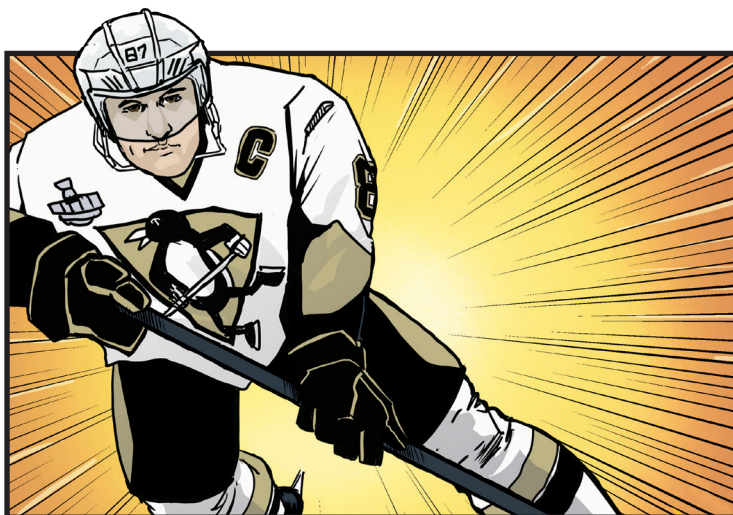


AMAZING HOCKEY STORIES

SIDNEY CROSBY

Lorna Schultz Nicholson

Illustrations by David Bishop



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For Trina Crosby, a great hockey mom.
— L.S.N.

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EARLY YEARS

Cole Harbour is a small town 15 minutes from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Cole Harbour might be known for its beaches, but it's famous for being the "Home of Sidney Crosby."

Sidney Patrick Crosby was born on August 7, 1987, in Halifax to Trina and Troy Crosby, but he grew up in Cole Harbour. The Crosbys were a hockey family. Sidney's dad had played in net for the Verdun Junior Canadiens, in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. He was drafted 240th overall by the Montreal Canadiens in 1984, but never played at the NHL level. Sidney's mom was always driving and helping behind the scenes. Younger sister, Taylor, was a goalie. She loved it when her big brother took shots on her!

Sidney was a natural. At the age of two, he could hold a hockey stick properly. At three, he was amazingly steady on his skates. When he was five, he started playing minor hockey in the Timbits program, making plays on the ice that other kids couldn't. Coaches were watching him and people were talking. Could he be the next "Great One?" He was moved to a team of older players. By the time he was seven, he was playing with ten-year-olds.

He loved to practise on the ice, but he also loved to practise at home. He played for hours in his basement, shooting pucks in an unfinished area his parents set up for him. Shot after shot hit the old dryer, and the dents grew. Upstairs his parents could tell what he'd hit — dryer, steel post, cement wall — by the sound the puck made.

WHERE IS THE
CROSBY FAMILY
DRYER NOW?

IT'S ON DISPLAY AT
THE NOVA SCOTIA SPORT HALL
OF FAME IN HALIFAX, ALONG
WITH OTHER MEMORABILIA THAT
SIDNEY AND HIS FAMILY
DONATED.

OUT OF THE BASEMENT

Even at a young age, Sidney could think fast on his feet. One coach recalls watching the ten-year-old in action. Sidney had the puck below the goal line, almost behind the net. He saw that a teammate was open, but he didn't have a line to him. Sidney bounced the puck off the net, right onto the stick of his teammate, who scored.

Not realizing how good he was, his grandmother, “Nanny Crosby,” told him she would give him a dollar for every goal he scored. She thought it would be around 20 dollars. He scored 159 goals! Sidney told his grandmother that she didn’t have to pay him — it was too much! — but she insisted.

In 2001–02, when he was 14, he played for the Dartmouth Subways U18 team. In 74 games he had 95 goals and 98 assists! Unfortunately, his incredible scoring didn’t make everyone happy. His speed and skill made him a target.



SIDNEY WAS NOT SMALL FOR HIS AGE, BUT PLAYED AGAINST OLDER BOYS WHO WERE USUALLY BIGGER THAN HE WAS.



