



MEDIA RELEASE

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MARLIES HOLD OPEN PRACTICE TO RECOGNIZE MLSE TEAM UP FOUNDATION RINK REFURBISHMENT

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE), the MLSE Team Up Foundation and RONA, in collaboration with the city of Whitby, unveiled new plans to refurbish Luther Vipond Memorial Arena on Monday. The rink refurbishment will mark the 14th project as part of the MLSE Team Up Foundation Hockey Rink Legacy Program.

To recognize the project, the Toronto Marlies held their practice at Luther Vipond Memorial Arena in Brooklin this evening. Joining the team were hundreds of Marlies fans from the community and joining the club on the ice at the end of practice was peewee team, the Whitby RONA Hornets.

Marlies players and Head Coach Dallas Eakins were joined by RONA's Director of Operations of Big Box stores, Doug Newstead, Manager of Rona in Whitby, Kathryn Rodrigues-D'Sa, Mayor of Whitby, Pat Perkins and Tom Anselmi, MLSE's Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer.

"RONA's role in the refurbishment of the Luther Vipond Memorial Arena is consistent with our long-standing support of Canadian sports and Canadian youth," said Claude Bernier, RONA's Executive Vice-President, Marketing & Customer Innovations. "At a time when our entire country is still glowing with pride from the thrilling performances of our Olympians in British Columbia, it is important to remember that many of those athletes began their journey at community rinks just like this one. At RONA, we are proud to be working alongside MLSE and the City of Whitby to make sure this particular facility continues to operate in peak condition."

The MLSE Team Up Foundation with the support of MLSE's Corporate Partner RONA invested \$25,000 for significant upgrades and improvements to the Luther Vipond Memorial Arena including: new flooring, plumbing fixtures, tiling and new coats of paint in the dressing rooms.

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Employees from Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment and RONA will contribute more than 300 volunteer hours towards the refurbishment.

“We’re excited to be here because we believe it’s important to give back to the communities that support our teams,” said Anselmi. “A priority of the MLSE Team Up Foundation is to ensure every community has access to safe places to skate and play hockey.”

The MLSE Team Up Foundation improves the lives of Ontario youth by building facilities and supporting sustainable sports and recreation programs.

Over the past four years alone, MLSE and the Team Up Foundation has built and refurbished 13 ice rinks, six basketball courts and three soccer pitches through its legacy program with generous support of their partners, fans and employees.

RONA’s partnership with MLSE is a continuation of its long-standing commitment to Canadian sports, both professional and amateur.

The Marlies next home game is Saturday, March 20 when they host the Hamilton Bulldogs at 4:00 p.m. at Ricoh Coliseum. For more information, visit torontomarlies.com

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