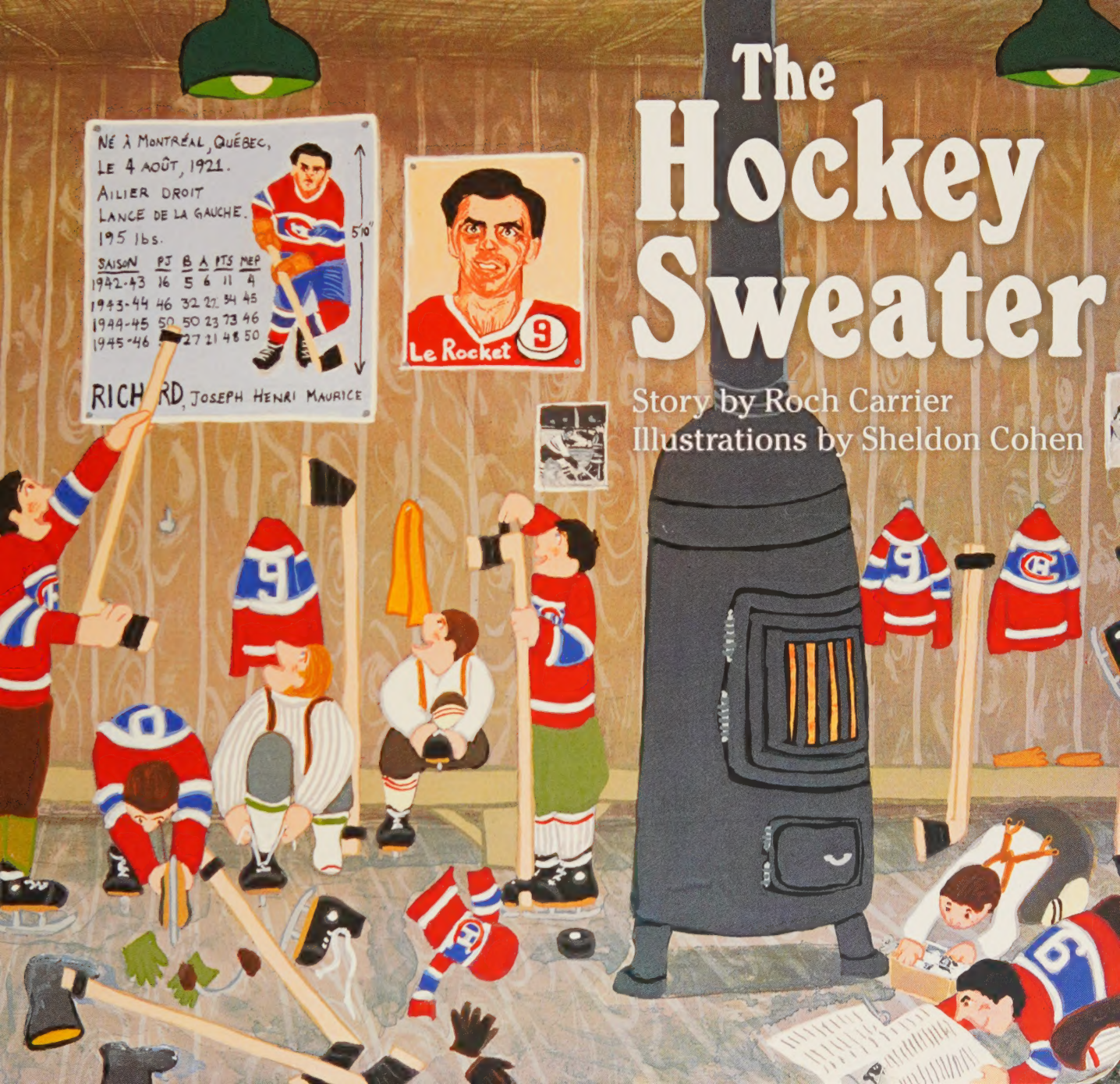


The Hockey Sweater

Story by Roch Carrier
Illustrations by Sheldon Cohen

I wish to dedicate this story to all girls and boys
because all of them are champions.
— Roch Carrier

The illustrator wishes to dedicate his work in this book to his wife, Donna.

