



NEWS RELEASE / COMMUNIQUÉ

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Rink of Dreams Legacy coming to Ottawa City Hall

Ottawa - The City of Ottawa today announced an agreement with the Ottawa Senators Foundation and the Hockey Canada Foundation to build the Rink of Dreams at Marion Dewar Plaza at City Hall.

Mayor Jim Watson; Ward Councillor Diane Holmes; Jim Durrell, Chair of the Hockey Canada Gala Committee; Ken Corbett, Chairman of the Board, Hockey Canada; Cyril Leeder, President of the Senators Sports and Entertainment and W. Graeme Rouston unveiled the rendering of the proposed ice surface.

"This will be a fantastic facility for families and community members in the heart of our City," said Mayor Jim Watson. "The Rink of Dreams is another way we are revitalizing our city's downtown core and I would like to thank the Ottawa Senators Foundation and the Hockey Canada Foundation for their generous support."

Centrally located, the rink will be a gathering place for residents and tourists alike. The proposed 12,500 square foot oval ice surface is a refrigerated outdoor skating facility and will be one of the largest outdoor rinks in the City of Ottawa. It will operate annually from November to March and serve as a community space during the spring and summer months. The City will work closely with the National Capital Commission (NCC) and other organizers to host events that complement the many festivals and attractions in the downtown core.

At a cost of \$1.25 million, the Senators Foundation will contribute \$1 million toward the design and construction of the rink while the City of Ottawa will provide \$250,000 and operate the facility, pending Council approval. Hockey Canada will also play a key role, as a portion of the proceeds from the Hockey Canada Foundation Gala and Golf Tournament, held in Ottawa June 27 and 28, will go towards funding the Rink of Dreams.

"The goal of the Hockey Canada Gala and Golf Tournament is to raise funds to make the Rink of Dreams a reality," said chair of the Hockey Canada Gala Committee, Jim Durrell "The Committee is excited to recognize our first big donation and are happy to be part of a project that will be enjoyed by many in the years to come."

"The Hockey Canada Gala and Golf Tournament will provide significant funds for the project," said Senators president Cyril Leeder. "The Senators and the Sens Foundation have made the commitment to raise the remaining funds required to build the facility that will be a landmark for our community. We will now call upon our corporate partners to support fundraising efforts and help provide the means to complete this legacy project."

With successful fundraising by the end of June, the groundbreaking for the Rink of Dreams is expected to begin this summer and be completed by mid-December 2011.

"Hockey Canada has long been a proponent of giving as many young players as possible the chance to play our great game, and we're excited to partner on the Rink of Dreams," said Bob Nicholson, president and CEO of Hockey Canada. "This fits with our mandate of accessibility to the game, providing more rinks, more options for players, and to just have some fun."

“We have seen the benefits to the community of corporate partners coming together to create these rink opportunities,” said W. Graeme Rouston. “I have personally been in the rink building business for many years and I have made a six-figure commitment to help kick-start the fundraising efforts and encourage the local community to come forward and get behind this special project.”

As part of the Rink of Dreams legacy, the Senators Foundation will continue to work with the City of Ottawa to build additional outdoor rinks in community neighbourhoods across the city. For more information on the Sens Foundation, visit www.sensfoundation.com. For more information about the Hockey Canada Foundation and the Gala and Golf Tournament, visit www.hockeycanada.ca/foundation.

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For more information:

Media contact
613-580-2450

Public inquiries
3-1-1

Ottawa Senators
Brian Morris
morrisb@ottawasenators.com
613-599-0289

Hockey Canada
Francis Dupont
fdupont@hockeycanada.ca
403-777-4564