

The official publication of the Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia (RFANS)

FACILITY FOCUS



Facilities for All

The Risk of Using Skating Rink Ice Resurfacer Snow

Chloramines & Pool Operation

The Varied Tasks of the Turf Manager

Spring/Summer 2019



**Recreation Facility
Association
of Nova Scotia**

Supporting you – from the ground up

5516 Spring Garden Road, 4th Floor
Halifax, NS B3J 1G6
P: 902-425-5450 x 330
F: 902-425-5605
E: rfans@sportnovascotia.ca
www.rfans.com



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Annual General Meeting Announcement

Date: March 25th, 2019

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia that the Annual General Meeting will be held June 7th, 2019 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

To attend you can register for the Annual General Meeting & Trade Show “All Access” or contact Brittany Hunter, Executive Director. Seating is limited; preference will be given to members in good standing.

Please RSVP by May 6th at 4:00 pm to rfans@sportnovascotia.ca.

If you require hotel accommodations the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville is offering a special rate until May 10th for those attending the RFANS event. Please contact the hotel directly at 902-542-5751 and mention block code RFANS when booking to get the reduced rate.

The AGM agenda will be posted on our website at www.rfans.com.



Facility Focus



Spring/Summer 2019

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Facility Focus is the official publication of the Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia (RFANS). It is published twice per year and is issued to members of RFANS and others associated with the operations of recreation facilities in the Atlantic Provinces.

Articles within this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Board of Directors or the Association as a whole.

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RFA NS Mission Statement

To provide leadership in developing, promoting and advocating excellence in recreational facilities, operations and personnel.

Our commitment is:

- To promote and encourage the professional development of recreation facility personnel and provide opportunities for this development;
- To act as a unified voice for recreation facility personnel regarding issues affecting facilities and their management;
- To improve communication between facilities;
- To promote the provision of high quality, safe recreation facilities.

PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) GRANT PROGRAM

The AED Grant program provides sport and recreational facilities the opportunity to receive funding to help offset the costs of the purchase of an AED.

Applications are accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

CSA HOCKEY HELMET PROGRAM

This program helps facilities provide participants with the helmets required to participate in school sponsored skates and public skates.

Applications will come out August 2019.

LOGBOOKS

Logbooks available for order are as follows:

- Pool Inspection & Maintenance
- Arena Inspection & Maintenance
- Skateboard Park Inspection & Maintenance
- Playground and Sport Court Inspection & Maintenance

Logbooks are available to order year round.



Thank you to the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage for their continuous support. The Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia continues to offer training, programs and educational resources throughout Nova Scotia because of your generous support.

BASIC ARENA REFRIGERATION

April 8th - 11th, 2019

Pictou County Wellness Centre, New Glasgow, NS

Course Fees:

Members: \$850.00+tax

Non-members: \$1,000.00+tax

Registration closes March 25th, 2019

Course Partner



CERTIFIED POOL OPERATOR (CPO®)

May 1st - 3rd, 2019

Université Sainte-Anne, Church Point, NS

Course Fees

Members: \$519.95+tax

Non-members: \$599.95+tax

Registration closes April 17th, 2019

ICE MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS

May 13th - 16th, 2019

Pictou County Wellness Centre, New Glasgow, NS

Course Fees:

Members: \$850.00+tax

Non-members: \$1,000.00+tax

Registration closes April 29th, 2019

ICE MAKING AND PAINTING TECHNOLOGIES

August 19th - 22nd, 2019

Rath Eastlink Community Centre, Truro, NS

Course Fees:

Members: \$850.00 + tax

Non-members: \$1,000.00 + tax

Registration closes August 5th, 2019



Like on us Facebook! @Recreation Facility Association of NS



PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION

SPORTS TURF MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

September 26th & 27th, 2019
Location TBD

Course Fees

Members: \$490.00 + tax
Non-members: \$575.00 + tax

CERTIFIED POOL OPERATOR (CPO®)

November 6th - 8th, 2019
Location TBD

Course Fees

Members: \$519.95+tax
Non-members: \$599.95+tax
Registration closes October 23rd, 2019

CERTIFICATE IN ICE FACILITY OPERATIONS

The Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia has partnered with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association to bring a new Certificate in Ice Facility Operations to Nova Scotia.

The courses required for successful completion of the certificate are as follows:

- Basic Arena Refrigeration
- Ice Making and Painting Technologies
- Ice Maintenance and Equipment Operations
- Legal Awareness - Health and Safety for Supervisors in Recreation

Take advantage of this opportunity to build your resume and expand your knowledge in the field of ice maintenance!



SECOND CLASS REFRIGERATION

The Second Class Refrigeration Course is designed to help recreation facilities train their staff to obtain a Second Class Refrigeration ticket to meet the Department of Labour and Advanced Education's codes and regulations.

This course is offered through a partnership with the Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) and the Department of Labour and Advanced Education. It consists of several in-class sessions at NSCC Akerley Campus and online training which takes place over a six-month period. Once you have attended all the mandatory in-class sessions and passed the online requirements you will write the final exam administered by the Department of Labour and Advanced Education.

The Second Class Refrigeration Course runs January to June each year. Registration begins in August of the year prior. This course only accepts 15 participants each year so do not delay in registering.

Watch our website for registration details.

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CONFERENCES

RECREATION FACILITY ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW 2019 "ALL ACCESS"

JUNE 6TH
TRADE SHOW
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Centennial Arena, Kentville

SOCIAL
6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Kings Arm Pub, Kentville

JUNE 7TH
BREAKFAST/AGM/KEYNOTE/BREAKOUT SESSIONS
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville

KEYNOTE •
ACCESSIBILITY • Honourable Kevin Murphy

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
ANTI-RACISM POLICY & PROTOCOL UPDATE • Brendon Smithson
• Sara-Lynne Knockwood

ARENA ROUNDTABLE • Paul MacDonald
• Bill Cruickshank
• Bud MacInnis
• Bob Quigley

RFAM - RECREATION FACILITY ASSET MANAGEMENT • John Tarantino

SPORTS FIELD MAINTENANCE DAYS BENEFITS & MANAGEMENT • Sports
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2020 ATLANTIC RECREATION & FACILITIES CONFERENCE

Save the Date

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St. John's, NL



RFAM

Recreation Facility Asset Management Software

“Our Vision is to make RFAM a provincial standard for the management of Parks and Recreation.”

