



**Good going, goalie Gord** — Gord Ide of the Detroit Red Wings makes an acrobatic save against the Montreal Canadiens during the 20th annual Port Credit Oldtimers final.

Photo by Derek Woollam

## Oldtimers enjoy good times on ice

By DAVID WINER  
Staff

Their shots may no longer explode off the Plexiglas, they may have lost the spring in their step and they likely wake up with more aches and pains the morning after a game.

In many ways, however, time has stood still for original members of the Port Credit Oldtimers' Hockey League.

On May 5, the league concluded its 20th season, with gold and bronze medal games at Port Credit Memorial Arena.

In a night reminiscent of the National Hockey League's (NHL) Original Six, Detroit defeated Montreal 3-2 for the gold medal and Boston edged Toronto 3-2 to earn bronze.

Of the league's 75 players, three — Andy Hanson, Wayne McDonald and Dave Sawyer — have been there from the beginning. McDonald and Sawyer were members of the league's first championship club two decades ago.

"The people playing in the league are there for the same purpose," said McDonald. "It's not a team format where each team stays the same. We have a draft every year, so that the guys you play against this year may be on the same team next year.

"So, you play accordingly," he continued. "There's no goofiness, or

rough play. We got rid of it a long time ago."

What started as an over-35 league 20 years ago is now reserved for players over age 42, with an average age of 48. The league also includes a couple of feisty 60-year-olds and a few grandfathers.

McDonald, who remembers his Mean Machine overcoming a 3-1 deficit with three minutes to play to win the league's inaugural title contest, 4-3, rarely misses a game.

"Each season, I'll miss one game (due) to other commitments," he said.

What about weddings?

"If it's family, I've got to go. If it's a friend, I'll have to weigh the situation."

In this year's championship game, Brian Ree, who finished 11th in league scoring, netted the winner for Detroit, while Larry MacEachern fired the winning goal, with seconds remaining, for Boston.

The league also handed out awards during championship weekend.

Recipients included Leo Brideau (leading scorer, 48 points), Bob and Gord Ide (top goaltenders), Mike Rukavina (most valuable player), Ree (most improved player), Robin Chantaj (top defenceman) and Larry Levinsky (playoff MVP).

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