



I'm one of the biggest fans hockey could possibly have. Perhaps it's only fitting — actually it's a blessing — that my "second" career in the game is as Chairman of the Board for the Hockey Hall of Fame. It provides me with the opportunity to travel the country and meet the best people you can imagine in and around the sport. It reminds me that even though we celebrate milestones like the NHL's 100th anniversary, the game hasn't really changed much at its core. It's all about people and passion, which best summarizes my role at the Hall.

One of the questions I'm asked most when I visit with people at games and community events, after the moustache question — I've had it since 1974, my second year in the league — is what is my fondest memory from my career? It was the first time I walked into Maple Leaf Gardens as a rookie. It was dark with the only light shining in from the outdoors through the exits. It was eerie in a way, but also a dream come true and something I'll always remember. That's something that's obviously very personal to me, but when I look through the photos on the following pages, I can't help but think that so many of the images will bring back memories of their own for readers. I'm excited to see shots of players who I looked up to before joining the NHL, like Gordie Howe and Jean Béliveau, players who I dreamed I could become just a little bit like one day.

Lanny McDonald

HHOF 1992

It also gives me great pride to note that all of the photos in the book are from the Hall's photo archives, which really means that they come from the men and women who generously donated them to our collection. Actually, they entrusted us with them, which is an enormous responsibility we take very seriously. More than just caretakers, we are the custodians of memories, and memories are the ties to generations, especially in our sport where history is celebrated like in no other. Over the years, our archives have grown to more than three million images, becoming one of the largest hockey photo collections in the world. That's the ultimate compliment to the team at our D.K. (Doc) Seaman Hockey Resource Centre, and the ultimate sign of trust from our donors.

It's often been written about me that I was fortunate enough to end my career on the highest note, winning the Stanley Cup in my final game. I was also lucky enough to score that night, but my biggest memories were of the respect the Montreal fans showed us as my Calgary teammates and I skated around with the Cup on Forum ice. They stood and applauded even though their team had lost. I also thought it was the most peaceful feeling you could ever imagine even with all the excitement going on around me. The photo (page 132) brings back that game like it was yesterday. It's a memory I'll keep forever.