Existing Partnerships

Built in partnership with the Ontario Good Roads Association (**OGRA**) and the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (**ORFA**), RFAM has currently been adopted and sponsored by ORFA, Ontario Trails Council (**OTC**), Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel (**AARFP**) and Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia (**RFANS**). The Inventory module of RFAM is being offered free of charge as part of member service. Additional modules such as inspections, work orders and electronic warehouse are also available at a monthly nominal fee.

Software Development

RFAM is constantly being updated to better suit its users. Such updates include:

- Warehouse module designed to help manage aggregate consumable inventory.
- Visualization of data through live sensors pertaining to recreation facilities and parks.

The Future

We invite all members to participate in a partnership and offer valuable input and support in the future development of RFAM.

Contact your local Association or reach out to Marmak for more information.

Inquiry@marmak.ca or (905) 458-6686

M.A.R.M.A.K



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: IT HAPPENS HERE

Submitted by: Canada Games Centre



[Photo by Timothy Richard, Timothy Richard Photography 2011]

On March 5, 2011, we opened the doors to the public at the Canada Games Centre. Built as a legacy of the Canada Winter Games held in Halifax in February of 2011, the CGC has since become a fixture in the community as a multi-sport recreation centre, but more than that, it's a place of welcoming; an all-inclusive environment that promotes healthy active living at all levels and abilities.

Every effort to ensure the CGC is inclusive of the entire community was taken, which is why the building was designed with a barrier-free approach. Starting in the parking lot with designated parking spaces - taking into account the addition of six more in 2017, there is a total of 15 accessible spots, as well as ramps from the parking lot in both the front and side entrances. Automatic doors lead into wide, spacious hallways; wayfinding signage throughout the building includes visual and non-visual guides (textured Braille), allowing for those with the ability to navigate and use the facility independently. An adapted service station exists at Customer Service and this past year saw the installation of an electrically height adjustable change bench in the Accessible Change Room. The building is equipped with barrier-free washrooms and light switches, outlets, phone, counters, drinking fountains and thermostats all placed at accessible heights.

As a multi-sport facility, there is the unique challenge of outfitting multiple environments, on multiple floors, for accessibility. The elevator is conveniently located behind Customer Service to provide access to the second floor of the building where the Track and Fitness Centre are located. The Track itself is open for wheelchair access, while the Fitness Centre saw the addition of accessible cardio equipment. In the Aquatics Centre, ramp or lift access in the pools is available, as well as the floor of the competition pool can be raised to deck level allowing easier access into deeper water.

Inclusive programming is just as important to fostering an environment that is welcoming to all levels and abilities. Our

instructors in Aquatic and Fitness and Wellness programming have the opportunity to certify in courses aimed at facilitating those with sensory or physical challenges. Inclusive swim lessons are offered with instructors who have training in additional strategies to overcome roadblocks when instructing kids with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome, sensory and motor limitations, and general behavior challenges. Through a partnership with Blind Sports Nova Scotia, some of our Fitness Instructors received basic sighted guide and etiquette training. This saw the addition of new spin classes that are accessible to members and guests with vision loss.

Some barriers don't manifest as visibly, such as cultural, financial and identity. We are working to break down these barriers by working together with our community partners like Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) to provide access to the CGC through programs like the Newcomers Leadership Training Program. This program, which is also in partnership with the Lifesaving Society and the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs, provides training and employment opportunities through completion of courses up to National Lifeguarding certification. This program is offered for free as a way to foster inclusion and remove the financial barrier that could prevent new Canadians from participating. In its own programming for Recreation and Aquatics, we have multiple time blocks throughout the week open for \$3 Track and swim times, and corporate partnerships like JumpStart to help provide swim lessons for free to those in financial need. Over the next year or two, the CGC plans to put further focus on reducing barriers and enhancing accessibility by "reaching out in the corporate community to assist us in reducing financial barriers" says General Manager Gary Furlong. Our community partnerships also provide amazing resources and different perspectives of the community. We are looking to build more of these relationships to help us evaluate and improve inclusion.

As we evolve inclusion and accessibility at the CGC, our Mission – the promotion of healthy and active living, and to provide opportunities and access for sport and recreation at all levels – remains the same. And, as the recently installed welcome banner that greets all of our guests in 35 different languages, we strive to make sure everyone feels welcome in our facility and a part of our community. ■

FACILITIES FOR ALL

Submitted by: Rick Hansen Foundation

When the Bill 59 Community Alliance—a group of 35 accessibility organizations in Nova Scotia—was negotiating the province’s Accessibility Act with the Department of Justice, all 12 floors of the building had just been renovated—and not one of the bathrooms was accessible. This was a particular problem for members of the Alliance, and the irony was an all-too-real reminder of why the group was there in the first place. The situation was soon rectified but at a cost \$30,000 for just one bathroom. If accessibility had been incorporated in the renovations to begin with, the cost would have been much less. This was an expensive way to learn that access by design at the front-end of projects is critical to avoid costly retrofits.

Improved accessibility within the built environment is increasingly important for a few reasons. First, Nova Scotia has passed new Accessibility Act as part of a larger goal of becoming fully accessible by 2030.

Six different areas have been identified to create an accessible Nova Scotia: goods and services, information and communication, public transportation and transportation infrastructure, employment, education, and the built environment including buildings, rights-of-way, and outdoor spaces. Essentially, this includes every aspect of an individual’s public life. The Act allows for penalties, and at its most severe, fines of up to \$250,000.

