

Ice Committee (2019/20)

Ice preparation:

This year we had a crew of five, who prepared the ice on a regular basis. Bill Rand, Rick Miller, Bruce Geier, myself and our new recruit Dave Jeanotte.

Preparation of the floor area began on Sept. 14th with the work bee. Floor preparation consisted of washing the concrete with a pressure washer and squeegeeing the area to remove all excess water and subsequently installing and caulking the near end boards.

The ice plant and dehumidifier were started on Sept. 17th. The floor was sealed once the temperature was lowered sufficiently and flooded for five times until the sheets were laid down, on Sept. 23rd, and followed with eight additional floods.

Approximately 110 hours were required to ready the ice surface for curling, and approximately 460 hours were put into maintaining the ice for the season. This includes weekly preparation, flooding and shaving for the second half of the season, and preparation for bonspiels. A further 35+ hours was logged getting the ice out, rolling sheets and clean up. In total, approximately 600 hours have been logged for the Ice Area this season.

Scraper:

This year the scraper worked very well with the batteries holding a charge for the required scraping time, but they have now reached the end of their life and will have to be replaced in the fall. One blade was shipped out for sharpening and a new double edged blade was purchased and installed on the scraper about a month before the end of the season.

Dehumidifier:

The dehumidifier worked well throughout the season.

Water R.O. System:

Two R O system filters were replaced on Sept. 14th. I found that the water TDS would rise after the initial system flushing. To try to keep the TDS low I would drain the water tank and regenerate the water softener about every 3 weeks. Through the off season the water softener will have to be flushed and water should be run through the RO system monthly. All of the R O filters will have to be replaced this fall.

Energy Efficiency Upgrades:

We are planning to replace the water heater with a more efficient on-demand heater. Quotes have been requested from Dirty Mitts P&H, and Burgess P&H for the installation of an on-demand water heater and installation of a natural gas space heater.

Sloping Ice

Again this year we had difficulty with the ice sloping toward the wall on Sheet A and to some extent on Sheet B. The area along the walkway had an obvious low area when the ice was reflooded at Christmas break the remainder of the ice was relatively level.

Walkway Slope

The walkway at the far end lifted again due to frost action. This may be due to cracks in the foundation wall.

Furnace

Ryan Folz replace the heater at the West end of the ice area prior to the beginning of the season.

Hiccups

We only experienced one major problem this past season on Boxing Day when the plant shut down because of a failure in the control panel installed to reduce the brine pump speed when the compressor shuts down. Even our master electrician, Ken Hall could not locate the problem of the power outage so we called in Daryl Lane, Interior Refrigeration to solve the problem.

Ken Kvist, Ice Committee Co-ordinator