



Harder, Safer, Faster – Simply Better Ice!

HERSHEY CUP ALL-STAR GAME TO BE PLAYED ON 'FAST ICE™' Kitchener Rangers First OHL Team To Move To Revolutionary Ice

Kitchener Ontario, November 27, 2002 – ICE Research Corporation of Markham, Canada and the Kitchener Rangers hockey team announce that the November 27, 2002 Hershey Cup All-Star game hosted by the Kitchener Rangers at the Aud will be the first All-Star game played on ice made with the revolutionary 'FastICE™' system. 'FastICE™' is currently being used by the Dallas Stars of the NHL where it has been installed since the beginning of the season.

'FastICE™' is a major innovation in ice resurfacing technology. It creates ice that is harder, less brittle and less prone to chipping than ice created by traditional ice resurfacing systems. The result is a skating surface that is harder, faster and smoother for the players to skate on. The 'FastICE™' system builds a denser ice surface, which can also generate significant savings in energy costs for rink owners.

The 'FastICE™' system is installed on the rinks' existing ice resurfacer. According to Mark Durst, President of ICE Research Corporation, developer of 'FastICE™', the big innovation is the way in which the water is applied. "We use computer controlled hydraulics to spray precise volumes of water on the rink," says Durst. "The water flash-freezes to the ice surface. Kind of like how freezing rain freezes on your car windshield. This results in less oxygen being absorbed into the ice, making the ice harder and stronger."

Steve Bienkowski, Chief Operating Officer of the Kitchener Rangers, says that the move to 'FastICE™' will significantly improve the speed and quality of the game for both the players and the fans. "The 'FastICE™' system produces denser and faster ice with less gouges and chips. This revolutionary ice is safer for our players while providing faster skating and better puck control. Our fans will enjoy a faster game as the ice is denser with less rutting and snow build up throughout the game."

The installation of the 'FastICE™' system is the result of a dedicated team effort by the Kitchener Ranger staff and the City of Kitchener. Steve Bienkowski asked Head Coach and GM Peter DeBoer, and Assistant Coach Steve Spott to investigate ways to improve the ice quality. They researched techniques of improving the ice quality as used at the NHL level and recommended the implementation of the 'FastICE™' system. Staff at the Kitchener Auditorium has embraced the new technology.

General Manager of the Kitchener Auditorium Kim Kugler is excited about this new technology. "The 'FastICE™' system gives my staff the tools and technology that they need to create a world-class ice surface. My staff, headed up by Jeff Coulter and Bob Stevenson, has done an excellent job in implementing this new 'FastICE™' technology." Darrin Boutilier of Building Operations had this to say, "We've seen an incredible improvement in the quality of our ice since we've installed 'FastICE™'. The players and coaches love it. The 'FastICE™' system gives us the tools we need to deliver consistently high quality ice to our user groups."

Head NHL Ice Maker, Dan Craig, believes it may be the most significant and important change in ice making since the invention of the ice resurfacer. "The current ice resurfacers are essentially manual machines. You turn a valve and gravity fed water is poured onto the ice through a pipe and then spread with a cloth. The 'FastICE™' system brings us into this century. It's a computerized spray system, which forms an even and consistent application throughout the entire ice surface. The system adds precision control to the process, which is incredibly important."

ABOUT ICE RESEARCH CORPORATION

ICE Research Corporation of Markham, Canada was the inspiration of two men Hockey Legend Don Cherry calls "The Ice Men". Steve Dawe and Mike Horodenka were icemakers at Toronto's Air Canada Centre. Through their experience they came to believe that there was a better way to make ice. Enlisting the aid of experts in hydraulic spray technology and computer control systems, ICE Research Corporation was formed. The result is 'FastICE™'.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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