

# A 'Miracle on Nice': Metchosin Volunteers' Contribution to Victoria's Stanley Cup Centenary

Robert O'Connor

A bit of Metchosin engineering helped mark the Victoria Cougars' 100th anniversary of their Stanley Cup win.

A custom bubble hockey machine was kitted out in roaring twenties retrofuturistic style as an 'Electrified Ice-Hockey Simulator Machine' matchup between the 1925 Victoria Cougars and 1915 Vancouver Millionaires. Art design and logistics were donated by Dr. Robert O'Connor. The custom solid oak mobile base was designed and constructed by carpenters Kurt Wagner and Kevin Tisdale. The tiny players were kindly handpainted by volunteer Gaye Goldie, with period-correct Cougars and Millionaires uniforms. Custom play-by-play audio for the video jumbotron was donated by veteran Canuck sportscasters Matt Sekeres and Blake Price (of the Sekeres and Price Show), featuring callouts with a

BC twist, such as a goal marked by "Top shelf where mama keeps the kombucha!"

The machine was built to highlight British Columbian contributions to hockey. The game's pedestal base describes how the Irish-Canadian Patrick brothers innovated blue lines, penalty shots, creases, forward passes, playoffs, and line changes during play. It also features trivia nuggets such as Victoria Cougar player Frank Fredericton later coaching Princeton hockey, where he became friends with Albert Einstein. It also tells the tale of how the Victoria Cougars were renamed the Detroit Red Wings, who would go on to win the cup eleven more times.

The hockey game was initially assembled for the Canadian national family doctor conference in November 2024, to help encourage family physicians to consider BC as a possible future workplace. Upon seeing the machine enter

the building, the conference organizers kindly placed it in the center of the venue to be enjoyed by the approximately 4000 physician attendees.

At the completion of the multi-day family doctor conference, it was donated and transported to its new home at the BC Sports Hall of Fame, located inside BC Place stadium. At the Hall of Fame, families can enjoy a round of Cougars-versus-Millionaires bubble hockey as a break from the exhibits for Terry Fox, Rick Hansen, and the BC Winter Olympics.

Fast forward to March 30, 2025. BC hockey historian and organizer Helen Edwards heard about this custom hockey machine and arranged a ferry ride for it to be brought back to Victoria for the 100th anniversary celebration. As part of the festivities downtown, the actual Stanley Cup was brought in for folks to enjoy a photo with the trophy.

The bubble hockey machine was parked next to the Stanley Cup for families to enjoy a game after their photo.

Next time you find yourself at BC Place for either a Lions game,

Taylor Swift show, or even an AC/DC concert, feel free to stop at the BC Sports Hall of Fame to enjoy a bit of bubble-hockey fun, Made-in-Metchosin style.



**Counter clockwise from top:**

Carpenters Kurt Wagner (left) and Kevin Tisdale (right) deliver the donated machine to its permanent home at the BC Sports Hall of Fame inside BC Place stadium. (BC Sports Hall of Fame Curator Shelby McCannel Photo)

At the national family doctor conference, Jessica (left) and Stella (right) play a round. (Robert O'Connor photo)

The historic players were kindly custom painted by Gaye Goldie. (Robert O'Connor photo)

The custom machine completed its construction in Metchosin. (Robert O'Connor photo)

Young fans gather around the Bubble Hockey machine in Oak Bay, during Victoria Cougars' 100th year anniversary of winning the Stanley Cup. The actual Stanley Cup showed up for photos with fans, too. The Cougars were the last non-NHL team to win the Cup. (Rob O'Connor photo)