

Habs Prust and girlfriend Morin become reality TV stars



Mike Cohen

Rugged Montreal Canadiens forward Brandon Prust and his beautiful girlfriend, French language television star Maripier Morin, are about to become reality TV stars. *Hockey Wives* will premiere on Wednesday, March 18 at 10 p.m. on the W Network. They will be joined by nine other NHL personalities and their spouses, including former Hab George Parros, Vancouver goalie Ryan Miller and Arizona head coach Dave Tippett.

I was fortunate enough last week to interview Prust and Morin, who actually met in 2009 in New York. Prust was then playing for the Rangers. "I was at a bar with my friends and I did not speak English," Morin



Brandon Prust and Maripier Morin

recalls. "I had a little too much to drink, so I did not even remember meeting him. The clue was that I had a new contact in my phone. I had no idea who he was. Brandon ended up coming to Montreal and he invited me to go with him to a UFC fight card. Well, it was a 'bloody' first date and I kind of wondered 'what kind of guy asks a girl to a UFC fight for their first date?' But it worked out."

Morin is a former figure skater who has graced the small screen since 2007 on a number of different shows for TVA and V. She is currently the co-host of *Ménage à trois* on V télé. With an exclusive look into the high-stakes lives of WAGs (wives and girlfriends) of the NHL, *Hockey Wives* reveals that it takes an incredible woman to manage fulfilling personal careers and stick handle life off of the ice with some of today's

top pro athletes.

Morin and Prust already passed the true test of commitment, with a two-year long distance relationship. "I was basically going to New York every other week and doing so by bus," Morin explains. "It was only six hours overnight and less expensive than flying."

When Prust was a free-agent two years ago he had good offers from many teams, but his relationship with Morin clearly played a role in his final decision to accept a four-year, \$10 million deal with the Habs. "I knew it would be a good place for me to play," Prust said. "Obviously it was good for Maripier and her career. It was really a perfect match for me and I think the Canadiens knew it too."

So how did the happy couple, who gener-

ally enjoy their privacy residing in the Plateau, end up on reality TV? Morin said it was Tiffany Parros, the wife of George, who recommended her to the producers. It was quite a commitment as the cameras began recording them in September and only stopped filming in December. "To be honest, when she first told me about it I did not grasp the concept," Prust said. "I thought it would be one weekend."

There is one clip from the preview where Morin asks Prust why he doesn't want to marry her. "It is funny what the camera picks up," Morin laughs. "We are not engaged or close to being engaged. I am always teasing Brandon about marriage, but I want to say that I am really comfortable with our present situation."

Morin's English is excellent now. The gal from Rivière du Loup credits Prust and her early trips to New York for that. Prust, meanwhile, co-stars with her in a TV commercial for St. Hubert BBQ in which he orders a poutine. "I am working on my French," said Prust. "I can pick up some of the language. Speaking it is still pretty difficult."

For more on the series log on to <http://www.wnetwork.com/shows/hockey-wives>. Please see my blog at <http://blog.the-suburban.com> and the March 20 edition of *The Suburban Magazine* for much more on this "Habby" couple.

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

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National Assembly condemns NDG swastika attack

Police widen investigation

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

All parties in the National Assembly passed a motion condemning last week's swastika attack at an NDG apartment building parking garage.

The motion was introduced by Coalition Avenir Québec leader François Legault.

Several cars at the Côte St. Luc Road and Hampton building were vandalized, and envelopes were found on the cars — some reports said there were bullets and a threat inside.

"We can only denounce these acts of vandalism which reflect prejudice and intolerance," said Premier Philippe Couillard in English. "I wish to reassure the public that we

will not tolerate that Quebecers be subject to threats because of their origins or their religious beliefs. These cowardly acts remind us of how important it is to continue to combat intolerant gestures that target the Jewish community and all ethnocultural minorities in Quebec. Those gestures in no way reflect Quebec's values and have no place in our society that is open to diversity."

Immigration, diversity and inclusiveness Minister Kathleen Weil, who represents NDG, and D'Arcy McGee MNA David Birnbaum echoed the premier's sentiments.

PQ interim leader Stéphane Bédard stated his support for the Jewish community. Quebec Solidaire leader Françoise David also expressed strong condemnation of the attack, which she said are "not rep-

resentative of the views of a majority of Quebecers."

Meanwhile Montreal police have widened their investigation of the attack. Police spokesman Jean-Pierre Brabant told *The Suburban* investigators checked the security cameras in the building.

"They were all looked at and nothing came out of it," he added. "We don't have any information that would lead us to any descriptions of suspects or any potential suspects. We're still trying to determine who did this."

Brabant pointed out that there are other buildings in the area.

"The police officers went around to other buildings, and stores, to try and get more footage, but that footage didn't help to get any description or potential suspects."

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