



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARMA RECOGNIZED FOR RINK RECYCLING

(PARMA) – The City of Parma will be recognized for its outstanding recycling efforts during a special ceremony at the Michael A. Ries Ice Rink on October 29. The program will be held after a special practice session at the rink by the Lake Erie Monsters of the American Hockey League.

“We do all we can to be a ‘green’ community,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “What we accomplished at the ice rink – recycling 100% of old materials during our remodeling and upgrading project – is an amazing feat in itself.”

“I’ve been doing this for more than 20 years,” said John Ponyicky, owner of Ponz Recycling Industries. “I consider this to be among the most successful recycling projects I have ever seen in the 40 cities where I recycle. Nothing went into a landfill, and that is what being green is all about.”

Ponyicky says more than 25,000 pounds of wood from the rink went to Rosby’s Berry Farm in Brooklyn Heights after being turned into mulch; 3,000 pounds of metals went to West Side Metals that supplies the steel mills; 10,000 pounds of Plexiglas went overseas for reprocessing and the plastic sheeting along the side boards went to Advance Drainage for corrugated sewer piping.

Parma Hockey Association Vice-President Dave Szafarski says he, too, is impressed and proud of the recycling effort. He says the facelift for Michael A. Ries Rink is a dream come true.

“Folks come here from out of town and just say, ‘Wow,’” said Szafarski. “Everyone in our organization is ecstatic and proud of how far we have come. The city did a great job that is appreciated by the kids, parents, coaches and the entire community. The recycling effort just makes it that much better.”

The city of Parma spent nearly \$100,000 to replace the rink’s dasher boards and glass paneling surrounding the arena. The Parma Hockey Association pitched-in more than \$10,000 in paint and supplies while the Parma Amateur Athletic Federation (PAFF) donated \$15,000 to help defray the building and rehabilitation costs.

(more)

Still to come – a \$250,000 upgrade of the rink's roof and the building's lighting system, to be paid with a Capital Appropriations grant from the state of Ohio.

John Ponyicky says he has lived in Parma for 40 years and will present city officials with a special plaque congratulating Parma for its outstanding recycling efforts.

Ponyicky says he skated at Ries Rink long before the improvements were made, claiming the successful recycling project makes the upgrade even more exciting.

“It's always out with the old and in with the new,” said Ponyicky. “But that doesn't mean the old goes into a landfill. I'm happy to make a living by helping the environment and at the same time, helping the people in my hometown. It gives me a great feeling of accomplishment.”

The Lake Erie Monsters practice session begins at 7:00 p.m. followed by the recognition ceremony and a public skate and autograph session with the players.

The Monsters Tour is sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. For more information call the Lake Erie Monsters at 216-420-0000 or the Parma Recreation Department at 440-885-8144.

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