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LACE 'EM UP - MLSE TEAM UP FOUNDATION TO HOST FREE MARCH BREAK PUBLIC SKATES AT AIR CANADA CENTRE, FOUR CITY RINKS

Free skates and rink refurbishments highlight two-week build up to One4One Event

Just in time for the March Break, the Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE) Team Up Foundation announced that they will host five free public skates across the city on March 15, 16 and 17. The open skates are part of a series of community building activities the MLSE Team Up Foundation will be conducting as it builds up to the Foundation's inaugural One4One Event on March 28.

Air Canada Centre, the Agincourt Community Centre Rink and the Downsview Arena will be open from 2-4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16 and Mimico Arena will host skaters from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. All three of the City of Toronto rinks have benefitted from upgrades through MLSE's and the MLSE Team Up Foundation's Legacy Program.

"MLSE strives to be a leader in the community – whether it's refurbishing rinks, laying new courts, replacing pitches or something as simple as providing families some ice time over the March Break," said Tom Anselmi, executive vice-president and chief operating officer, MLSE. "Hopefully the activities we will be involved with over the next couple of weeks speak to the range of communities the MLSE Team Up Foundation has been involved with over the past four years."

The March 15 public skate will take place from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Angela James Arena (165 Grenoble Drive). The MLSE Team Up Foundation will be enhancing the City of Toronto's investment in the arena with a \$250,000 donation to replace the dasher boards, provide new skate matting, create a women's dressing room and upgrade the current dressing rooms.

The Angela James Arena is the MLSE Team Up Foundation's 25th refurbishment and special guests Hockey Hall of Famer Angela James, Leafs Alumni Wendel Clark, Mike Gartner and Dick Duff will be on hand to celebrate the milestone. In addition to the public skate, there will be an autograph session by Alumni, the Leafs FanZone, Hockey Hall of Fame exhibits and snacks.

Refurbishments at two other sites will also be unveiled during the One4One Event build up. On Thursday, March 17 the MLSE Team Up Foundation will celebrate its \$120,000 investment toward a new FIBA regulated hardwood centre court at Variety Village. The new court will provide the Canadian National and Provincial wheelchair basketball teams a place to train and inspire the Village's grassroots program. Raptors players and members of the National Wheelchair basketball team will be facilitating skills clinics for Variety Village's youth teams.

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The Toronto Marlies will hold a Community Practice at Burnhamthorpe Community Centre Rink on March 21 to celebrate the announcement of the Team Up Foundation's \$25,000 investment in the facility. The event begins at noon with a Marlies practice followed by a full team autograph session. There will also be entertainment and activities for kids.

"The three refurbishments we will be highlighting this month are a testament to what can be accomplished when people and organizations come together to improve our communities," said Bruce Kidd, chair, MLSE Team Up Foundation. "Later this month our inaugural One4One Event will bring together fans and players from all four of our teams. Together we look forward to doing even more great things in communities across the city with the proceeds raised at the event."

The One4One Event will mark the first time in North America that NHL, NBA, MLS & AHL teams will come together on one night. Guests will have the chance to mingle with the full rosters of the Maple Leafs, Raptors, Toronto FC and Marlies at Real Sports Bar & Grill. All proceeds benefit the MLSE Team Up Foundation.

Over the past four years, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment and the MLSE Team Up Foundation have invested and contributed to 25 city-owned facility refurbishments. In addition to the four rinks hosting open skates, facilities at Ramsden Park, Oriole Community Centre, High Park's Outdoor Rink, Rennie Park in Swansea, The West Mall Rink in Etobicoke, and five parks in Riverdale have also benefitted from upgrades.

MLSE will also run Learn To Skate clinics at Air Canada Centre on March 15 and 16. Participants from the Canadian Chinese Youth Athletics Association and various community centres, many of whom have never skated, will be outfitted with skates pads and helmets and take part in drills led by MLSE's hockey development staff on the ice at Air Canada Centre.

About the MLSE Team Up Foundation is the charitable arm of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE), combining the philanthropic efforts of all four MLSE-owned teams – the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, Toronto FC and Toronto Marlies. Launched in December 2009 and building on the past successes of the Raptors Foundation for Kids and the Leafs Fund for Kids, the MLSE Team Up Foundation is committed to making an even bigger difference for youth across Ontario. The MLSE Team Up Foundation strives to improve the lives of youth by building facilities, giving to sustainable programs and empowering youth through sports and recreation. Changing lives through the spirit and the power of sports. For information visit www.mlseteamupfoundation.org or www.mlse.com

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