Board book edition published by Tundra Books, 2020
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© 1984, Sheldon Cohen: illustrations

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a Penguin Random House Company

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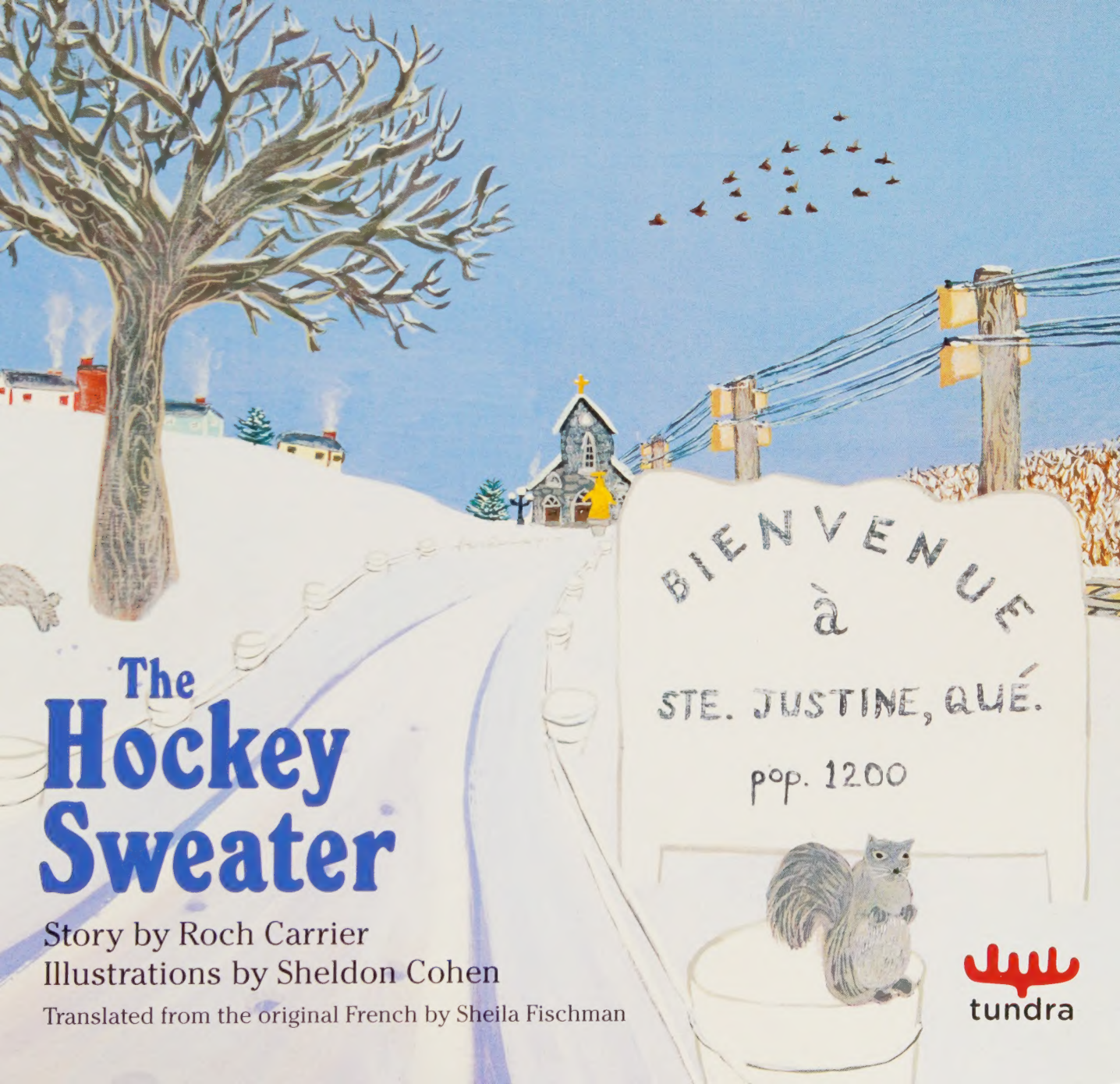
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Translated from the original French by Sheila Fischman

