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Former Blackhawk returns home to Capreol

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When hockey fan Marcel Rainville was born, legend has it he came into the world wearing a Chicago Blackhawks' jersey.

Needless to say, Rainville, who is now over 40, was one of the first people to show up at the Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre (NORMHC) to meet seven-time NHL All-Star and former Blackhawks and Boston Bruins and Capreol native player Doug Mohns.

As the clock neared Mohns' arrival time, he lightly stamped his feet and tightened his clutch on several hockey pictures and other memorabilia, items he wanted Mohns to autograph.

Shortly after 11 am Wednesday, Mohns pulled into the parking lot, sending a light buzz through the crowd.

Fittingly, as Mohns, who was known as "Diesel" in his playing days, embarked from his vehicle, a lumbering freight train roared passed the museum, blowing its

horn and ringing its bell.

The setting was perfect for Mohns' fans and friends to descend on him like hungry puppies to their mother. He was embraced by old friends, shook the hands of nervous fans and immediately started signing autographs.

"I didn't think I would get a reception like that," Mohns would later state when the commotion died down.

"It's wonderful to be back...it's been eight or 10 years since I was last here," Mohns said. "I've been itching to get back. I have a lot of old friends here...it was tremendous to see them again. Capreol is a place I will never forget."

Mohns played 22 years in the NHL as a forward and a defenceman. He was the second defenceman in NHL history to score 20 goals. In 1,390 games, Mohns, now 72, racked up 248 goals and 710 points.

"I had a good career," a modest Mohns said. "I played 22 years without ever play-

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"I didn't think I would get a reception like that," said former NHLer Doug Mohns when he visited Capreol.

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