 20 of the players and coaches were to play at Woodington Lakes Golf Course in Tottenham to mark the anniversary and next month's release of '72 Complete, the new DVD release from Universal Studios.

Mr. Dionne, 56, lives in upstate New York, but knows how big the series remains with Canadians.

"There's no end to it," he said. "It's to the point you can talk about it with your kids and share your memories. It was like my grandpa talking to me about The

Rocket (Richard)."

As for the junior Canada-Russia series that ended last week?

"You can't duplicate this," Mr. Dionne said. "It was a unique time."

Yvan Cournoyer is not surprised. The Roadrunner, the winner of 10 Stanley Cups in Montreal, knows Canadians.

"Every golf tournament we go to, people want to talk about 1972," he said. "Hockey is such a big part of us. It was not a war, but that was a war, indirectly."

"We won so many Stanley Cups, people forget about them. But this was once in a lifetime, with all the drama of it. Maybe if we won it in less than eight games, it would be different."

Outside the golf club, series hero Paul Henderson is unloading his clubs. Red Berenson, now the coach at the University of Michigan, checks in. Mr. Savard and Bill White, anchors of the Canadian defence, dig into breakfast while sharing stories.

Mr. Mahovlich is finding some irony in his side trip to the Tim Hortons.

For 13 years, he hosted his own golf tourney at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club in Stouffville, raising money for kidney research.

He stopped in Stouffville Thursday after visiting Markham Stouffville Hospital due to a minor kidney ailment.

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