



January 4, 2012

**MLSE TEAM UP FOUNDATION, RONA AND CITY OF TORONTO
USHER IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A SPECIAL TREAT FOR THE COMMUNITY**
Maple Leafs hold outdoor practice to celebrate Sunnydale Acres Rink refurbishment

The Toronto Maple Leafs, the Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE) Team Up Foundation and RONA, in collaboration with the City of Toronto, unveiled the newly refurbished Sunnydale Acres Rink Wednesday. The refurbished outdoor rink marks the 30th completed project as part of the MLSE Team Up Foundation's Legacy Program.

In celebration of the event, the Toronto Maple Leafs held their practice at the Sunnydale Acres Rink. Joining them were hundreds of Leafs fans from the community.

Maple Leafs players and Head Coach Ron Wilson were joined by Karim Salabi, Vice President of Marketing– Image and Sponsorships, RONA and Doug Newstead, Director of Market Development, RONA, Mayor Rob Ford, City Councillor Doug Ford (Ward 2 Etobicoke North), Tom Anselmi, MLSE's Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer and MLSE Team Up Foundation Board Members for a special on-ice ceremony prior to the start of practice.

"This Sunnydale refurbishment is an example of how the Maple Leafs and the MLSE Team Up Foundation work with our partners and the city to create opportunities for young people to play sports and be active in our communities," said Tom Anselmi, executive vice-president and chief operating officer, MLSE. "We want to thank the Leafs fans and members of our community for welcoming us to their neighbourhood and attending today."

The MLSE Team Up Foundation with the support of MLSE's Corporate Partner RONA invested more than \$150,000 in significant upgrades and improvements to the Sunnydale Acres Rink including: replacement of seasonal/removable dasher board system with portable panel system containing UV protection (which will help preserve the ice in sunny conditions), the restoration of doors and the installation of new sports matting in the main room, change rooms and staff office.

"As a truly Canadian company, RONA is so proud to help refurbish the Sunnydale Outdoor Rink as part of the Team Up Foundation, by providing volunteers, expertise and supplies." says Doug Newstead, Director of Market Development, Ontario region, RONA. For his part, Karim Salabi, Vice President of Marketing – Image and Sponsorships at RONA, wished to mention "This partnership with MLSE allowed us to pursue our commitment to youth and help them to believe in their dreams and do what it takes to achieve their goals."

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Employees from MLSE and RONA contributed more than 750 volunteer hours towards the refurbishment. Footage from the volunteer build is available at www.mlseteamupfoundation.org.

"Sunnydale Acres AIR project is a great example of how the City can work with outside partners, such as Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment - Team Up Foundation and RONA, to improve facilities and services for all residents of Toronto," said Mayor Ford.

Since 2006, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment and the Team Up Foundation have invested and contributed to 30 city-owned facility refurbishments including Angela James Arena, Ramsden Park Rink, Oriole Community Centre, High Park's Outdoor Rink, Rennie Park in Swansea, The West Mall Rink in Etobicoke, and five parks in Riverdale: Withrow Park, Riverdale Park East, Greenwood Park, Jimmie Simpson and Monarch Park are the others.

RONA's partnership with MLSE is 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, as well it will be a National Partner of the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Teams through the London 2012 Summer Games.

The Leafs next home game is Thursday, January 5 versus the Winnipeg Jets. Game time is 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.mapleleafs.com.

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 the Foundation strives to improve the lives of youth by building facilities, giving to sustainable programs and empowering youth through sports and recreation. For information visit www.mlseteamupfoundation.org

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, visit rona.ca.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, home to a diverse population of 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents. For more information, visit: www.toronto.ca

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