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Golden Jet flies in to Port Dover

By BARBARA SIMPSON, SIMCOE REFORMER
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PORT DOVER -- Don't remind Bobby Hull about the Angus burgers on the grill.

The 72-year-old Golden Jet only has eyes for Polled Hereford cattle. Unfortunately, his friend John Lennox, who is part owner of David's Restaurant, is an advocate of Angus.

This fired up some competition when Hull visited the upscale Port Dover restaurant Friday. Lennox was sure to have cooks grill up Angus burgers during a charity barbecue.

"I know that," Hull said when reminded of the burgers. "Last night we had dinner here and I crossed the Black Angus steak off the menu."

The legendary left-winger known for his sharp slap shot signed autographs and took photos with fans during Port Dover's Canada Day Celebrations. His celebrity appearance helped raise funds for the Port Dover Minor Hockey Association.

While hockey fans were eager to talk shop, the Golden Jet was more interested in chatting about his herd. Hull, who is an ambassador for the Chicago Black Hawks, also has cattle along the Saint John River in New Brunswick.

"We actually had a common interest in cattle, certainly not hockey," Lennox said of their friendship Friday. "I joke he's a cattleman first, a hockey player second."

Fans wouldn't necessarily agree.

"It's neat to meet a legend," said Canaan Awde, 17, who plays for the Port Dover Pirates' midget squad.

He and Jarrett McCarthy, 13, had a chance to visit with Hull Saturday. Of course, the pair are too young to actually recall his golden years.

"I was pretty young too, but someone like this coming to Port Dover is pretty special," added coach Paul Murphy.

Hull remains "surprised and honoured" that today's youth know of his hockey legacy. He credits it in part to his son Brett Hull's "tremendous career" and the pularity of collecting hockey cards.

While Hull believes in a promising future for hockey, he admits to being disappointed about the riots that broke out in Vancouver after this year's Stanley Cup final.

"It's a shame that they had to happen," he said Friday.

When the Black Hawks won the Stanley Cup last year, Hull pleaded with the public to behave on radio. He reminded them that their reaction at the Stanley Cup parade would reflect the sport.

"Two million of them stood there and watched the parade and didn't utter a sound other than cheers," he recalled, adding Vancouver was ready to riot "whether win, lose or draw."



Port Dover Pirates Caanan Awde (left), 17, and Jarrett McCarthy, 13, met hockey legend Bobby Hull and his friend John Lennox, who is part owner of David's Restaurant, on Canada Day.

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