The second reason accessibility is increasing in urgency is due to the growing number of Canadians that identify as having a physical disability. Recent Statistics Canada data shows that 30.4 per cent of Nova Scotians have either a mobility, vision, or hearing disability or challenge. As Gerry Post the Executive Director of the newly-created Nova

Scotia Accessibility Directorate says, “No one walks or rolls alone with a disability in Nova Scotia.” If you include direct family members, over 500,000 Nova Scotians—over half of the population—are affected by disability.

A New Standard

The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) program was developed to address the growing need for improved accessibility in the built environment. Using a set of national standards, trained professionals rate sites based on how easily they can be navigated by people with mobility, vision, and hearing challenges. It also benefits those with temporary disabilities, parents with strollers, and seniors.

The goal of the program is to remove barriers for people with disabilities, so that they can live their lives as fully and independently as possible.

When a rating is complete, the organization receives a scorecard, outlining specific areas that are achieving or surpassing accessibility requirements and those which could use improvements. The scorecard provides organizations with a roadmap on where they stand and how best to move forward. Often, the difference between accessible and not is simpler than you might think.

Accessible Recreation in Surrey BC

Karin Pasqua is the Accessibility and Universal Design Specialist for the City of Surrey in British Columbia, and she’s also a designated RHFAC Professional. As someone whose job it is to ensure accessibility for a whole city, the program has provided her with industry-related knowledge.

“RHFAC training has made it so much easier for me to read reports. I’ve definitely acted as a translator at times for the facility managers as to what was intended by the comments and feedback.”

It’s also given her a unique perspective that even building professionals might not be able to see. One day Pasqua went with the engineering department to look at one of the city’s outdoor pools in order to make it more accessible. The plan was to put in a lift and add an accessible washroom, which the engineering team imagined would involve major construction. Pasqua surveyed the site, looked at her notes,





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RFANS Memberships expire March 31st.
Don't forget to renew your membership!

*Please note: Membership structure and pricing has changed for the upcoming fiscal year. Contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Membership application form can be found on page 23 or at <http://www.rfans.com/members/>.



FACILITIES FOR ALL continued...

Submitted by: Rick Hansen Foundation

and broke out her measuring tape. Then she asked, “Can we just take out one row of bricks?” The engineers were impressed by the simple solution. All it takes, says Pasqua, is a little creativity and thought as to how the space and facilities are intended to be used.

Surrey has certainly jumped on the accessibility train, with over a dozen sites getting rated. One of these, Cloverdale Recreation Centre, has achieved RHF Accessibility Certified Gold, the highest level of certification through the program. As Pasqua recalls, the process was very smooth. While she did not rate the site, all she had to do was connect with the facility to make sure there was a representative there to oversee the rating process.

According to Pasqua, accessibility is not just a nice thing to do, it’s a necessary part of making every community member feel included. “Surrey has been working toward Universal Design for many years, and as a city we want to ensure that every member of our community not only feels welcome, but can actively participate in every aspect of their lives, and that includes recreation.”

Pasqua has a lot of tips when it comes to making a facility accessible, and the first thing is understanding what could be a barrier to some people, especially those with hidden disabilities. “You first have to get past the hurdle of thinking ‘but we don’t have anybody with a disability coming into our building’. Yes you do, you 100% have people with disabilities entering your building, you just may not know it. You also don’t know who you’re missing out on—just because they’re aren’t coming into the facility doesn’t mean that they don’t wish to be.”

Meaningful Access at Dalhousie University

Siobhan Evans is an Accessibility Planning Specialist who has recently added the RHFAC training to her repertoire as part of a larger effort to increase meaningful access at Dalhousie University- the biggest post-secondary institution in Atlantic Canada. Evans did her thesis at the University on municipal planning policy in Halifax to see how supportive it was for people with disabilities in the built environment, information and communication, delivery of goods and services, and transportation. This knowledge has translated nicely into her work at the university.



Evans is currently working in the newly-created position of Accessibility Planning Specialist within the university’s department of Facilities Management. Together with others in the planning department, she is leading a massive audit for all of Dalhousie’s buildings (more than 140 in total on four campuses) in preparation to meet the province’s goal to become accessible by 2030.

Thanks to her background, and her current status as one of the first designated RHFAC Professionals in Nova Scotia, Evans is breaking new ground and helping the community step up its accessibility game. The provincial government, who will be monitoring the new legislation, is looking to Evans and her work at Dalhousie as the blueprint for increasing access to the built environment. She meets regularly with Accessibility Directorate Executive Director Gerry Post to collaborate and plan for a more accessible Nova Scotia.

Momentum is certainly building for Nova Scotia’s accessibility. According to Evans, “With the new legislation, awareness initiatives are happening more often in the province. With RHFAC coming in and providing courses multiple times a year, it’s also definitely been a tool to make institutions and the general public aware of issues within the built environment.” Currently, there is a handful of designated RHFAC Professionals in the province taking on the task of busting barriers in the built environment, and interest in the program is growing.

And it may grow even more, now that the first building east of Ontario has received RHFAC certification, and it is on the Dalhousie campus. The Collaborative Health Education Building (CHEB for short) opened in 2015. It is the only

FACILITIES FOR ALL continued...

Submitted by: Rick Hansen Foundation

purpose-built facility of its kind in Atlantic Canada, designed to facilitate the transformation of health education for students at Dalhousie and foster a cultural shift in health care toward greater interprofessional collaborative care.

The building includes healthcare simulation suites, hospital-like rooms, and even an accessible apartment designed to train students studying things like physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.

While the building on Dalhousie's campus was already quite accessible, Evans says almost any building could use improvements. "What they would have used at the time of the building's design is the National Building Code, but with knowing the purpose of the building, they wanted to go further than what the code was in order to support accessibility needs."



