

INTRODUCTION

Hockey fans will be more familiar with its wonderful displays in the old Bank of Montreal building in downtown Toronto, but the Hockey Hall of Fame is much more than a museum. Since it was first established in 1943, the Hall has been collecting all manner of historical items and hockey related material dating from the turn of the 20th Century to today, not the least of which is its incredible Photographic Collection. Housed together with its vast archive of publications and other printed materials, as well as personal collections, the Hall's collection of photos has resided in the D.K. (Doc) Seaman Resource Centre within the MasterCard Centre for Hockey Excellence since 2009. It contains more than half a million digitized photos and its cold room preserves more than two million negatives and slides, 750 glass negatives, and 32,000 printed photos, the vast majority of which have never been published — which brings us to the idea behind this book.

A Century of NHL Memories celebrates the NHL's centennial by throwing open the doors to the Hall of Fame's archives and unveiling some of the Photographic Collection's hidden treasures. Often snapped by legends of photojournalism, and selected from the Hall of Fame's collection for their beauty and originality, or both, these 130 or so photos cast hockey's heroes in a different light, take you into the heart of the action, as fierce as that may be, and bring you behind the scenes, often to a more innocent time in NHL history. Some will teach you something you didn't already know. Others will make you laugh.

In selecting these photos, we put special emphasis on originality. Hockey books tend to show the same 50 or so incredible shots over and over again, often with good reason. But with so many incredible images at our disposal, we wanted to be sure to bring you something, if not quite new, then certainly different. We're reasonably sure this approach will appeal to both lovers of the game and of great photography.

That said, we couldn't resist sprinkling in a handful of classics here and there. And when we could, we offered a different perspective, as in the case of what is arguably the greatest hockey photo ever, that of Bobby Orr, taken by Ray Lussier on May 10, 1970, flying through the air after having just scored the Stanley Cup-winning goal. It's here, but someone else took it a fraction of a second later from a different part of the rink.

Looking through the Hockey Hall of Fame's Photographic Collection was a dream come true for the hockey fans that put together *A Century of NHL Memories*, a rare privilege indeed. We hope you enjoy them as much as we enjoyed bringing them to you.



Location · City, State | January 1959 | Photographer | Photo Description

