

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST ICE SKATING RINK

IS COMING TO JOHN HANCOCK OBSERVATORY!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 29, 2011

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS DEFENSEMAN SAMI LEPISTO TAKES INAUGURAL SKATE AT OPENING OF OBSERVATORY "ICE" RINK

*Second Annual Opening Also Features Brand New Tempered Glass Walls and Formal
Debut of New John Hancock Observatory Mascot*

Chicago, IL—John Hancock Observatory reopens the world's highest skating rink on January 1, 2012, more than 1,000 feet above The Magnificent Mile®. In its second year of operation, the rink now features brand new tempered glass walls boards, allowing skaters to peer directly down on to Lake Shore Drive as they glide amidst the clouds. Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Sami Lepisto was on-hand to help launch the 2012 skating season, along with team mascot Tommy Hawk and the new John Hancock Observatory Mascot, Seemore Miles, whose name came to life from a naming contest on the Observatory's Facebook Page.

"Before we debuted the rink last year, many people didn't even believe it would be possible," said Carey Randall, director of sales and marketing, John Hancock Observatory. "Once we actually launched the concept, the response was overwhelming with rave reviews from skaters and inquiries literally from around the globe."

The 'ice' rink, which measures approximately 20' x 45' feet, is a synthetic surface called Xtraice and is the closest thing to real ice without water. Even though skaters take to the 'ice' in the middle of winter, the experience is all inside, so there's no getting cold – or wet – a major benefit for parents of small children. The same synthetic ice surface is installed on more than 130 rinks in 35 countries and is used as a practice surface by the likes of the Florida Panthers and Disney Parks.

"John Hancock Observatory is one of the most visited attractions in Chicago and we pride ourselves on being an innovative leader in the global tourist market," said Carey. "And Skating in the Sky has had a tremendous appeal to local thrill-seekers, families and event planners looking to do something out of the ordinary. We are already sold-out for several days this year."

Because of the high-level of demand last year, John Hancock Observatory created an online ticket and reservation system on their Web site at www.JHOChicago.com where reservations are required for skating sessions. A 25-minute skating session is \$5 (plus admission) and guests are welcome to either bring their own skates or rent them at the Observatory for only \$1. The rink will be open daily from 9AM – 10:30PM beginning January 1st thru April 8th.

Additionally, The Chicago Blackhawks have once again partnered with John Hancock Observatory to offer free skating lessons on Mondays. 30-minute sessions at 4:30, 5PM, and 5:30 are taught by coaches from the Blackhawks Youth Hockey program.



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About John Hancock Observatory

Located inside the iconic John Hancock Center, John Hancock Observatory is open every day from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and, at 875 North Michigan Avenue, stands in the heart of The Magnificent Mile® next to hundreds of shops, restaurants, attractions and entertainment venues. Highlights include spectacular 360° views spanning 80 miles and four states and the city's only open-air Sky Walk, all accessed by the fastest elevators in the country. John Hancock Center and John Hancock Observatory are owned and operated by affiliates of Golub & Company. More information at www.jhochicago.com.

Learn the latest from Chicago's skies by becoming a fan of John Hancock Observatory on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HancockObservatory and following its updates on Twitter, @aThousandFeetUp.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Stock photography will be available by request following the media event on December 29, 2011.

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