Already, the site has accessible washrooms on every floor, and more than one building entrance that is wheelchair accessible. While the latter may seem like a small detail, it makes a big difference for wheelchair users—imagine having to go through a back door every time you needed to enter a building.

One of the main areas that needed attention was signage and wayfinding, and the university has already taken steps to improve it. "When people think something isn't accessible, they assume it's not accessible for people using wheelchairs, but it goes far beyond that, whether it's visual, hearing, or a cognitive disability," says Evans.

Evans says that while it's important for someone to firstly get into the building, we also need to be asking ourselves if there is a meaningful, dignified place where they

can use the washroom, participate in the classroom, or enjoy the cafeteria. She says her RHFAC training underscored the significance of meaningful access and informs her work at Dalhousie even with her strong background in urban planning and accessibility.

Investing in Universal Design

Incorporating Universal Design into a facility shows people with disabilities that they are an important part of the community, whether they're a student, a staff member, or an individual at the local gym. For people like Pasqua and Evans, the reason for accessibility is an obvious one, and the benefits are more qualitative than anything. It is simply a given that everyone should be given equal opportunities to succeed.

What some may be surprised to learn is that designing or upgrading a facility has financial benefits, too.

Nova Scotia and the rest of Canada has an aging Baby Boomer population which is becoming increasingly concerned with physical ability in the coming years. Boomers also happen to contribute a great deal to the economy. Spending by this group is expected to grow to 21 per cent of the total consumer market—\$316 billion annually—by 2030. A barrier in the built environment can also be a barrier to making a profit.

Access = Stronger Communities

Currently, almost half of all Canadian adults have or have experienced a permanent or temporary disability, or live with someone who has. As demographics change and this number increases, it makes sense for the built environment to change too.

LEED® certification was developed to meet the needs of our changing climate, and it is RHFAC and designated professionals like Karin Pasqua and Siobhan Evans who will help ensure the sustainability of the people who make up our communities.

All public buildings exist to serve the community, and as such, must adapt to fit the diverse needs of the people who rely and enjoy them. As Pasqua says, our recreation centres are community hubs, but only if they can serve the entire community. ■

Rick Hansen
Foundation 
Accessibility Certification™



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THE RISK OF USING SKATING RINK ICE RESURFACER SNOW

Written by: The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association

During the recent holiday season, several news articles appeared in different media sources highlighting the creativity of families making a snowy environment in their yards by retrieving the ice resurfacer snow “droppings” from the local ice rink.

At first glance the intent appears harmless. Creativity demonstrated to provide a snowy environment during the Christmas holidays in locations that do not offer regular snow fall climates was most likely well intended. However, the reality of what possibly lurks within these snow shavings can be considered as nothing less than bio-hazardous waste.

Consider that a local arena skating sheet of ice will have a variety of human body fluids deposited throughout any skating session. Nasal secretions, spit, vomit, urine and blood combined with potential oils, grease or rust. Given the opportunity of bacteria or viruses to be present, the idea of using ice resurfacer snow for any purpose should be strictly avoided and discouraged.

Introduction

Certified Ice Technicians (CITs) have been instructed on the various risks and hazards associated with ice resurfacer operations. One of the possible hidden risks is the potential for bio-hazard waste found in ice resurfacer snow shavings. These shavings are often dumped outside of the facility.

Ice technicians are often aware of the public use of ice resurfacer snow shavings and fail to control access. User groups using the shavings to cool tournament food and drinks, or for First Aid purposes is strongly discouraged. The potential for ice paint residue along with bacteria oils and other contaminants is real and needs to be identified if left in an uncontrolled setting.

Recognize the Risks

Blood, saliva, mucus, bile, sweat, vomit and urine can all end up on an ice surface during regular play; most of which are invisible to the human eye. All is then scraped up by the ice resurfacer, lifted into the snow dump tank and at times dropped in an unprotected area outside of the facility.

The unsuspecting general public has been known to head to the rink and collect truckloads of snow shavings to

make sculptures on their front lawns or to pack a “keg on ice”. Young children are also attracted to these piles of snow for all kinds of active play.

Occupiers Liability Act

The Occupiers Liability Act directs “An occupier of premises owes a duty to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that each person entering on the premises and the property brought on the premises by that person are reasonably safe while on the premises”. The duty of care applies to “the effort made by the occupier to give warning of the danger concerned or to discourage persons from incurring the risk”. It further expects the occupier to take reasonable steps to modify or restrict access to any danger.

Refer to:

<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/occupier.htm>

Attracting Youth

Under the same Act, the duty of care also applies to “the age of the person entering the premises”. It would be a safe to assume that an owner or occupier of a property has a high responsibility to not expose children to potentially dangerous situations through unintentional attraction. Occupiers should be aware of any dangers that may put children at risk and to take appropriate action.

The efforts of a group of youth who created a snow board sliding hill using the snow shavings left onsite at the local arena is a good example of unintentional risk. The design had users of the slide landing close to a public roadway placing them at risk of vehicular injury.

*Members are reminded that incident reports should be generated on any unsafe use of facility property.



THE RISK OF USING SKATING RINK ICE RESURFACER SNOW continued...

Written by: The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association

Controlling at the Source

Finding a balance between public awareness and methods of control without causing public concern requires tact. The RFANS will continue to show leadership by raising awareness through guidelines, best practices and in educational forums.

There are several historical barriers to be addressed. They include but are not limited to:

- Facilities not recognizing that there is in fact a potential health and safety issue
- A lack of financial resources to address the problem once identified

Facility management must be proactive in communicating awareness while providing protection to any individual who has access to ice arena snow shavings.

