

Pacioretty should be the next captain of the Canadiens hands down



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.

CAPTAIN PACIORETTY: The Habs dressing room is never a happy place after a loss. Saturday's 2-1 defeat at the hands of Pittsburgh in overtime meant there were not a lot of players available to talk to the media. Yet there was Max Pacioretty, patiently answering questions from a large scrum of press and saying all the right things. The Habs still do not have a team captain. There are four alternates, Pacioretty being one of them. Not only is he the team's top scorer, but he's a true leader as well. He demonstrated that off the ice during the period of mourning for icon Jean Beliveau. I waited for the crowd to disappear in front of Pacioretty's stall and was pleased to see he remembered me from a one-on-one interview I did with him almost three years ago. Does he want to be the captain? "I'm not really thinking about it," he said. "I don't want to see this become a kind of competition. Whatever hap-

pens, happens." My vote is for Max!

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 Momesso, who grew up in the area where his family still runs a popular restaurant.

JACQUES MARTIN: Remember former Habs head coach Jacques Martin? He was let go by the team on Dec. 17, 2011 with a year and a half left on his contract. Last season he was hired by the Penguins as an assistant coach. He presently works for the organization as a senior advisor. "I still live in Montreal," he told me, noting that he has continued to maintain his Nuns' Island residence. "I like it here."

HAB-BITS: Jim Bay, who at one time in his career was a radio icon in this city's sports scene, continues to cover pro sports for Sports Network USA as a Montreal correspondent. The towering Nuns' Island resident figures he has now covered the Habs for 55 years... Suburban blogger and TSN 690 sportscaster Mitch

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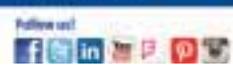


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Outremont to maintain 15 day Succot regulation

By P.A. Sévigny
The Suburban

Following an intense and sometimes acrimonious debate, Outremont Borough Mayor Marie Cinq-Mars decided that the borough would maintain its current zoning regulations that will continue to permit both the construction and removal of temporary Succot huts over a fifteen day period that includes the traditional Jewish holiday.

Current zoning laws permit the huts to remain in place for a 15 day period, but problems arose as the borough will not permit any kind of construction on Sundays just as Orthodox Jews will not work on Saturday's Sabbath. In order to resolve the problem, Outremont's newly-elected Mindy Pollack proposed a seven-day extension to the time limit (both before and

after the holiday) so that the community could have plenty of time to build and dismantle their holiday huts. But as over thirty complaints about the huts were filed over the previous year, Outremont councillor Céline Forget came up with a counter-proposal that would impose a three day time limit before and after the traditional Jewish holiday. As the issue threatened to land the borough in court over what at least one lawyer described as "a classic charter case", Mayor Cinq-Mars cited the recent killings in Paris when she announced that there would be no change in the present zoning regulations because she ultimately believes that people should just try to make the effort to get along with each other.

"If people from both communities could make the effort to be good neighbors," said the mayor, "...that would help a lot."

COHEN

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Gallo of Kirkland continues to work long shifts, particularly for weeknight games...The Canadiens do not have any player wearing number 68. I fearlessly predict that sweater will be reserved for veteran Jaromir Jagr, likely to be obtained in a trade deadline deal...Public address announcer Michel Lacroix sounded great as usual Saturday night. Before the game he told me he was recovering from pneumonia and still nursing a bad cough... That was a classy move Saturday by the Habs to play the national anthem of France before

the game... 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. The three gals from Motel Raphael, a young indie-group named after the former motel of the same name on St. Jacques Street, got the nod to sing the US and Canadian anthems Saturday.

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 @mikecohencsl and at <http://blog.thesuburban.com>.



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