



(L-R) Local 138 Members Arthur Clark, Jed Tinlin, Business-Manager Dave Sargo, Douglas Milot and President Michael Pitt.

# Miracle on Ice

## Quick Response Led by Union Laborer Saves Lives!

It was early on a Saturday morning this February; remnants of heavy snow and ice lay on the roof at the Metropolis Skating Rink in Canton, Massachusetts. About twenty, 9 through 12-year-old boys were having their first ice hockey practice of the day. Jedidiah (Jed) Tinlin a member of Laborers' Local Union 138 in Norwood was watching his son JT practice that morning. No one in the rink anticipated what would happen next.

Half the players, coaches, and parents were on one side of the extensive rink when Mr. Tinlin heard a huge bang – as if a car hit the building. He looked up and noticed straight above him that a huge wooden beam in the ceiling had buckled exposing the roof to the sky. Thanks to his training as a Construction Laborer and experience with demolition work, he knew the signs of a collapsing building; the push of air, specific cracking sounds and the subtle leaning of walls.

While the players and adults on his side of the rink rushed to get out, Jed ran to the other side alerting the others who were unaware of what was going on. He assisted in getting everyone off the ice and out of the building. Within seconds, one-third of the roof came crashing down, along with the building's front facade.

Jed then went back inside climbing through the rubble knowing some of the boys could still be in the locker rooms. Out of the eight rooms, four-through-eight were completely destroyed. Only rooms one, two and three were left standing. Thankfully those rooms held the only lockers being used by the players that morning. Fortunately, everyone managed to get out in time and escaped without injury.

Mr. Tinlin explained, "Kids were running on the concrete with their skates on, some of them half-dressed, rushing through the doors just before the roof collapsed. It was like a scene out of a movie with a positive ending. It was a miracle that everyone got out without any injuries."

Tinlin was the last person out of the building when fire crews arrived. When they saw the significant damage, it was

apparent that what could have been a tragedy was averted because of the quick thinking and heroic efforts of Tinlin, as well as other parents and coaches. To acknowledge their important contribution that day, Jed Tinlin, the coaches and other parents who assisted were awarded a citation by the Norwood Town Board of Selectmen and Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker.



Jed Tinlin receives citation from Massachusetts Governor Baker