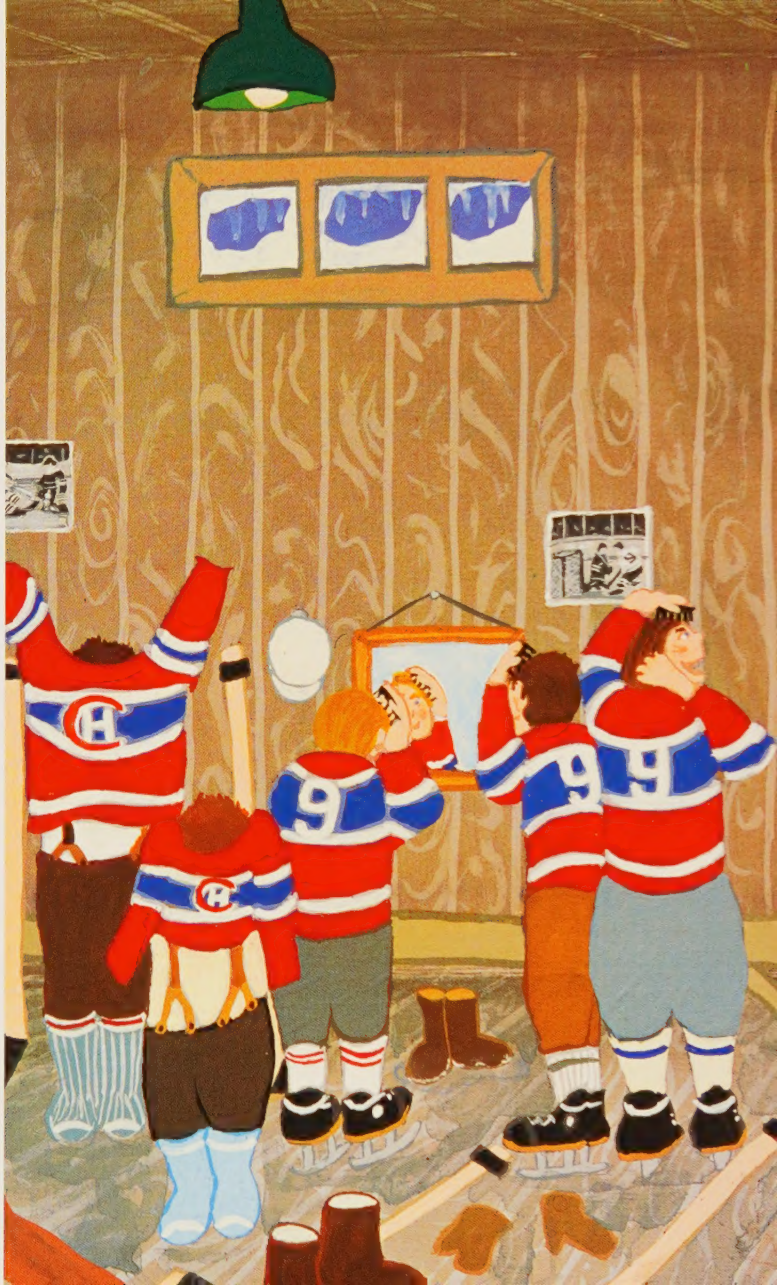
tundra

The winters of my childhood were long, long seasons. We lived in three places — the school, the church and the skating rink — but our real life was on the skating rink.





I remember very well the winter of 1946. We all wore the same uniform as Maurice Richard: the red, white and blue uniform of the Montreal Canadiens.




NÉ À MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC,
LE 4 AOÛT, 1921.
AILIER DROIT
LANCE DE LA GAUCHE.
195 lbs.
5'10"
SAISON PJ B A PTS MEP
1942-43 16 5 6 11 4
1943-44 46 32 22 54 45
1944-45 50 50 23 73 46
1945-46 27 21 48 50
RICHARD, JOSEPH HENRI MAURICE
Le Rocket 9

One day, my Montreal Canadiens sweater was too small for me. To order my new hockey sweater, my mother wrote in her fine schoolteacher hand:

"Dear Monsieur Eaton, would you be so kind as to send me a Canadiens' sweater for my son, Roch, who is ten years old and a little tall for his age?"




MAGASIN GENERAL
EATON'S
INFORMATION ABOUT ORDERING
HOW TO SEND MONEY


LA Chaudronnière
CASSE - CROÛTE
SANDWICHES...20
JAMBON
POULET
EUF
AFÉ 05
PATATES FRITES.05
CRETONS 15
OEUFS MARINÉES.05
FEVES AU LARD. 15
BUVEZ
Coca-Cola


CANADA
POSTE ROYALE

Two weeks later, we received the sweater. That day I had one of the greatest disappointments of my life! Instead of the red, white and blue Montreal Canadiens sweater, Monsieur Eaton had sent the blue and white sweater of the Toronto Maple Leafs.




