

Mississauga Legends Row

Hero of 1972 Summit Series joins legends

Paul Henderson once came home to Mississauga and was greeted with a pair of big "Welcome Home" signs from then-mayor Chic Murray.



Paul Henderson

It was a fitting gesture for a man who had just become the pride of the nation for a goal he scored in Russia.

Going into the 1972 Summit Series, Henderson wasn't the most notable player on Team Canada.

The roster featured stars such as Phil Esposito, Bobby Clarke and Frank Mahovlich, but Henderson came through when it mattered the most by scoring the game-winning goal in the eighth and final game of the series to propel Canada to victory over the Soviet Union.

He also scored the game winners in games six and seven to help the Canadians overcome a 1-3-1 deficit.

Henderson had a respectable professional career with almost 500

points through 13 NHL seasons, including back-to-back 30-plus goal seasons with the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1970-71 and 1971-72.

Henderson has yet to be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, but has been honoured by the Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, the Canada Walk of Fame and, most recently, in the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame earlier this year.

Henderson has been proud to call Mississauga home for more than 40 years.

He's been recognized by having a street named after him in Churchill Meadows as well as a rink named after him in Tomken Arena.

Henderson, who turned 70 in January, is fighting chronic lymphocytic leukemia, a form of cancer he was diagnosed with in 2009.

The lowdown:

- born Jan. 28, 1943 in **Kincardine**, Ontario
- scored game-winning goal in Game 8 of the **Summit Series** to lead Canada's men's hockey team to victory over the Soviet Union on Sept. 28, 1972
- began his professional career with the **Detroit Red Wings** in 1962
- played more than **1,000 games** with the Red Wings, Toronto Maple Leafs and Atlanta Flames in the NHL and the Toronto Toros and Birmingham Bulls in the **World Hockey Association**
- given a pair of **Welcome Home** signs when he returned to his Applewood home after the Summit Series
- has a **street** named after him in Churchill Meadows and a **rink** named after him at Tomken Arena
- has been inducted into the **Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame**, **Canada's Sports Hall of Fame**, **Canada's Walk of Fame** and **International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame**
- was named a **Member of the Order of Canada** last December