



For Immediate Release

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ICE IS BACK at the J.M. McDonald Sports Complex

Cortland, NY – The Ice Skating Season in Cortland will officially begin on Friday, August 22 at the Family Rock n Skate to be held from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Ice makers and operations personnel at the Sports Complex have been working long hours to ensure we have ice available to the public starting Friday night. Starting on Saturday, August 22, when we will host two (2) hockey camps – CNY Goalies Camp and the McDonald Hockey School, both led by SUNY Cortland Men's Hockey Coach, Joe Baldarotta. Coach Joe has over 20 years of experience providing exceptional hockey instruction to goalies and skaters. This is a unique opportunity for the Cortland area players to have access to this level of quality instruction.

“The first day of skating is always an exciting time at the McDonald Center,” states Tammy Sciera, Executive Director. “We have been preparing all summer for Opening Day of the ice and we are eager to open the doors to the public. This season we will again unveil ice logos representing the major skating groups who call the McDonald Center their home – Cortland Homer Golden Eagles, Cortland Youth Hockey, and the Cortland Figure Skating Club,” states Sciera. “We are also very proud to have a new ice logo around center ice highlighting our arena naming sponsor - Suit-Kote.”

To kick off the beginning of our ice skating season this year, we are pleased to offer the community a *SUMMER SKATE* event to open the doors to the public who has been outside enjoying our beautiful CNY summer. Admission is only \$3 per session and skate rental is \$2. A Family Pass for Summer Skate is being offered for \$10 per family per session. This special admission pricing is offered to encourage the public to take advantage of the unique opportunity to ice skate while it is still warm outside and to kick off the start of the season! A schedule of skate session is attached.

With the return of ice skating also means “***the Return of Rock N Skate***”! Our youth of the community won't want to miss out on the “*coolest*” social activity in the Cortland area. This season, we are offering two separate sessions of Rock n Skate in order to allow all ages to experience the music, lights and skating. Teen Rock n Skates will kick off the season on August 29 from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. For safety purposes, we encourage youth 12 and under to attend Family Rock n Skate (starting August 22) and teens age 13 and up to attend Teen Rock n Skate. Our public ice skating schedule will be posted monthly on our web site where these sessions will be highlighted.

Don't forget that the Sports Complex is also host to hundreds of birthday parties and special events each year! Those who have held their parties here in the past are coming back because they had such a great experience either ice skating or playing on the turf. It is convenient and economical for families and clubs.

Back by popular demand this season is the C.H.A.M.P after school program where your children can experience a truly one of a kind program. Held in conjunction with Dept of Physical Education at SUNY Cortland and led by Dr. Timothy Davis, Homer and Cortland School Districts, and CAPCO/Headstart. Students enrolled as Physical Education majors mentor children from 3:30 to 6 pm Wed/Thurs at the JM Sports Complex on homework skills, nutrition, reading, daily physical activity, and lifetime fitness through games and activities. The purpose of Project CHAMP is to create an after school fitness and academic mentorship program for children grades K -6 in the Cortland/Homer and surrounding school districts.

"The JM McDonald Sports Complex is a not for profit, community facility and we invite everyone to take advantage of all it has to offer our families, youth and adults," states Sciera. "The state of our economy is putting pressure on all our family budgets. Having a facility located in our community allows families to stay closer to home and still enjoy family activities and youth programming without having to travel long distances," states Sciera. "Our children are fortunate to have a unique facility such as the McDonald Center available to them to encourage and build health lifestyles. We invite you to see what the McDonald Center has to offer your family this fall/winter season!"

It is important to note that despite our busy activity (and full parking lot) during the winter months, the McDonald Center still needs your generous support through financial contributions to maintain a business of this magnitude year round. Even though we had a successful capital funds drive to build the facility 5 years ago, we are still carrying the burden of a mortgage of \$1.6 million that must be paid monthly. Your generous financial support and use of the center can make a huge difference in the quality of programs we can offer and the future of this indoor center.

Due to rising energy costs, our Board of Directors is forced to institute rate increases for the coming indoor season. We have done everything possible to keep these increases as low as possible. All new prices go into effect on September 1, 2008 and can be found on our website.

The Cortland Sports Complex is a 501(c) 3 organization created to operate the JM McDonald Sports Complex. Our goal is to provide the entire community with affordable, family-oriented programming and events in a safe, recreational environment. For more information on Sports Complex events, please contact the Complex office at 753-8100 (4292 Fairgrounds Rd, Cortland, NY 13045) or visit our web site at www.jmmcdonaldsportscomplex.com