The following may assist in an internal review of the matter:

- Conduct an in-house awareness campaign with staff, users and the general public on the use of this waste
- Workers should submit incident reports when snow shavings are being used inappropriately
- Protect the snow dump area with adequate fencing and consider gates in high risk areas
- Post the area with proper signage

NOTE: To involve the police, "No Trespassing" signs must be posted in the area

- If unable to protect snow dump sites regularly remove snow piles from the area
- Discuss the matter with local Public Health Officials and facility insurance risk departments

Internal Snow Pit Risks

Ice resurfacer storage rooms should only be accessible by authorized persons. These pits can present a risk of drowning and if not properly maintained can promote bacteria and mold growth. These growths can contribute to poor indoor arena air quality.

The [Air Quality Guidelines for Arenas in Nova Scotia](#) and [Designing and Maintaining Indoor Snow Pits](#) (ORFA) should be reviewed.

Conclusion

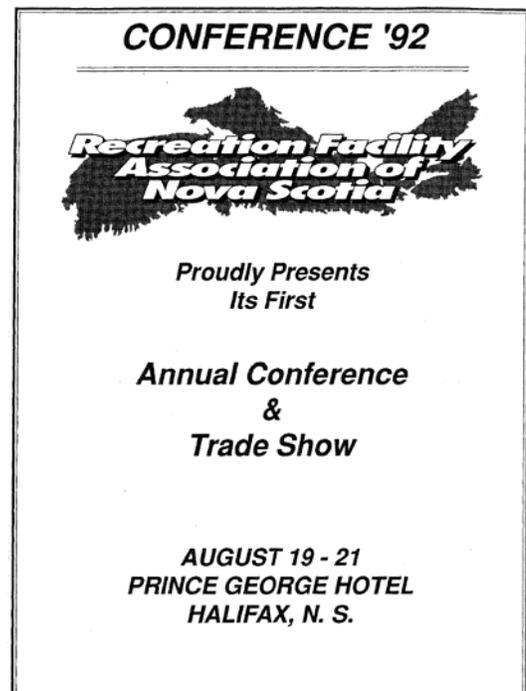
One action plan cannot be applied equally to every facility. It is the responsibility of each arena operation to

undertake an internal review and assessment process and put into practice a specific approach to controlling the potential risks and hazards associated with ice resurfacer shavings. ■

Reprinted with permission of the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc., January 15, 2019 <http://www.orfa.com/page-1863184>

TIME FOR A THROW BACK!

In anticipation of our upcoming Annual General Meeting & Trade Show lets take a look back at RFANS first conference! The flyer below is from the Summer 1992 Facility Focus!



Cover photo and caption for the Fall 1992 Facility Focus.

CHLORAMINES & POOL OPERATION

Written by: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Chlorine is used in pools and other chlorinated aquatic venues to kill germs, but when it binds to the body waste swimmers bring into pools (for example, sweat and urine) it can form chemicals called chloramines. Chloramines in the water, like dichloramine and trichloramine, irritate skin, eyes, and the respiratory tract (including the nose) when they off gas from the water and into the air above, particularly indoors. In addition, chloramines can also contribute to corrosion of metals around the aquatic venue and in air handling systems.

What can pool operators do to prevent or get rid of chloramines?

Chloramines are a type of combined chlorine that form in water and then off gas into the air above the water. Most city, county, and state health departments limit the amount of combined chlorine in the water to 0.4 ppm or less.

Chloramines can build up in the water, which means they can build up in the air if there is not enough fresh air surrounding pools and other places people swim in chlorinated water. This is particularly true for indoor aquatic facilities

where air handling systems are not bringing in enough fresh air and exhausting enough chloramine-polluted air, which is common during winter months when heating costs increase. Chloramines that off gas from the water are heavier than air. This means they settle on top of the water's surface where they can cause negative health effects in swimmers and spectators.

Three things cause the buildup of chloramines in the air:

- Disturbing the water's surface (for example, when swimmers move in the water or the water is sprayed through aquatic features),
- Limiting movement of fresh air over the water's surface, and
- Using air handling systems to limit the amount of fresh air brought into the swimming area and limit the amount of air polluted with chloramines exhausted out of the swimming area. This is common during winter months when heating costs are high.

Air handling systems might remove moisture from the

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CHLORAMINES & POOL OPERATION continued...

Written by: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

air, but they don't necessarily bring in enough fresh air or exhaust enough air polluted with chloramines; pool operators need to consult with technical representatives on how to maximize the use of their air handling system to reduce chloramine accumulation while keeping heating costs down. If chloramines are not exhausted to the outside, then the recirculated air flowing over the water can become loaded with chloramines. If the air surrounding the water is full of chloramines, chloramines can't off gas in the surrounding air. This means chloramines will build up in the water and cause health effects in the swimmers.

Steps pool operators should take to prevent and get rid of chloramines in the water and surrounding air

Encourage healthy swimming to prevent chloramines from forming by stopping pee, poop, urine, dirt, and sweat from entering the water in the first place.

- Post signs or posters in the locker room that encourage swimmers and staff to:
 - ◊ **NOT** enter the water when they have diarrhea,
 - ◊ Use the toilet before getting into the water,
 - ◊ Wear a bathing cap while in the water, and
 - ◊ **NOT** to pee or poop in the water.
- Require swimmers and staff to at least take a rinse shower before getting into the water—in other words, swimmers and staff should be wet before they get into the water. Even a quick rinse shower removes much of the body waste that helps form chloramines.
- Be on alert for poop in the water; the distinctive chloramine odor in the swimming area; and respiratory, eye, or skin irritation in swimmers and staff in the swimming area.
 - ◊ If the swimmer who pooped in the water is identified, charge a fee to the swimmer or parent of the young swimmer for fecal incident clean up.

Ensure that airflow in the swimming area is set up to minimize the buildup of chloramines in the air.

- Set up the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system to move fresh air across the water's surface and towards air exhaust vents to prevent the buildup of chloramines on top of the water's surface.
- Exhaust air polluted with chloramines from the swimming area to the outside.
- Bring fresh air from the outside into the swimming area. If the fresh air is cold, this will increase heating costs, but the

cost of patron discomfort and illness linked to chloramines can be higher.