MAPLE
LEAFS

I was crying:
"I can't wear that."

"Why not? This sweater
is a perfect fit," my mother
said.

"Maurice Richard
would never wear it."




EATON'S
MAPLE
LEAFS

When I arrived at the skating rink in my blue sweater, all the Maurice Richards in red, white and blue came by, one by one, to look at me. The Maple Leafs sweater weighed on my shoulders like a mountain. The captain came and told me to wait; he'd need me later, on defence.





By third period I had still not played. "This is not fair!" I shouted. "It's just because of my blue sweater!"

I crashed my stick against the ice so hard it broke.




MAPLE
LEAFS

"My child," said the young curate, "just because you're wearing a new Toronto Maple Leafs sweater, it doesn't mean you're going to make the laws around here. A good boy never loses his temper. Take off your skates and go to the church and ask God to forgive you."



Wearing my Maple Leafs sweater I went to the church, where I prayed to God.





I asked God to send me right away, a hundred million moths that would eat up my Toronto Maple Leafs sweater.





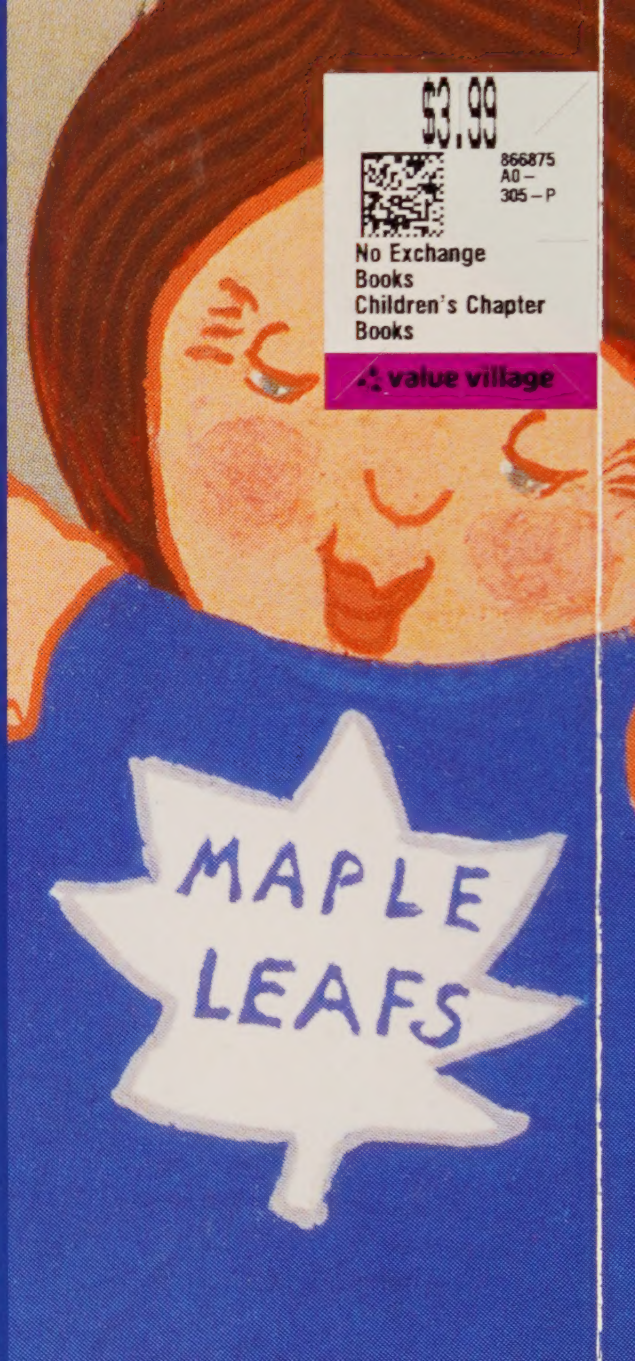
"It's not what you put on your back that matters. It's what you put inside your head."

In 1979, Roch Carrier read a story from his childhood on the CBC. It was about a moment that he thought captured what it was like to grow up in rural Quebec. The story came to an artist named Sheldon Cohen, who took up the challenge of making it into a short film . . . and that was the beginning of a remarkable journey for Roch, Sheldon and this most classic of Canadian tales.

It's been on the five-dollar bill, on the stage as a symphony and even in space. And now, the beloved classic *The Hockey Sweater* is ready to be in the hands of the smallest hockey fans.

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