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NEWS & VIEWS

**Pointe Claire's Boone sharp
as ever in Habs blogger role**



Mike Cohen

The Montreal Canadiens are not the National Hockey League's foremost organization when it comes to dealing with the media for nothing. I was reminded of that fact last Saturday night, during my opportunity to view the contest from high above the action in the press box.

BOONE THE BLOGGER: I think if you took a survey and asked readers which writer they missed most at *The Montreal Gazette*, former columnist Mike Boone would win hands down. From his popular look at television and radio, then a turn as city columnist and finally penning a sports column, his material was always a good read. The longtime Pointe Claire resident retired in September 2012 after 33 years at *The Gazette*. He had started his career at *The Montreal Star* in 1974 and worked there until it folded in 1979. "I was in Pittsburgh, covering the Expos, when the paper died," he recalls. Fans of his can still get their fill of his sharp wit via the website hock-

eyinsideout.com. "I blog every game, home and away, the latter off the TV in my basement," he explains. "I enjoy it. Blogging gives me an outlet for my typically Montréalais hockey obsession, gets me out of the house for home games, and I really like all the people on the hockey beat. I've lived in Pointe Claire since 1982. I really like my neighbours, there's a park two minutes away where I can walk my dog and outside of rush hour, I can be downtown in 20 minutes. Life is good."

STAR RISES FOR RUSNAK: When is a Montreal media outlet going to recognize the true talent of Jessica Rusnak and give her a full-time post? The beautiful 27-year-old Pointe Claire resident has been covering the Habs for TSN 690 for a number of years now. Before TSN television lost regional rights to Rogers, she was doing some on screen hosting as well. For a time this season she hosted *The Two Minutes With* feature of short interviews with Canadiens players. But when *Macleans Magazine* cancelled its sponsorship, that feature was abolished. On her present mandate, she says: "My duties are basically the



Mike Boone in his press box seat.

MIKE COHEN PHOTO

same. That means attending all the Habs practices and games at home and related events. I have filled in as a co-host of the Habs post game show on a couple of occasions, which was a first for me. In February I will be heading to Prince George, BC for three weeks to be part of TSN's Canada Games coverage."

DAN AND SERGIO: I got to meet the Habs new play by play man Dan Robertson before the game. He and colour man Sergio Momesso were preparing for the TSN 690 broadcast. Robertson got the nod to succeed John Bartlett a week before the regular season began, so he had to leave his wife and kids behind in Halifax. They will join him here permanently after the school year ends.

For now Robertson is calling NDG home, which brought a smile to the face of present-day West Island resident Momesso, who grew up in the area where his family still runs a popular restaurant.

HAB-BITS: Habs Chief Operating Officer Kevin Gilmore told me he is pleased with how the rotating national anthem singers format is going, noting that public auditions to find more raw talent will continue next year... Suburban blogger and TSN 690 sportscaster Mitch Gallo of Kirkland continues to work long shifts, particularly for weeknight games...

Have something to share? E-mail me at mcohen@thesuburban.com or leave a message at 514-484-9203, ext. 307. Follow me on Twitter @mikecohencl and at <http://blog.thesuburban.com>.



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