Monitor combined chlorine (chloramines are a type of combined chlorine) levels in the water and treat the water, especially when levels are too high.

- Calculate the level of combined chlorine.
 1. Measure the amount of total chlorine in the water.
 2. Measure the amount of free chlorine in the water.
 3. Subtract the free chlorine number from the total chlorine number:
$$\text{combined chlorine} = \text{total chlorine} - \text{free chlorine}$$
- Get rid of chloramines in the water, especially when the combined chlorine level is too high (for example, more than 0.4 ppm).
 - ◊ Superchlorinate to off gas chloramines from the water and start to convert them to nitrogen gas.
 1. Close the pool to swimmers.
 2. Make sure the swimming area is well-ventilated, because superchlorination (also known as "breakpoint chlorination") causes off gassing of the chloramines and creates nitrogen gas.
 3. Raise the free chlorine level to 10 times the combined chlorine level.
 4. Bring the free chlorine level back down to the required operating range.
 - ◊ Break down chloramines in the water, using ultraviolet light or ozone systems, which are also known to kill Cryptosporidium. ■

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/chloramines.html#one>



THE VARIED TASKS OF THE TURF MANAGER

Working with user groups, knowing when to call rainouts are part of the job.

Sports turf managers have common responsibilities no matter where they work in Canada. Yet their jobs can differ significantly, depending on the quality and quantity of fields in their care, whether they are caring for natural or artificial fields, whether the fields are privately owned or are administered by the municipality, and depending on the level of communications between the manager and the fields' user groups.

The challenges of three distinctly different management scenarios were outlined in April at Sports Turf Canada's 31st members' forum and annual general meeting at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton, Ont.

Those in attendance at the forum heard from Robert Heggie, head groundskeeper at Toronto's BMO Field and KIA Training Centre; Joe Breedon, outdoor recreation facility coordinator for the City of Barrie; and Frank Cain, facility and business development manager at the University of Guelph. Although all three are charged with maintaining playing surfaces at the highest possible level of quality and dealing

regularly with their main users, each possessed a distinctly different personal challenge.

BIGGEST CHALLENGES

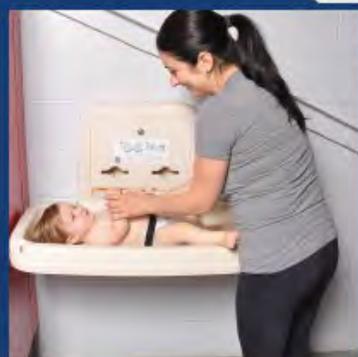
Heggie said the biggest challenge he faces is explaining to people why grass doesn't grow in February.

"The team (Toronto FC of Major League Soccer) wants to start early, the team wants to go late..." he said, referencing the FC's earlier than normal season opener this year, which was played in late February.

"You give them all the warnings and everything they need to know, and they decide to make their own decisions, and when things don't go right they seem to forget everything you've taught them in the past five years."

Having to re-educate people is one of the most common aspects of his job, Heggie said.

"What you think is common sense to a turf manager isn't common sense to everyone else."



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THE VARIED TASKS OF THE TURF MANAGER continued...

Working with user groups, knowing when to call rainouts are part of the job.

Breedon, who was named at the forum by Sports Turf Canada as its sports turf manager of the year, said he has developed a positive relationship with Barrie's user groups over the years.

"We meet a couple of times during the winter, so I'm spoon feeding them information about why we do things, not overloading them but giving them little bits of information why we wait until May, why we need the turf to have a certain temperature for repair..." he said. "That's one challenge that's slowly getting better, but there's always a pushback, especially from the rep teams from baseball and football."

Another challenge Breedon faces during the season is the scheduling of maintenance days so that fields can be closed for routine work. He considers himself fortunate that field bookings can be light enough to find the time necessary for maintenance days scheduling without it negatively impacting teams' timetables, their fees or programs.

"They've seen the results over the last 10 years with better quality turf," he said.

Even though maintenance days are scheduled so that one field one day of the week is taken out, it can be tough to accomplish because baseball, softball and slo-pitch are thriving in Barrie.

Because of its more northerly location in comparison to the Toronto area and other metropolitan areas in southern Ontario, Barrie's spring start is a little later than other communities, yet there is some pressure among the city's sports groups to begin their seasons in late April. Most years, it works, Breedon said, but it's always a struggle to have fields ready for when users wish to begin.

Cain said the biggest challenge he faces at the university is that the institution oversees its natural grass fields and client expectations are higher than what the physical resource department can actually meet.

"Because revenue is such a big issue right now, we have involved the community into our campus way more than we ever have in the past," he said. "Our use is way up, so the challenge is maintaining the natural grass fields."

surface, are among the fields under his jurisdiction.

In spite of what some users may believe, the artificial fields are not maintenance-free. Challenges, Cain said, include the need to communicate with user groups and upper management at budget time to convince them certain equipment is needed or that a grass field may have to be shut down for a summer so that it can be remediated.

"Nobody wants to hear that," he said. "I work in an environment where – come April – exams start. Most of the people at the University of Guelph think it's the off-season. We don't have an off-season in our industry anymore. It's tough to keep people motivated to ramp up for another four months."

The industry is significantly changing, Cain said, and it's difficult to get people to understand what the turfgrass manager does. He said finding someone with the right attitude and then training him for a skill is the key.

HANDLING RAINOUTS

When it comes to calling games because of rain events, people in Breedon's position often work outside their normal hours. A cutoff time for calling rainouts has been implemented in Barrie, but there is more flexibility with rep team games that are played at the city's sports complex which houses 10 ball diamonds, six football/soccer fields and one rugby pitch. A team may visit Barrie for a baseball game from as far as Hamilton, arriving in the city at 5:30 p.m. for a 7 o'clock game. If it starts raining at game time, measures can be taken to try to get the game in such as applying "quick dry" products to the infield.

