

## **A Few minutes with the Boss**

*By: Joseph Andalina*

### **It's the happiest time of the year**

Well, maybe in the top three, nestled in between Christmas and Shark Week. But for me and many other hockey aficionados, April through mid-June is just a marvelous time.

NHL hockey playoff time is upon us. That march, or should I say skate, to the threshold of Lord Stanley's Cup, is the utmost of all sports championships trophies.

The first few weeks of April, as the regular season ends, brings us two to four games a night. It is a hockey rush not really seen anywhere in sports. "March Madness" might be close for those of you who like to dribble to a basket. But for me and those who cherish the "Madness on Ice" there is no better sports competition—especially the first round where the games come at you in bunches.

It takes you away for a time from the constant bickering between Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, the double talk of politicians, the mayhem that is our society, and of course, the political internal strife from inside your barn.

Sure, it's only a slight diversion from the realities of life, but one filled with grace and style and of course, the occasional punch in the chops, cross check to the back, and thundering impact along the half-boards.

So now, as I write this, my/your Blackhawks are down a game. They need two to get through the first round, but if they don't make it, there is plenty more hockey to enjoy. This year's playoffs might sustain some upsets but whoever makes it to the Cup Series will have endured a true test of grit, determination, and a will to survive until a champion is crowned.

A lot like us as regards our pensions, wages, and the very nature of who we are as police or public sector workers. Will we survive? Only if we stand up for ourselves and give it our all to prevent the erosion of our benefits. But for a short period of time, it's nice to concern ourselves only with "whose colors" will drink from the "Cup." Enjoy the season, folks. I will

Vita é bella