

# Talking hockey with RDS play by play man Houde at his winter retreat



**Mike Cohen**

WESLEY CHAPEL, Florida- Saddlebrook Resort is an award-winning, luxury venue just 30-minutes north of Tampa International Airport. It features 800

deluxe guest rooms and suites, 95,000 sq. ft. of flexible meeting and function space, two 18-hole Arnold Palmer signature golf courses, a 20-acre Golf Training Center, 45 tennis courts, internationally acclaimed golf and tennis training programs, five-acre team building ropes course, a sports village with a state-of-the-art fit-

ness center, a world-class Spa, a half-million gallon super pool and much more.

Why am I telling you all this? Well for starters I was a guest there just a few weeks ago on a trip which also enabled me to attend the Canadiens-Lightning game at Tampa's Amalie Arena. My wife often jokes that she

cannot take me anywhere without me bumping into someone I know. At Saddlebrook I figured the odds of that happening were next to zero. Then along came star broadcaster Pierre Houde, he of the signature "C'est la but," call when doing play by play for Canadiens games on RDS. It turns out that he has been a property owner at Saddlebrook for 12 years. He was there with his wife, daughter, her boyfriend and his 91 year old dad Paul Sr., the latter of whom still resides in the same Laval home Pierre grew up in.

"We found out about Saddlebrook from the dad of Vincent Lecavalier," he said of the former Lightning team captain. "We just love it here. The Canadiens always come to Florida at Christmas-time so it works out well for me."

RDS was launched in 1989 and Houde was one of the first



**Pierre Houde**

hires. I go back with him even further. We actually met at an international hockey tournament in St. Laurent where we were picking the three stars. Prior to that he had worked with my late dad Larry at the former CKVL Radio station. Pierre also worked for CFL in Laval for a time.

What a thrill it was to talk hockey with Pierre away from the press box setting. His other love is F1 racing, which he covers for RDS and CHOM FM. All I can say is what a small world we live in!

PHOTO BY MIKE COHEN

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## "Time to end our tolerance of the intolerable"

Let us never forget. This week is three years since the slaughter in Paris at Charlie Hebdo and the HyperCacher Market challenged us again to find the resolve to be free people in the face of barbarism. The response around the world was heartening. I was proud of our team at The Suburban and our coverage of the Montreal community's reaction. All of us, but particularly those in the fourth estate, were then and will forever remain "Charlie." We shall never be moved!

~BW