Breedon said he has a bigger budget to work with at the complex fields than at the various other fields scattered throughout the city and can use the products accordingly. All slo-pitch and other local league games will be canceled elsewhere in such a scenario so that staff can concentrate on rep league games.

In Barrie, two shifts operate seven days a week.

"We're kind of unique with our sports turf division," Breedon said. "We have somebody working all the time, and that's three or more people working."

THE VARIED TASKS OF THE TURF MANAGER continued...

Working with user groups, knowing when to call rainouts are part of the job.

When he's not working, Breedon has a "right-hand man" on the job to take care of such decisions as canceling games due to poor weather.

Users of the sports complex in Barrie pay a little more to play there than they would at fields elsewhere in the city because such tasks as lining and painting of the surfaces are done for user groups.

"We do everything," Breedon said. "They just show up, do their thing and leave."

Cain said that in Guelph, its website is updated daily at 2:30 p.m. to let user groups know if a scheduled game was to be canceled due to rain. User groups are urged to check the website if there is any doubt. If a game is called due to rain by 2:30, and a user group is caught on the field, bylaw officers are notified. When games are canceled due to rain and duly noted on the university's website, fields are closed by 2 o'clock. Groups caught on the fields afterwards are warned at first, but matters could escalate if repeat offences occur, he said.

"The system works fairly well, but we'd run into the problem that if there was a game later in the afternoon and someone was traveling from London to Guelph and I make the call at 2 o'clock and they're on the road... It's not a perfect system, but you do what you can."

Cain said some field users just don't get the concept of canceled games when rain is present. If soccer was played in the rain, goalmouths would be lost in no time and would prove costly to repair, he said, adding there is a greater risk of players getting injured in wet conditions.

Outgoing Sports Turf Canada president Tab Buckner interjected with an anecdote from policies in place in the Township of Langley, B.C. where he is operations manager. Natural turf fields in the west coast region are closed only in the fall and winter. For baseball, user groups cancel their own games and will look after much of their own minor maintenance. Municipal staff tackles major maintenance work as well as any necessary renovation work required during the season. Some baseball groups mow their own infields and do their own field lining.

Buckner said he's fortunate that most of the newer fields in Langley are sandbased "because we have to deal with rain 365 days of the year."

Natural turf fields are closed for soccer during the fall and winter, giving way to artificial fields. The municipality's website is updated by noon on Fridays, letting user groups know if they are closed or under a "discretionary" status.

WORKING WITH USER GROUPS

Breedon said he meets twice annually with Barrie's user groups – in November to recap the past season and in February to review permits and last-minute changes prior to the coming season.

"They present us with challenges they might have, not just at the complex but around the city itself," he said.

It's at the November meeting when user groups submit their requests for the following season's tournaments. Although he has developed good relationships with the various league conveners over the years, he said it's challenging for him to occasionally deliver bad news.

Cain said the university enjoys a good relationship with the City of Guelph and meets with user groups a couple times each year. It's at these meetings when the groups are told a particular field might need to be closed and programming reworked.

"It's important to have those user groups meetings because you can tell them their fees are going up and all that kind of stuff beforehand so there are no surprises when they start calling the booking office," he said. "You've got to have those meetings to communicate, especially if you're making a rule change."

FIELD USAGE

Major League Soccer began its season in late February, but Heggie's first window of opportunity to regrass BMO Field didn't come until late May, at the outset of the World Cup break. The 2017 season didn't finish until Dec. 9, and the field was without greenhouse storage of sod that would have cost \$200,000.

THE VARIED TASKS OF THE TURF MANAGER continued...

Working with user groups, knowing when to call rainouts are part of the job.

“So we decided not to re-sod, and the season started early,” he said.

Heggie said he’s technically three years behind when sodding the field.

“You’re buying three-year-old technology when you buy sod because it takes three years to grow the field,” he said.

When sod is installed, Heggie said he overseeds with newer technologies of bluegrass.

Grow lights were running at BMO Field since Jan. 28 to get it ready for the Toronto FC’s first home game a month later, plus another seven events and four training sessions by the middle of April.

Cain said he would love to have an “old school” policy in place that allows four hours of daily play on natural grass fields separated by two hours.

“The reality is that doesn’t happen,” he said.

The university installed a number of artificial turf fields to attract more business. Natural fields are used all summer by the community and are “pretty much destroyed” by the time students return to campus in the fall. The artificial fields accommodate intramural sports among the students in the fall and meet the safety and playability expectations that the beaten up natural fields cannot.

Depending on the playing level of the team, games will be reserved for the natural grass fields. But their usage is

There are no artificial turf fields in Barrie that Breedon oversees, and only three of the city’s fields are lit. The playing season for the fields spans May 1 through the Friday of Thanksgiving weekend in October. By the beginning of September, half of Barrie’s turf fields close, leaving the other half for bookings.

Those in attendance at the forum learned that in Hamilton the fee structure for user groups is more community focused. The idea is to get as many people as possible onto the fields to promote health and wellness. User fees are consequently subsidized.

LINE PAINTING, FIELD SAFETY

On Fridays at the sports complex in Barrie, foul lines on baseball diamonds are painted immediately after the fields have been mowed. Rugby and football fields are usually painted the day before a scheduled game. A three-person crew takes a full day for football field painting and a half-day to paint a rugby field. User groups are responsible for their own field lining outside the city’s sports complex fields, but will be provided guidance when needed.

Heggie said the U.S.-based Sports Turf Management Association published a basic guide that outlines potential safety hazards on sports fields, including sprinkler heads, tripping hazards and foreign debris. Prior to each game played at BMO Field, a game day report is made, including safety checks. With six members of his staff having graduated from the University of Guelph, keen observations are made to detect anything that might have gone wrong.



THE VARIED TASKS OF THE TURF MANAGER continued...

