

# **Ice Committee (2020/21)**

## **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 Jeannotte.

Preparation of the floor area began on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> with 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 brine pump and the dehumidifier were started on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. and the compressor was started on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. The floor was sealed once the temperature was lowered sufficiently and flooded four times until the sheets were laid down, on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and followed with eight additional floods. Additional flooding was required this season as the templates for the house layout on Sheets A and B for the Juniors were late to arrive.

Approximately 114 hours were required to ready the ice surface for curling, which includes preparing the floor surface, sealing, flooding, laying sheets, hacks, in ice markings and initial scraping. This year approximately 224 hours were put into maintaining the ice from when curling commenced to our forced shut down. Regular league curling requires approximately 20 hours a week. This includes ice shaving and pebbling for league play.

After league play was curtailed the temperature on the ice plant was turned up and the temperature on the rink heaters was turned down and the dehumidifier was turned off, with the anticipation that the ice would slowly melt. After a short period we found that humidity increased and ice was forming on the walls and water dripping from the ceiling. The decision was then made to turn the dehumidifier back on and to turn the heaters up. The ice then slowly melted to when we could move the sheets and squeegee the water from the floor and dry the sheets. Monitoring of the rink daily, from when the plant was turned off, including moving the sheets, to dry the floor surface accounted for approximately 100 hours. Currently the sheets still need to be rolled up which will probably account for an additional 15 hours.

## **Miscellaneous Outages:**

There were a couple occasions when a power fluctuation caused the brine pump to shut down and the compressor kept running causing freezing in the brine line and two occasions when fuses burned out in the control panel causing the plant to shut down, once on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> during the day and another on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:45 am when I called Rick Miller to check on the situation as I was unable to attend.

## **Scraper:**

New batteries were purchased for the scraper this year. This year the scraper worked very well with the new batteries. Only one side has been used to date on the new double edged blade.

### Dehumidifier:

The dehumidifier worked well throughout the season.

### Water R.O. System:

All of the filters were replaced on the R O system. I found that the water TDS was high initially. Air and Water was called in and made an adjustment to the water softener. To keep the water at an acceptable level the water tank has to be drained and the water softener regenerated 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.

### Energy Efficiency Upgrades:

An on demand water heater was installed at the beginning of the season and later a new 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.

### Walkway Slope

The walkway at the far end lifted again due to frost action.

### Lighting:

Many of the LED lights have prematurely burned out and Ken Hall is investigating having them replaced.

### Brine System:

We should investigate replacing the brine in the refrigeration system as if the brine pump is shut down the brine pressure is slow to return to the normal pressure.

### Other Projects:

Darcy Lillico displayed one of his many talents and reinstalled the toilet partition in the men's washroom through 14 hours.

Through March, 94 volunteer hours were input to do work in preparation for the elevator shaft construction.

Ken Kvist, Ice Committee Co-ordinator