



DEGGENDORF FIRE PHOTO/HARALD SCHINDLER

Stouffville's Mike Sullivan carries the puck for the Deggendorf Fire in a German professional pre-season hockey game this month. Salaries above those in North America's lower leagues, perks and living conditions draw Canadian players to the European leagues. Mike Forgie, a fellow Stouffville Spirit alumnus, is also on the team, which opened its regular season last night.

## Turkey Dinner at Cedar Beach Grill

**Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet**  
Sunday, October 12, 2008 @ 4:00 pm

Soup • Salad

- Turkey (with all the trimmings)
- Potatoes • Vegetables
- Dessert • Coffee/Tea

\$13.99 adults • \$10.99 kids 10 and under

*Reservations are required.*

*Please call or come in*

**905-642-6421**

155 Cedarvale Blvd., Musselman's Lake

## Some players never leave Europe

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Sullivan at Clarkson in Upstate New York and Forgie from Wayne State in Detroit.

Sullivan's one-year contract includes an apartment, car plus perks around the city.

Sullivan couldn't be happier with the opportunity bestowed upon him and his new surroundings.

Upon landing in Germany, Sullivan said the culture is far different from what he was accustomed to in North America. But one of the first things he intends to do is to take lessons in conversing with the locals.

"The lifestyle is great here, seems relaxed and laid back, great food, shopping and nightlife. Everybody knows I'm the hockey player from Canada and treats me very well.

**'Everybody knows I'm the hockey player from Canada and treats me very well.'**

Mike Sullivan  
from Deggendorf, Germany

"But I did sign up for a German class to learn the language and really appreciate the culture," he said.

Deggendorf opened its 62-game schedule yesterday.

"There's great opportunity to move up from this division which was the biggest attraction and the coach was hard pressed to get me so I knew this would be a great situation if I couldn't land an elite league deal," he said.

Sullivan said he will try not to look too far ahead.

"I know many retired and current players who come over and never leave because they fall in love with the lifestyle, and, to be honest, the pay is much better, unless you're signed to an NHL deal, in comparison to other minor leagues in North America.

"Some of the Elite leagues would even be comparable as you've seen many players leave the NHL such as what Jaromir Jagr did (to play in a newly created Russian professional league). So I can't really say, one way or the other, if I'll be back or not," he said.



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