



\$6,944

incentive

69,440

kWh energy savings

# EAST FERRIS PUTS ENERGY COSTS ON ICE

Municipality of East Ferris

Nipissing District, Ontario

## Arena Refrigeration Upgrade

Installed new controls for an ice rink refrigeration system to replace simple thermostat controls. This now allows for floating head pressure, brine pump cycling and scheduled setbacks.

- Incentives: **\$6,944** under the Retrofit Program
- Project cost: **\$35,000**
- Payback period: **2.7 years**





Tom Slack, Facilities Foreman



Sharon Kitlar, Manager of Recreation and Facilities



Get up to 50% of project costs

The arena at the East Ferris Community Centre is home to minor hockey leagues, shinny groups and a curling club. As energy costs account for a large portion of the arena's operating costs, the rural community is continuously looking for ways to be more efficient and reduce costs.

The arena's service provider approached the Parks and Recreation Department with a proposal to upgrade to a more sophisticated ice temperature controller in order to reduce energy and maintenance costs. Incentives from Hydro One were a big part of securing Council approval. "Hockey and curling can be expensive," says Sharon Kitlar, Manager of Recreation and Facilities. "Incentives help us keep the ice time at a reasonable rate."

**"We have to look at new and different ways of saving and being more efficient – it's good for our bottom line."**

– Sharon Kitlar, Manager of Recreation and Facilities

**Lower operating costs and easier maintenance**

The new system involved implementing a floating head pressure to save energy during colder months. They also reduced energy consumption by cycling their brine pumps. It also includes a monitoring software that allows the maintenance team to regulate the ice temperature in real-time and day/night settings that weren't possible before with a simple thermostat. "Ice maintenance is not just pouring water on the ground and waiting for it to freeze" says Tom Slack, Facilities Foreman. "With this system, it's easier to maintain the ice at the best temperature for the type of activity." The software also

alerts the team to any power outages or equipment failure, which enhances safety.

**Ongoing savings made the project worthwhile**

For Kitlar, the long-term cost savings have made the upgrade a winning initiative. "The cost to run a facility is expensive," she says. "Every municipality should be considering these new measures to save and improve efficiency." As for the quality of the ice, Slack is happy with the results. "We've had people tell us that we have the best ice around."

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