



March 21, 2011

MLSE TEAM UP FOUNDATION, RONA AND THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA ANNOUNCE THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE BURNHAMTHORPE COMMUNITY CENTRE HOCKEY RINK

Marlies hold community practice to recognize rink refurbishment

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment's (MLSE) Team Up Foundation and RONA inc., in collaboration with the City of Mississauga unveiled plans Monday to refurbish the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre's outdoor rink. The Burnhamthorpe rink refurbishment, which will be completed in the spring, marks the 26th project undertaken through the MLSE Team Up Foundation Legacy Program and the seventh such partnership involving RONA.

To recognize the project, the Toronto Marlies held their practice at the Burnhamthorpe rink Monday. Joining them were hundreds of kids from local Mississauga schools who had the chance to watch the aspiring Maple Leafs stars during a full-team community practice. The Applewood Coyotes, a novice house-league team, also had the opportunity to join the Marlies on the ice before the end of the practice. Marlies players and Head Coach Dallas Eakins were joined by RONA's Vice President of Retail for Ontario, Benoit Leduc, Mississauga Ward 3 Councillor, Chris Fonseca, and MLSE Team Up Foundation's Executive Director, Michael Bartlett for a special on-ice ceremony prior to the start of practice.

"The Team Up Foundation is excited to make a difference for the kids and families who will use this rink," said Michael Bartlett, Executive Director, MLSE Team Up Foundation. "Through our legacy program we're trying to ensure that communities like this one have the proper facilities for youth to engage in sports."

The MLSE Team Up Foundation, with the support of MLSE's Corporate Partner RONA, invested \$25,000 in significant upgrades and improvements to the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre outdoor skating rink including: new skate flooring, Plexiglas board completion, the installation of protective netting, repairs and improvements to the arena board gates as well as the replacement and addition of plastic benching to the outdoor change area.

"We are delighted to partner with the MLSE Team Up Foundation to make this refurbishment of the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre happen," said RONA's Benoit Leduc. "As a truly Canadian company, what better way to give back to the community than to refurbish an outdoor skating pad. This quintessentially Canadian project reflects RONA's commitment to promote the values of fair play, social responsibility and perseverance, while encouraging our young people to lead active lives and pursue their dreams."

Employees of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment and RONA will be volunteering their time to build new skate change benches, repair and paint the outdoor dressing rooms and build permanent skate-storage shelving — all designed to support community programs held at the rink. Work on the arena will be completed in the spring with supplies donated by RONA.

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“MLSE Team Up Foundation’s generous grant and RONA Rebuild Programs will help residents of all ages experience a free, safer and more comfortable skating experience at the City’s Burnhamthorpe Outdoor Rink,” added Mayor Hazel McCallion. “Renovations to the equipment room at the indoor rink will increase storage capacity which will enable the City to expand our free ‘Got Skates’ program so that more youth in our community can learn to skate and enjoy one of Canada’s favourite pastimes.”

Mississauga’s commitment to grassroots hockey and developing passion for sport and recreation with youth seemed a natural fit for the Toronto Marlies and the Team Up Foundation who is committed to changing lives through the spirit and the power of sports. RONA’s partnership with MLSE is also a continuation of its long-standing commitment to Canadian sports, both professional and amateur. RONA was a National Partner of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and it will be a National Partner of the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Teams through the London 2012 Summer Games.

About the Organizations

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

RONA is the largest Canadian distributor and retailer of hardware, home renovation and gardening products. RONA operates a network of more than 950 corporate, franchise and affiliate stores of various sizes and formats. With close to 30,000 employees working under its family of banners in every region of Canada and more than 17 million square feet of retail space, the RONA store network generates over \$6 billion in annual retail sales. For more information, please visit rona.ca.

Mississauga is Canada's 6th largest and fastest growing major city with a population of 729,000 residents representing cultures from around the world. Recognized as the safest city in Canada 8 years in a row, Mississauga offers family-oriented sports, leisure & arts facilities with 11 community centres and a vibrant downtown city centre with major retail, office, entertainment and condo living. With close to 55,000 registered businesses employing more than 425,000, Mississauga is home to 61 Fortune 500 Canadian or major divisional head offices and 50 Fortune Global 500 Canadian headquarters. For more information, visit: www.mississauga.ca

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Photos of the Marlies community practice are available on request.

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