Working with user groups, knowing when to call rainouts are part of the job.

"We're always documenting and making sure we're checked for safety because if a \$7-million athlete breaks his ankle, it's my fault," he said.

When the field was examined in January, Heggie considered it below standard and recommended to Toronto FC officials that no game play should take place in February. Even though the field was soft and play took place, no one was injured.

"If someone gets hurt at that point, that's not my fault," he said. "I raised my voice and if they want to continue because they know best, then they know best."

With synthetic turf fields, safety and playability are the main concerns, Cain said. If both meet standards of acceptability, teams can play. Testing for FIFA certification involves evaluation of G-Max surface hardness and friction correlation. Many of the same tests can be applied to a natural turf field, he added.

"If you went out and did a G-Max test on a field in the middle of August and you hadn't had rain in two weeks and it's a non-irrigated field, it might be like playing on concrete," Cain said. "If somebody gets hurt on that field, the lawyer will show up with somebody who's an expert, with a Clegg hammer, and check your field the next day."

He said if there is proof that a field is not within an acceptable G-Max rating, and it was opened for play, a liability issue exists.

Cain offered some advice to municipalities considering installing new artificial turf fields. He said when the low bid is accepted, it often means the municipality is getting older technology, cheaper yarn and "cheaper everything," but it all comes down to how it is specified.

"The important thing about any sports field is the sub-base," he said. "What you put on top of it should be designed for what you're going to use it for."

If an artificial field is intended for football, there are surfacing types that are better suited for that sport, Cain said, adding the same is true for a field intended for soccer or as a

multi-use facility. He said the problem is that a municipality's purchasing department puts out a specification based on the opinion of a consultant who often "just happens to sell turf."

Once an artificial field is installed, it boils down to the maintenance put into it, Cain said.

"The maintenance issue that a manufacturer will put on the field for you in order for you to maintain your warranty will wear the field out in five years," he said. "So you end up over-maintaining it, over-grooming it and doing way too much work to it, and you wreck the turf yourself."

Artificial turf is not maintenance-free, Cain said. In fact, he added, it involves just as much attention as a natural turf field.

PARTING WORDS

Asked to make a parting remark, the three panelists offered three distinctly different words of advice.

Heggie said it is important to never stop learning and to attend as many industry-related conferences and educational sessions as possible, recommending in particular the annual STMA conference. He said it is also important to stay in touch with university academicians and to give back to the industry.

Breedon said he is personally upgrading his computer aptitude and tries about every 18 months to learn new skills beyond those required for sports turf management, yet which may be somewhat related. He is also an advocate of social networking.

Cain said it is a good idea to think ahead to the next potential job advancement. For example, a current supervisor might want to study some management training so that he will eventually be more adept at budgeting. Sharing knowledge with others will also aid the overall industry, he added. ■

Source: Mike Jiggins, Turf and Rec; June 2018 Edition
<https://www.turfandrec.com/>



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



HALIFAX CENTENNIAL POOL

Who are you?

Centennial Pool is located just blocks away from downtown Halifax, situated across the street from the Halifax Regional Police detachment.

Operated by the Centennial Pool Association it is home to one of Halifax's only two 50m pools. Complete with moveable bulkhead, 5, 7.5, and 10m diving platforms and 1 and 3m springboards, it plays host to many amateur sport organizations in HRM.

With a therapeutic chair lift and EZ Ladder, Centennial Pool is accessible to know with vary needs.

What are some recent accomplishments of your facility worth noting?

Being in the downtown core, Centennial has a large adult membership. From those taking advantage of the 7:45am-2pm lane swim and aqua fitness courses to a Senior's Synchronize swimming group.

Amateur sports also make a large portion of the cliental at Centennial Pool. Centennial Pool is proud to play host to amateur sport training.

The pool water is kept at 27°C (80.6°F) to have the perfect balance for their recreational and amateur sport cliental.

What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome in the industry in the last 5 years?

The pool uses an advanced diatomaceous earth filtration system and traditionally has a month closure for maintenance every year. A shutdown in August ensures that seasons for amateur sports and recreational clients are not greatly impacted.

Why did you join RFANS, and what keeps you involved?

Centennial Pool has been a longtime member of RFANS because they know that they can depend on RFANS support if you need information or another resource.



PUTTING THE PUCK IN THE NET

Submitted by: Paul Taljaard

Picking the right team for a project . . . it is just like putting together a championship team to take a run at a hockey division title trophy – it could be the Memorial cup, it could be the Stanley Cup, or it could be a university divisional title. These all need preparation, planning, a goal and of course the right players both on the bench and on the ice.

If you are considering a project for your facility; a major building project or a retrofit you need your team to have an end goal. You need a plan to achieve it, you need to have the right players on your team to help you win your ‘trophy’.

The coach, who is the facility owner, has to set up a game plan, find the right assistants and players to move the puck up the ice.

The assistant coach may be the maintenance manager or operator in the arena.

The budget is the backstop, your goalie. Not having the budget for the project is comparable to having an empty net in the playoffs. It is very hard to win without a goal tender. You have to have good offence, great defence – players who can score goals and block shots.

When you recruit players you generally check their credentials, their stats, to make sure they will fit into the team – will they add value or just ride the bench. The same is true when picking the design team for a project. Do the architects, engineers, construction company, mechanical and refrigeration contractors all have the experience (stats, credentials), like your hockey team, do they have proven talent? It is no different when picking your team of design specialists. Check their references, have a look at their industry track record, have they done this before? Are they willing to take on the risk with you? Do they have your best interests at heart?

To build a great arena requires an assistant coach on the design team, someone who has the stats, credentials and experience to ensure that your arena has NHL quality ice; is environmentally friendly, sustainable, using the most cost effective systems, building controls and heat recovery technology to further enhance savings and lower annual operating cost.

Arenas are not cheap to operate! If money can be saved upfront in the right places then operating the facility will be more manageable in the future.

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