



CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE  
**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2023 #23-12

For further information, contact:  
Stephane Labonne at 604-467-7344  
[slanonne@mapleridge.ca](mailto:slanonne@mapleridge.ca)

**Maple Ridge Declares March 28 to April 1 as 2023 Kraft Hockeyville Week**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Council has declared March 28 to April 1 as 2023 Kraft Hockeyville Week in recognition of Ridge Meadows Minor Hockey Association (RMMHA) and the City owned arena being nominated for the 2023 Kraft Hockeyville Contest.

Kraft Hockeyville is an **annual competition** sponsored by Kraft Heinz, the National Hockey League and the NHL Players' Association in which communities compete to demonstrate their commitment to the sport of ice hockey.

Maple Ridge is the only community in BC to be selected to the final four. People are encouraged to vote as many times as they can during the 32-hour period beginning at 6:00 a.m. on March 31 until 2:00 p.m. on April 1 at [hockeyville.kraftcanada.ca](https://hockeyville.kraftcanada.ca). The winner will be announced on April 1 and will receive the \$250,000 prize for arena upgrades and get to host an NHL pre-season game.

"This win would mean so much for everyone who uses our arenas, especially the thousands of youth who play here and their friends and family who come to cheer them on," said Mayor Ruimy. "Any investment in our youth is an investment in our community. We're asking everyone to vote as often as they can. Let's win this Maple Ridge!"

In addition to the declaration, City Hall's lighting has been set to red to help build awareness and Council wore RMMHA jerseys at last night's Council meeting.

## **Voting Rally Planned April 1**

The Ridge Meadows Minor Hockey Association is planning a rally at Planet Ice in Maple Ridge to get the vote out and await the announcement as part of the Hockey Night in Canada broadcast on Saturday, April 1. Look for information on the rally on the Association's Facebook page.

"What started as an opportunity to share our stories to learn how deep our hockey roots go has strengthened our culture and our community," said Tonya Lynch, RMMHA Director of Sponsorship and Community Engagement. "The momentum and support we have received during our engagement in the Kraft Hockeyville contest has been overwhelming including from the City. We look forward to working collaboratively with the City to enhance our arena to benefit all users and spectators. Mark your calendars with a note to vote Friday morning! Voting is easy and ten minutes of your time spent logging votes could be the difference. Tell everyone you know, far and wide, to do the same."

## **Background**

In February 2023, RMMHA along with Planet Ice Arena were nominated for Kraft Hockeyville 2023. If successful, the \$250,000 will be invested in upgrades to the Cam Neely arena to benefit all users by:

- Enhancing athlete and visitor experience through a new score board, sound system and lobby seating.
- Making the facility washrooms, change rooms and scoreboard more accessible and inclusive for all users.

Planet Ice is located on Jim Robson Way which is home to the Cam Neely Arena (seating for 1,200) and a second arena (seating for 125). Both rinks are standard NHL size. The City owns the arena and has an operating agreement with GSL Group who are contracted to operate Planet Ice.

For more information, visit [ridgemeanowshockey.com](https://www.ridgemeanowshockey.com).