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Saranac Lake Civic Center Kicks Off Ice Season with Community Open House October 4

SARANAC LAKE, NY — The ice is coming back to the Saranac Lake Civic Center, and with it comes another season of hockey, skating, curling, learning and community connection.

The Civic Center will officially open its 2026–27 ice season on **Sunday, October 4**, with a special **Ice Season Open House and first public skating event of the season** from 11am to 12:30pm, inviting community members to come see what's happening on the ice and learn more about the many programs available throughout the season.

Representatives and participants from several of the Civic Center's regular ice users will be on hand, including **Saranac Lake Learn to Skate, the Lake Placid Curling Club, Paul Smith's College Women's Hockey** and **Sara-Placid Lakers Hockey**. Community members will have an opportunity to meet the people behind these programs, ask questions and learn how to get involved.

"We're excited to get the ice back in and welcome everyone back to the Civic Center," said **Jackie Damour, president of the Lake Placid Curling Club**. "Curling is such a welcoming sport, and we're looking forward to another season of getting people out on the ice. If you've ever been curious about curling, this is a great opportunity to meet us, learn more about the club and find out about opportunities to learn to curl this season."

For those who have always wanted to learn how to skate — or want to help a young skater build confidence on the ice — **Saranac Lake Learn to Skate** will also be part of the open house. The program's first session of the season is October 4.

"Learning to skate is about so much more than just learning the mechanics of skating," said **Amanda Jones of Saranac Lake Learn to Skate**. "It's about building confidence, trying something new and having fun on the ice. Our first session is October 4, so it's the perfect time to come check us out. We'll also be happy to talk with anyone interested in sponsoring a child to learn to skate. A sponsorship can help cover the cost of lessons for a local child who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate."

Youth hockey families will also have an opportunity to connect with the **Sara-Placid Lakers Hockey** program, which offers programming for young players through older youth age groups.

"The Civic Center is such an important part of our hockey community, and we're excited to be part of the season opener," said **Ericka Moody, Sara-Placid Lakers co-registrar**. "The Lakers offer opportunities for players from our youngest 6U players through 16U, as well as Learn to Skate for younger beginners. If your child has ever said they want to play hockey, come talk to us. We'd love to help you figure out where to start."

The **Paul Smith's College Bobcats Women's Hockey Team** will have players on hand to meet the community, share the upcoming season schedule and celebrate the return of the ice.

"We're really excited for the season and to be back playing in Saranac Lake as we set our sights on qualifying once again for the AAU Women's College Hockey National Championship tournament in Jacksonville, FL in March just like we did last season," said **Rob Burke, Bobcats Women's Hockey coach**. "Come meet the players, check out our schedule and, most importantly, come out and cheer us on this season. We'd love to see the community in the stands!"

The October 4 open house is part of the Civic Center's ongoing effort to connect the community with the many organizations and activities that call the facility home. From youth hockey and learn-to-skate programs to curling and collegiate hockey, the ice brings together athletes, families, spectators and newcomers throughout the winter months.

The **Ice Season Open House and first public skating event** will take place **Sunday, October 4, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Saranac Lake Civic Center**. Community members are invited to stop by, meet the organizations that make the Civic Center their home, learn more about programs and registration opportunities, and celebrate the return of ice season.

Admission to skate is free, with registration now open on the Civic Center website. **Skate rentals are \$5**.

For more information about ice programs, public skating and upcoming events, visit saranaclakeciviccenter.org.

About the Saranac Lake Civic Center

The Saranac Lake Civic Center is a year-round, not-for-profit recreation and events facility, serving the residents and visitors from across the region and beyond. Its regular users include Paul Smith's College, high school players from Saranac Lake and Lake Placid Central Schools, the Lake Placid Curling Club, Northwood School, Sara-Placid Lakers, Saranac Lake Learn to Skate and more. The facility also welcomes tournament organizers, including Can-Am Hockey, as well as exposition organizers who utilize the Civic Center's event space. The Civic Center also plays host to public skating, the popular Silver Skaters program, events such as Touch A Truck.

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Photo by Meghan Wolter and provided by the Saranac Lake Civic Center:

Caption: *Saranac Lake Civic Center Manager Matt Wolter and his daughter, Reese, paint the lines as the rink gets its finishing touches in preparation for the start of the 2026–27 ice season, which starts on October 4.*

