

National Hockey League

Ron Smith

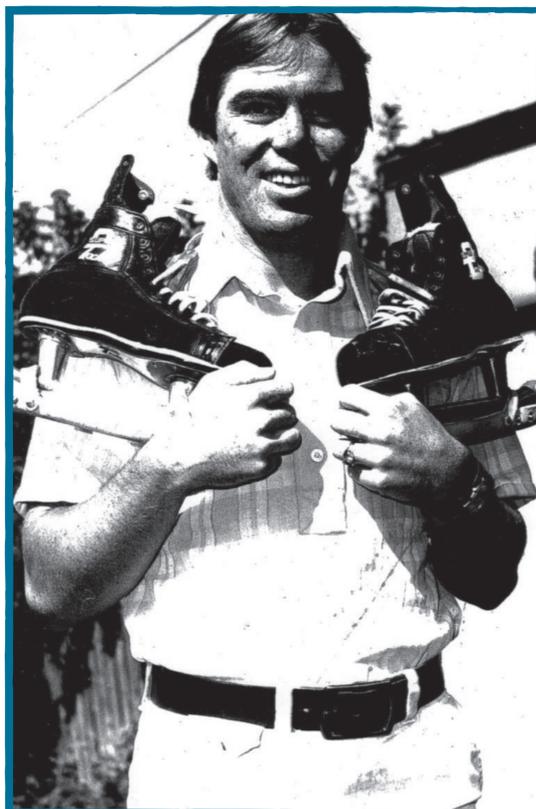


Hockey Player – Politician

The Honourable Ron Smith, twice elected as mayor of his home town, Port Hope, was once Ron Smith, the *Cobourg Cougar* - but just for the 1968-69 season.

The next year, **at just 16 years old**, he was playing defence with the *St. Catharines Black Hawks* of the Ontario Hockey League and the *Sorel Epeviens* (Sparrowhawks) of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

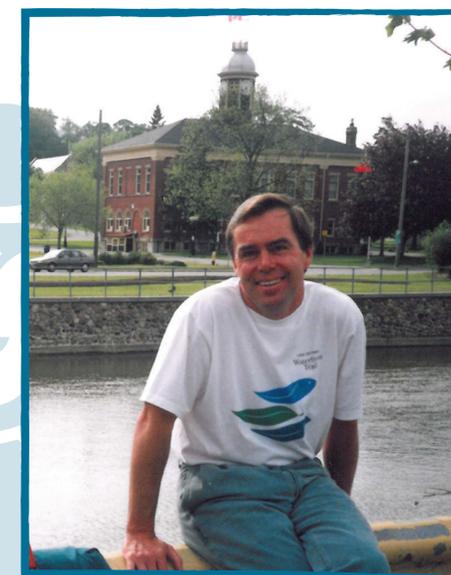
Next stop was **Cornwall, a very good move for Smith**. There he helped the *Royals* go from a last place finish the previous year to a first place finish in the league standings. After winning the playoffs, the *Royals* advanced to the prestigious Memorial Cup. There they outfought a strong *Peterborough Petes* team, winning in the final by a score of 2-1, **and were crowned Canadian Junior Hockey Champions**. During that season, Smith contributed 35 points in the regular season and another 7 during the playoff run.



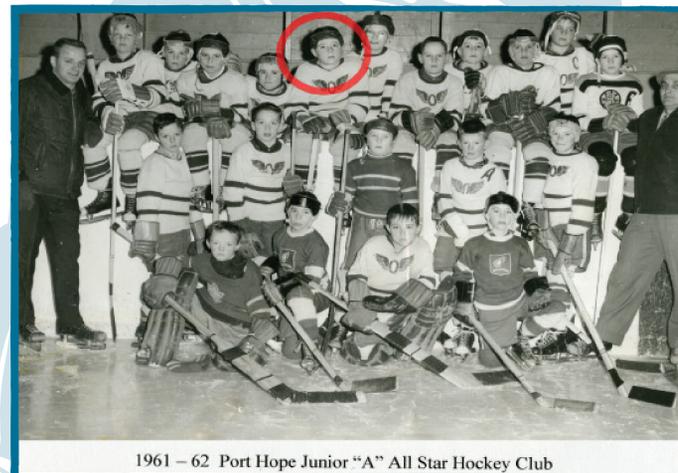
Smith was selected by the *New York Islanders* in the 4th round, 49th overall in the 1972 NHL Amateur Draft. **He must have had high hopes, but they don't always work out!** He did play 11 games for the expansion *Islanders*, totalling 1 goal and 1 assist and 14 minutes in penalties. But most of that season was spent with the *New Haven Nighthawks*, the *Islanders*' affiliate team in the American Hockey League. There he totalled 6 goals and 11 assists in 53 games.

In 1973 Smith switched over to Forth Worth of the Central Hockey League. He played there for two seasons before **moving to Sweden** to play for the *Bodens BK*. In 1976 he returned to North America for one final season, this time with the *Erie Blades* where he played 8 games before retiring as a professional player.

In 1993 Ron Smith returned to the NHL as **head coach of the New York Rangers**, and then finally returned home to serve as Port Hope's mayor for two terms, 1994-2000.



Ron Smith and Town Hall 1995
Photo courtesy of the Port Hope Archives



1961 – 62 Port Hope Junior "A" All Star Hockey Club

Photo courtesy of the Port Hope Archives