



NANAIMO MUSEUM

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Media Release – "Rocket" Richard: The Legend-The Legacy – July, 2009

On July 18th an exciting new exhibition on the life and career of one of Canada's greatest sports heroes, Maurice "The Rocket" Richard, will open at the Nanaimo Museum. "Rocket" Richard: The Legend-The Legacy, featuring the Maurice Richard Collection that the Canadian Museum of Civilization acquired in 2002, pays tribute to The Rocket and gives visitors a sense of his life and times.

The feature exhibit will present 90 remarkable objects, more than half of which were once owned by Maurice Richard. These include the last Number 9 hockey sweater Richard wore as a playing member of the Montreal Canadiens, hockey sticks used by Richard to score landmark goals, trophies, pucks, skates, sweaters, his Hall of Fame induction ring and the original copy of his retirement speech. Also on display will be related "Maurice Richard" merchandise, ranging from a Maurice Richard lamp to the reproduction of a Rocket bread wrapper.

Tribute songs and personal stories told by teammates and opponents round out this portrait of a player whose memory draws Canadians together in celebration of our national sport. To many sports fans, these objects are among the most important items of sports memorabilia in existence-marking milestones in the career of one of the most illustrious players in the history of hockey.

The exhibition has been designed to appeal not only to hockey fans, but to anyone who either lived through The Rocket's heyday or wants to understand his significance in Canadian history.

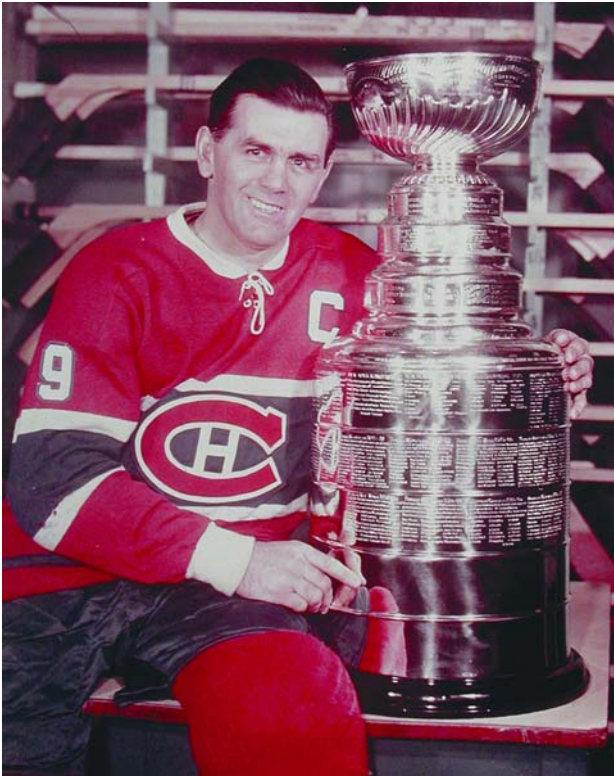
"Maurice Richard was a hero to legions of hockey fans in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada. In addition to his importance as a sports hero, he was a significant symbol in building the spirit and confidence of so many people in the 1950's and 1960's," notes Dr. Victor Rabinovitch, President of the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation.

To French Canadians, in particular, he was a champion and a source of pride. Fans identified so strongly with Richard that they rioted in the streets of Montreal in 1955 when they believed that he was unfairly suspended from playing in the playoffs after a late season brawl.

Richard remained a hero in his home province for the rest of his life and his memory is revered to this day. As a cultural symbol, he has become part of the social fabric of this country.

"Rocket" Richard: The Legend-The Legacy is produced in partnership with Canada Post and is presented at the Nanaimo Museum until October 11, 2009.

A travelling exhibition organized by the Canadian Museum of Civilization.



1949 Maurice Richard All-Star hockey jersey

This hockey sweater was worn by Maurice “Rocket” Richard during the 1949 All-Star game held in Toronto, Ontario. For an astounding 17 of his 18 years in the NHL, The Rocket was on the ice for the annual All-Star game.

Photo: Claude and Stephane Juteau

Photo Montage by Harry Foster

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