

A HALF-HOUR WITH...

ANNE MURRAY

We chat with Canada's songbird and share some fun tidbits about life after retirement, her fans, and her love of family and sports!



Before Celine and Shania, there was Anne. The native of Springhill, N.S., has sold 54 million albums, won four Grammys and a record 24 Junos, paving the way for generations of singers. And in true Canadian fashion, she's as humble as she is successful. When we asked to chat with the retired star - who just turned 68 - about her upcoming Anne Murray Charity Golf Classic for Colon Cancer Canada, she immediately invited Hello! to her home north of Toronto for a cozy conversation.

Thanks for inviting us over, Anne. Why did you decide to support this event? Everybody I know has been touched by colon cancer. It's so unnecessary because all it takes is to get tested. So my job, as I see it, is to try and raise the profile.

How's your golf game? [Laughs] It's not as good as I'd like it to be, but then it never is. As you get older, it becomes a little more difficult. But I'm still out there!

What made you decide to retire in 2008? I did a show in Springhill. When I came off, I thought, "I was singing so great!" And it

was bookends. The first time I ever was onstage was in Springhill and the last time I was onstage was in Springhill. I've never looked back. It took me a while to adjust to retirement, but I am enjoying it. I have time to spend with my kids [William, a computer programmer, and Dawn, a painter].

What do you do for fun? My son married a lady with a little girl, she's five, and so we just hang out.

Do you push for more grandkids? I don't ask! [Laughs] Whatever makes them happy I'm OK.

Your ex-husband, producer Bill Langstroth, passed away in May. What do you miss about him? He was just a great guy. We had our problems, but we were friends till the end. I think that things just got difficult when the kids came along and he became "Mr. Anne Murray." There were a lot of obstacles. I wish it weren't so, but that's life.

Are you dating anyone now? No! I'm doing just fine on my own and I quite like it. I'm pretty strong and independent and always have been. I've got enough going on. H

REPORT: CARLI WHITWELL

ANNE'S FAN CLUB



SIR ELTON JOHN

The singer-songwriter feels the love for our homegrown talent. "I know only two things about Canada - hockey and Anne Murray."

ROSEMARY CLOONEY

George's famous singer-actress aunt said Anne could hit a note "smack dab in the middle."



BURT REYNOLDS

Anne had what she called an "extended flirtation" with the legendary lady-killer. He sent her flowers and went to several gigs. "Nothing ever happened. I was married by that time. But he had a crush on me and there was a lot of flirting going on."

ELVIS PRESLEY

The king considered Anne the queen of the music industry. She was one of his favourite singers and he even recorded a cover of her hit "Snowbird."

JERRY SEINFELD

The comedian performed as her opening act several times and sent her a serious letter of thanks after he hit the big time. "I will never forget you or your kindness to me in the days that were. It was such fun and so important to me. I always think back on them (and you) fondly."

A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS...

FAMILY MATTERS "I see a lot of my kids. They are the most important people in my life. I would do anything for them."

LET'S GET PHYSICAL "I do aerobics twice a week and yoga once a week. I have an indoor pool

and a trainer twice a week. There's no off-season for me!"

TWEET TWEET "[After I retired] I wanted a place where I could [communicate] to people. Dawn said to me, "Mom, get on Twitter, it's fun!" She was around so she helped me, but it didn't take long."

SPORTING LIFE "I watch

sports: hockey, golf, baseball - the Blue Jays - and tennis. That's pretty much it [for TV viewing]."

HITTING THE LINKS Avid golfer Anne once got a hole-in-one. "It happened about 10 years ago now. There were only three of us on the entire golf course because it was so cold. It almost felt surreal; you just can't believe what's happened."