

TODAY'S SMART EDITION >

NEWS FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS **☛**: Letterman admits affairs with female staffers, says he was targeted by extortionist

**SPORTS EXTRA**  
**Scores & Stats:**

- NFL
- MLB
- NBA
- NHL
- WNBA
- AHL
- College Football
- MLS
- AFL
- College Basketball - M | W
- Golf
- NASCAR
- CFL

**Games & Matchups >>**  
**Live Odds >>**

## SPORTS

Post a comment | View comments (5) | View latest comment |

Last updated at 11:44 PM on 10/09/09

### Gordie Howe is the greatest: Bobby Orr

Boston Bruins all-star defenceman in Cape Breton as part of fun hockey festival



Ryan Horne of Albert Bridge, left, poses for a picture with hall of fame defenceman Bobby Orr during a meet and greet with the former Boston Bruins defenceman at MacIntyre Chevrolet in Sydney, Thursday. Orr is in town for the Chevrolet Safe and Fun Hockey Festival this weekend. T.J. Colello - Cape Breton Post

The Cape Breton Post

By T.J. Colello

Cape Breton Post

SYDNEY — There's been plenty of argument over who is the greatest hockey player to strap on the blades and Bobby Orr is almost always in the forefront of that discussion.

But Orr himself doesn't believe he's at the top of the list. "First of all, the greatest is Gordie (Howe) — he's my man," said the hall of fame defenceman, in town for the Chevrolet Safe and Fun Hockey Festival this weekend. "Gordie, without question. Longevity, any way you want to play, he was a special man. He played during a tough period, a very tough period.

"Any time you're mentioned with Gordie or Wayne (Gretzky), it's flattering. It's really nice. I don't spend much time thinking about being one of the greatest or anything like that. I played a game I loved to play, had a passion to play it and the game was very good to me." But there won't be any Gordie Howe hat tricks this weekend (a goal, an assist and a fight). With the likes of Quebec Remparts goaltender Jonathan Roy recently charged with an alleged assault on another player and older incidents like Todd Bertuzzi jumping Steve Moore and Marty McSorley cracking Donald Brashear with his stick, Orr is looking to instil some change. "The thing we talk to the parents and the coaches who are with these kids today, we can't wait for professionals or the older players playing the sport, we have to do it," said Orr. "You can pick up the paper every day and find things that have happened and they're not setting a good example. There's too many professional athletes that don't believe they're role models, well we are. That's a responsibility we have."

That's where this weekend's festival at the Canada Games Complex comes in. The Safe and Fun program teaches young players from the ages of five-to-eight about respect and responsibility on the ice, while promoting a more positive attitude toward healthy competition, teamwork, fair play and grace under pressure.

But the event isn't just for the players. Their parents have also been invited to a meeting tonight to talk about having a positive attitude at the rink. The kids hit the ice, Saturday. "It's a very simple message," said Orr, who's been involved with the program for over a decade. "It's not about Stanley Cups or gold medals, it's about making sure that every kid, male or female, that wants to play our great game has an opportunity to play in a fun and safe environment.

"If our kids are enjoying themselves, there are so many values they can learn." Orr, of Parry Sound, Ont., won the Calder trophy as rookie of the year in 1966-67, is a two-time Art Ross trophy winner for top scorer, eight-time winner of the James Norris trophy for top defenceman, a Lester B. Pearson trophy winner for best player in the league as voted by his fellow players, three-time Hart trophy winner for league MVP and a two-time Conn Smythe trophy winner for playoff MVP. Orr captured the Stanley Cup with the Bruins in 1970 and 1972.

Along with his volunteer work, Orr is now a player agent, representing the likes of Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Tomas Kaberle, New York Islanders goaltender Rick DiPietro, Eric and Jordan Staal and Ottawa Senators forward Jason Spezza. Kaberle has been the subject of plenty of trade rumours over the summer, linked most notably to a deal that would have brought forward Phil Kessel from the Bruins at the draft. Orr said there's no talk of Kaberle on the move now, especially since the Aug. 15 deadline to move him in his no-trade contract has passed.

"It's difficult moving the family and it was a difficult time for Tomas, but he's a professional and it's what he agreed to do and if it happened, the Leafs were great about it, too, they kept talking to us."

tjcolello@cbpost.com

SHARE

**The Hockey News**  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY! GET A FREE GIFT**

THE POWER ISSUE  
100 People of Power + Influence

IT SPINS!  
CLICK HERE

**CAPE BRETON POST**

Forces looking for 'other Wilcox's'

Lahey turns himself in; diocese in a place of 'brokenness and vulnerability'

Lawyer expects lengthy appeal

87¢

**Storm Tracker**

**OBITUARIES**

OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM.CA  
ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

**SUBSCRIBE**

SUBSCRIBE

Subscriber Login

Forgot Password?

**SECTIONS**

- Community News
- Local News
- Regional Headlines
- Business News
- Lifestyles
- Sports

**weblocal.ca**  
Find. Rate. Share.

Are you searching for a product, a service or a local company?

SEARCH

Pool and spas

Sydney

FIND

**TOP 10 ARTICLES**  
Most Viewed | Most Discussed

- Lahey turns himself in; diocese in a place of 'brokenness and vulnerability'
- Forces looking for 'other Wilcox's'
- Paying for your sins
- Lawyer expects lengthy appeal
- Willful violation
- Filming of Jon & Kate kids halted after Father issues cease-and-desist order
- First-place Capers to wrap up regular season
- Reversing the tides of entitlements
- Countdown is on to Celtic Colours
- Pirates, Canadians host Bay Ducks this weekend

Local Deals, local advertisers, everyday!

**AD Finder**

October 2, 2009

**The Cape Breton Post Video-on-Demand**

- Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award
- Kites Fly Over Baddeck
- Sgt. Nathan Crosby assembles 9-mm pistol

view all | submit video

the job board.ca