



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: ICE RINK SEASON TO END AFTER PRESIDENTS DAY**

CANTON, Ohio – The Hall of Fame City Ice Rink 2016-2017 season will close after Presidents Day, February 20, 2017. The initial closing date was slated to be February 28, 2017 but due to the unseasonably warm weather expected for the next ten days, the date has been moved up by one week. The ice rink initially opened on December 1, 2016 after a seven year hiatus.

The 2016-2017 season was an astounding success and exceeded the expectations of all the partners involved with the project. The Hall of Fame City Ice Rink appealed to community members and the surrounding area locals with its downtown charm and affordable skate rentals. Community members flocked to downtown Canton to be a part of the opening festivities and then continued to support the Hall of Fame City Ice Rink by making regular visits to the space. As of February 15, 2017, the Hall of Fame City Ice Rink had 4,214 rentals. In addition to the rentals, many individuals brought their own skates or accompanied their children and grandchildren for a skating outing.

The Hall of Fame City Ice Rink brought community members of all ages together. The ice rink's oldest visitor was a gentleman 89 years of age and the youngest visitor was five months old, pushed in a little silver sleigh. The ice rink was even the setting of an accepted marriage proposal.

The community gave positive feedback and insights into what they would like to see in the future. In an anonymous survey, all were very appreciative of the return of the rink and praised the family-friendly atmosphere. There was a particular interest in the development of new programs, like organized skating lessons for all ages and themed skate nights.

The ice rink and its success would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of the City of Canton, Canton Parks & Recreation, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Canton Special Improvement District, Coon Restoration, Arcade Cones, and Center Ice Sports.

The personal efforts of a few individuals need to be recognized, as well. Tom Schervish, Jr., the owner and operator of Center Ice, oversaw and consulted on all the technical issues of laying down and maintaining the ice rink. Mike Pettinger, an employee of Coon Restoration and a resident of the Onesto, personally cut and maintained the ice each day. Councilmember Greg Hawk oversaw the daily rental and maintenance of the skates.

"I thank all of the individuals and partners who made this possible," said City of Canton Mayor Tom Bernabei. "It was a truly magical winter season and the ice rink gave everyone something to look forward to on those cold and blustery days."

For more information, contact Devan Weckerly, (330) 438-4307.