**The infection was caught early**

Doctors at the Canada Shriners Hospital told the family they had caught the infection during its dormant period. Mr. Burns says he was treated at the hospital for a “long time” before being discharged. He then spent five or six months recuperating at home in bed. Not only did he recover and continue to play hockey, he went on to fashion a career in the National Hockey League (NHL).

“I owe the hospital a lot,” says Mr. Burns. “The health care team saved my leg. I never would have played hockey without the tremendous care I received. I can honestly say, I was very close to needing a brace or crutch to walk, but instead I was able to play professional hockey. I’ve been very fortunate. In my life, by the grace of God, I’ve been surrounded by hockey thanks to the incredible efforts of Shriners Hospitals for Children - Canada.”

**Stirring up a little excitement**

Like any other young boy, Mr. Burns was full of “piss and vinegar,” as he puts it. This spunkiness led to one particularly memorable moment for him at the hospital.

“My leg was in a cast, fully extended, and I was in a wheelchair. I was going down the hall, full throttle, and my foot went through a glass partition!” He laughs as he recalls the story. “I came out of that 100 percent, but it caused quite a row on the floor!”

That feistiness propelled Mr. Burns to a career in the NHL that spanned a decade, and began with the Montreal Canadiens’ organization.

“As a member of the Junior Canadiens, I played with some incredible talents including Serge Savard, Jacques Lemaire, Rejean Houle and Marc Tardiff, and I played against greats like Bobby Orr.”

Mr. Burns went on to an NHL career that featured stops in Pittsburgh and Kansas.

**Fast forward**

These days he keeps busy playing a little golf, spending time with his three children and nine grandchildren, and being involved with many charities including Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada’s annual golf tournament. “I greatly admire the team at the hospital and I’ve been able to give back by being involved in a number of hospital fundraisers. I am a Shriner at heart.”