



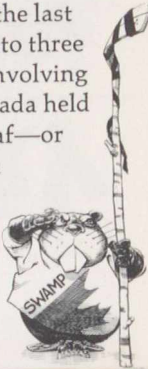
Courtesy Aislin,
the Montreal Gazette.

Courtesy Roy Peterson,
in Blood, Sweat & Bears.

If the maple leaf is Canada’s official emblem, Puck is its unofficial patron saint and hockey its informal state religion. Canadians once communed in front of Hockey Night in Canada in the complacent knowledge that Canada had the best hockey players in the world. They are still in faithful attendance each Saturday night, but the basic tenet of their faith has been shaken.

In 1972, two years after withdrawing its amateur teams from international competition, Canada agreed to meet the Soviet Union’s full-time players with a team of professionals. Team Canada was born and with it a jersey with a flame-shaped maple leaf. Four

games were played in Canada and four in the Soviet Union. Canada won the series, barely, in the last thirty-four seconds of the last game, four to three with one tie. Other international games involving Canadian pros followed, and in 1976 Canada held its own Canada Cup series. The maple leaf—or rather half of it—appeared on both Team Canada’s jerseys and the trophy. The United States, Finland, Sweden, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia came to play in the round robin series, and Canada defeated Czechoslovakia in the best of three finals.



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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 JOUR DE NOEL CHRISTMAS	26 L'APRES-NOEL BOXING DAY	27	28	29	30
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY