

How couples can come together during the NHL lockout



BY DAHLIA KURTZ ,QMI AGENCY

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With a lockout underway, hockey-lovers and their partners can find some time to get together. (Fotolia)
It's hockey nightmare in Canada!

The NHL lockout is forcing most Canadians to overcome one of the biggest first-world problems since the iPhone 5 sold out. For if hockey makes us Canadian, then only whining about missing it can make us more Canadian.

Northstar Research Partners recently found that 87% of men – and 82% of women – are likely to follow the game on a regular basis, making it the most equally watched sport in Canada amongst the sexes.

But contrary to popular belief, you can still be Canadian and not like hockey.

So while the billionaires and millionaires of the NHL and NHLPA try to come together, I'll help non-hockey lovers and hockey grieverers come together, so much so, that I'll probably mediate the lockout after this is published.

- 1. Get your guy to do some extra housework:** Because while he can't watch his most favourite sport on TV, why not have him do his least favourite activity. Besides, why dust the TV if you can still see through it, right?
- 2. Talk:** Yes, you've talked during hockey season before, but You're blocking the TV, What time do you think the game will be over? and Why is there red paint splashed on the ice? isn't really talking. Neither is texting, BBMing or any communication enabled by a smartphone – especially when you're sitting only a metre apart.
- 3. There are other reasons to drink beer:** For one, you could celebrate your husband cleaning the washroom or doing the dishes with a nice cold one. Or you could celebrate your first fall/winter talking to each other on a regular basis.
- 4. Saturday night is now date night:** You're far cuter than Don Cherry and you pronounce names properly, so you'll surely make a better date than he. It's time for you and your fella to play a game of "puck."
- 5. Watch some real hockey:** Buddy Oakes is one of Nashville's top sources when it comes to its NHL team – the

Predators. He says, "I really like Jif peanut butter. If it suddenly became unavailable I would not be happy. I would begrudgingly buy Skippy or Peter Pan and move on. Hockey fans should do the same." Interestingly enough, there are more hockey leagues than just the NHL – or even peanut butter brands: AHL, OHL, WHL, beer leagues (see #3) ...

6. Team family: Cathy Oakes, Buddy's patient wife, says, "I'm so looking forward to being able to plan our lives around our family rather than around the Predators' home schedule. He can also use all that extra time to help promote my music career." So take some of that cheering you put towards helping your favourite hockey team succeed into helping your loved ones succeed. And, Leafs fans, it may finally work out for you this way.

9. Play hockey: When he isn't busy interviewing the biggest names in the NHL, Launy Schwartz is busy either goaltending or coaching 'tendies. He says, "Now I won't feel bad about actually playing hockey when a game is on." Even if you've never played before or don't like watching it, going for a skate is fun, burns calories, and gives a great excuse to get a massage from your guy afterwards – or indulge in a beer (see #3 again).

10. Take CPR classes: In case the stress of the lockout drives your hockey die-hard into some sort of crisis or cardiac arrest, be prepared.

11. Chick-flick time: Yes, we know. Guys hate chick-flicks – or at least hate admitting to liking some of them. Well, now's your chance to cozy up with your lovely and say you're doing it for her. You win because you like it, because she'll probably even give you sought-after back tickles, and because she'll owe you one (see #4). Congratulations, you just scored a hat-trick!

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POLL

Will you spend more time with your partner during the NHL lockout?

25%
Yes.

20
votes

28%
No.

22
votes

44%
I guess I have to.

35
votes

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