

Paul Henderson Biography

Here's a shot! Henderson made a wild stab for it and fell. Here's another shot, right in front. They score! Henderson has scored for Canada!

--Foster Hewitt's play-by-play broadcast of the final game in the 1972 Russia-Canada hockey series, Moscow, September 28, 1972

Paul Henderson was born on a sleigh during a snowstorm in the middle of Lake Huron.

He is married to Eleanor, his high school sweetheart, and they have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Paul began his hockey career in Lucknow Ontario and progressed to Junior "A" with the Hamilton Red Wings. After winning the Memorial Cup in 1962 he moved to the NHL. Paul played 18 years of professional hockey with the Detroit Red Wings, Toronto Maple Leafs, and Atlanta Flames including 5 years in the World Hockey Association. Paul scored 376 goals and had 384 assists during his professional career.

History will remember Paul for his role in the first Canada-Russia Hockey series in 1972 when Canada needed a victory in each of the last 3 games to win the series. Incredibly, Paul scored the winning goal in each of the 3 games. The goal in the last game was recently declared the greatest sports moment in the last century. And Team Canada '72 was voted the Team of the Century.

Even though Paul scored "The Goal" almost 30 years ago, it is anything but forgotten. Paul says that, "Even today, no matter where I go, Canadians want to thank me for scoring the goal...it's a marvellous feeling and a blessing to be remembered for such an uplifting moment."

In January 1997 the Canadian Mint launched a commemorative coin depicting the winning goal in the 1972 series. This is the first time a living person has been depicted on a coin other than a sovereign. Canada Post also introduced a stamp celebrating the moment.

Since his retirement from professional hockey Paul has been busy. He has co-authored two books: "The Fans Go Wild" and "Shooting for Glory" and is presently writing his third book. As a motivational speaker he has addressed many of Canada's major corporations. He also speaks widely in the Christian community, including at marriage conferences with Eleanor.

He is currently the Director of "Leadership Ministries" where he has been developing men for leadership since 1984 and holds an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Briarcrest Biblical Seminary.

Paul is also active in the community with such organizations as Muskoka Woods Sports Camp and Teen Ranch near Orangeville. He supports many charities and is the spokesperson for the Organ Donation Program for the Department of Critical Care Medicine at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.

In addition to being a member of several Sports Hall of Fames, including Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, Paul received the Ontario Special Achievement Award for his contribution to minor hockey in 1998.

Paul is an avid reader, loves golf and tennis, and still plays Old Timer Hockey.