



ZAMBONI® ICE RESURFACING MACHINE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1999

THE "MASCOT" OF THE ICE ARENA FIRST SMOOTHED THE ICE IN 1949 AND HAS BECOME AN
ICON OF ICE SPORTS WORLDWIDE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Paramount, California, October 26, 1999 --- The Frank J. Zamboni Company, best known as the inventor and producer of ice resurfacing machines in use around the world is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 1999. Although many people assume that the machine which smoothes the ice would have been created in some frozen land, the Zamboni actually came to life in sunny Southern California.

In the late 1930's, Frank Zamboni, his brother and cousin built Paramount Iceland, which opened to the public in January of 1940. The family business which provided ice to dairy farmers using refrigeration equipment, and the popularity of public ice skating seemed to have a better future than block ice, as the refrigerator was becoming more common. The need for an efficient way to resurface the ice rink provided Frank with a challenge. By the summer of 1949, Frank was able to get a good sheet of ice with his invention, known today as the "Model A".

Historic Zamboni Moments:

- In the early 1950's, Sonja Henie (Olympian and famous figure skater) saw Frank's invention and placed her order for a machine that would travel with her on her skating tour and bring attention to the Zamboni Ice Resurfacing Machine.
- At the Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, 1960, the first electric powered Zamboni was used (along with five additional Zamboni machines) in the machine's Olympic debut.
- In the late 1960's, Zamboni established a Canadian manufacturing presence, opening a facility in Brantford, Ontario.
- At the NHL All Star Game in Boston in 1996, legendary Zamboni #21, which was built in 1954 for the Boston Garden, was used exclusively to smooth the ice during the FANTasy week ice events. The machine is on display at the Hockey Hall of Fame and was one of the first machines used in the NHL.
- Machine #6000 was delivered in the fall of 1997 to the Detroit Red Wings. Thousands of machines are still operating around the world, and the Company is looking forward to machine #7000.
- In the fall of 1997, the Zamboni Company launched a new business (Zamboni Merchandising Company, Inc.) which focuses on the extension of the Zamboni brand name through toys, apparel and accessories. The Company's web site (www.zamboni.com) has had the opportunity to become the on-line archive of information and photos.

For over half a century, the Zamboni Company has focused its efforts on the ice arena business. Although numerous companies approached Frank to encourage him to diversify the focus of the business, he remained committed to the growth of the ice sport industry. Frank Zamboni understood the complexities of rink ownership, as he built, owned and operated a rink until he passed away in 1988. The business is still family owned and operated today, and Paramount Iceland is approaching its 60th Anniversary.

For more information about the Zamboni Company, please visit our web site at: www.zamboni.com