

MUNICIPALITY OF
**EASTERN
CHARLOTTE**

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News Release

Patrick Connors Recreational Complex Ice Season Preparations Near Completion

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BLACKS HARBOUR – Preparations for hockey and skating season in Blacks Harbour are nearly complete after broken equipment caused delays in laying the ice.

One of the two dehumidifiers in the ice arena at the Patrick Connors Recreational Complex broke down during the process of laying the skating surface in September. At their meeting on September 20, the Council for Eastern Charlotte approved the purchase of a new dehumidifier unit and the rental of a temporary unit until the new one is received and installed. The cost of the new dehumidifier is expected to be around \$41,000.

Several upgrades have improved the Recreational Complex during the 2023 off season, such as a new electronic scoreboard in the ice arena, the installation of a gym floor, and a new control system.

Members of the recreation crew jumped into action when the dehumidifier stopped working and was deemed irreparable. Warm temperatures and a wet summer increased the humidity in the building, which could not be remedied with one working unit.

The first task was to cover and protect what ice had been laid. Areas affected by the condensation and dripping from the ceiling were later shaved down to the underlying concrete. Recreation Foreman, Drew Dougan, and Councillor Adam Hatt reached out for help with creating a solution.

“I would like to thank all the industrial businesses,” Councillor Hatt said at the Council meeting. “Whether it’s Lake Utopia Paper, Cooke Aqua[culture], Connors [Bros]., everybody is pulling their weight trying to help us. Whether it’s donating of cable, donating of time, resources, tracking down to find us a rental, shipping to get it here, whatever we need. It is great to see our community as a whole, working together to make sure that Arena will have ice so kids ... will be able to start skating for the season.” Eastern Charlotte also thanks the Municipal District of St. Stephen for their help and support in lending paint.

The community takes full advantage of the ice arena during the season, including use for minor hockey, high school hockey teams, regional hockey teams, small group skating and parties, and public skating. The schedule for the 2023-2024 season is already taking shape.

Following the rental of equipment to help dry out the ice arena, crew members have worked tirelessly to finish the ice surface to specifications. With the initial layers, white surface paint and sports lines completed, efforts are focused on thickening the ice over the next several days. The official opening of the ice is anticipated for Tuesday, October 3.

The Patrick Connors Recreational Complex is one of three ice arenas in Charlotte County. Ice is maintained year-round at The Quartermain Arena at the Garcelon Civic Center in St. Stephen. In Saint Andrews, the ice season at the W.C. O'Neill Arena begins on October 10.

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The middle ice surface, covered in the with plastic to protect from condensation dripping from the ceiling.



The ice surface after a temporary dehumidifier was installed, repairs to the ice and line painting were completed.