

Crowds salute Fraser and the cup

-STANLEY CUP

BY MICHAEL BOOTH, SURREY NOW JULY 16, 2010

Thousands of people turned out in Whalley Wednesday to honour one of the city's favourite sons as Colin Fraser brought the Stanley Cup to Surrey.

The noon-time gathering at Whalley's Central City Plaza was packed with people as well-wishers and hockey fans young and old turned out to see Fraser and hockey's grandest prize.

"It's indescribable," Fraser said. "There are so many old clichés you can use because it was such a great day. It was fun to bring the cup back to my hometown and share it with the people who helped me get where I am today. It was great to be able to give back - that's where I grew up and that's where I played so it was nice to come back with the cup."

The public event was hosted by the City of Surrey and included a welcome from mayor Dianne Watts. In his time at the microphone, Fraser acknowledged the support of his family and the coaching help he received growing up playing in Surrey Minor Hockey.

After the official duties were over, Fraser spent the next couple of hours posing for photos with the cup and signing autographs. The line-up for the photo session stretched around the block.

"I was amazed at the turnout," he marvelled. "There was no end to the line of people who wanted to see the cup and I could have been there all day. Everybody wants to see the Stanley Cup and it's good to see the kids' faces when they get their picture with the cup."

He added with a laugh, "The kids and their parents. Old and young, everybody gets excited about the cup."

Fraser won the Stanley Cup last month as a member of the Chicago Blackhawks. Before the calendar turned to July, however, the forward was traded to the Edmonton Oilers after the Blackhawks ran into salary cap problems.

Fraser admitted he felt divided loyalties as he prepared for his day with the Stanley Cup.

"I thought about whether or not I should wear my Chicago jersey," Fraser said. "I did win it with Chicago but I'm an Oiler now. I would have loved to have stayed in Chicago but it's a business and they were in a position where they couldn't keep everybody. I'm excited to be in Edmonton now where I have a chance to play a bigger role. We have a lot of good young players and I'm excited to see how the team shapes up.

"Edmonton looks like Chicago did three years ago. There's nowhere to go but up and we have a lot of good, young players."

When the afternoon excitement ended, Fraser and the Stanley Cup spent the evening with family

