

New ice plant at Richmond Curling Club

\$207,000 project sees new ice plant ready for current curling season



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Sue Harper, president of the Richmond Curling Club for 2015-16 and a driving force behind the new ice plant project of the Club, speaks at the Oct. 14 ceremony celebrating the new ice plant installation.

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By John Curry

It's a giant collection of blue pipes as well as dials, switches and buttons that makes curling possible at the Richmond Curling Club. It's the Club's ice plant and related machinery and it's all brand new now.

That's thanks to a \$207,000 project that has seen this new ice plant and equipment installed in time for the start of the new 2016-17 curling season which got underway last Friday, Oct. 14.

The new ice plant and equipment replaces the Club's previous equipment which was installed when the current four-sheet curling rink was built in 1980. Such an ice plant is expected to have a 30 year life span but good maintenance had allowed the Richmond Curling Club to squeeze an additional six years out of the old equipment.

The new ice plant has a larger footprint than the former equipment, meaning that it takes up more space in the lean-to-like ice plant room at the northeast corner of the curling club building.

This meant that the project also included a new stand-alone storage shed being installed at the curling club to provide the storage space that had been lost to the new larger ice plant.

The project involved more than the new ice plant and related equipment. There's a new de-humidifier on the roof of the ice plant room which had to be lifted up there by a crane.

But before it could be put in place, it was found that the roof was in poor shape and so repairs had to be done to it.

The project also included the installation of new gas heaters in the rink area, replacing the previous electrical ones. These new gas heaters will be much more energy efficient, to be sure.

Sue Harper, the president of the Richmond Curling Club in the 2015-16 season, was acknowledged as a key driving force behind the project at a ceremony celebrating the completion of the project at the curling club last Friday evening, Oct. 14.

But in her remarks at the ceremony, Sue praised the efforts and expertise of all those Curling Club members who served on the project team. This included Jim Slinger who was the project manager, Andy Lawton who was the technical manager, Rod Reddick, Brenda Lawton, Dorothy McGinn, Jim Klachan, Ronna Reddick, Gregory Howes, Jennifer Langley, Peter Bishop, Matt Bulmer, Ron Dullemond and Debbie Cunningham. She particularly singled out the efforts of Jim Slinger, Andy Lawton and Rod Reddick who she said sacrificed their summers this year to oversee the removal of the old ice plant and equipment, the installation of the new equipment, the upgrading of wiring where necessary, the addition of the new storage shed and all of the other matters related to the project.

The project, which has been completed within budget, had a \$207,000 cost. A total of \$57,000 of this was received as a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Another \$30,000 was raised via a loan at a very favourable rate from the Ontario Curling Association. And the other funding, namely \$120,000, came from the Curling Club's capital reserves.

A ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the ice plant renewal project was held at ice level at the curling club, with everyone filling up the south walkway beside the ice surface as Terri Suffel, the long time icemaker at the Richmond Curling Club, cut the ribbon.

Refreshments provided thanks to the Chartwell Stonehaven Retirement Residence in Kanata were available in the upstairs lounge following the ribbon cutting. In addition, anyone interested was able to tour the ice plant room and see and hear the new ice plant in action.

Among those at this celebration ceremony was city of Ottawa Rideau-Goulbourn ward councillor Scott Moffatt whose grandmother, Hilda Moore, was the second president of the Richmond Curling Club back just after it began in 1960. Also on hand at the event was Bruce Kinkade, one of the Club's original members and the member who threw out the first ceremonial stone at the current curling club rink when it opened in 1980.

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