

Fall/Winter 2023

Facility Focus

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

The Inside Scoop!

IS YOUR RECREATION FACILITY WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE? — PG 36-37



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Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia

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Facility Focus

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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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5516 Spring Garden Road, 4th Floor, Halifax, NS B3J 1G6

RFANS 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.



Vision, Focus, Growth, Leadership and Cooperation Leads to Pride and Success

As we come to end of another year, I firmly believe the above slogan accurately depicts the steps RFANS has taken in showing tremendous leadership in supporting the recreation facilities in the province of Nova Scotia.

Having said this, the RFANS Board of Directors strongly felt that to achieve not only our organizations goals and objectives, but also that of our members, we had to become more relevant to our membership and our industry. So, in Jan 2022, RFANS Board of Directors engaged Chauvin Resource Development to lead strategic planning session.

This session significantly helped increase the board's focus and vision for success over the next five years. Also, as a result of the strategic plan, a comprehensive work plan was created for the RFANS's Executive Director, and a recommendation was made that a board development and training session be undertaken to refocus the board on our brand, priorities and core values such as training. This session was held in April and facilitated by Mike Hudson from CCTH. It confirmed that RFANS should broaden its training partnerships, hire a Technical Director, and have a training assessment done by a third party to accurately focus on new opportunities. This was unanimously approved by the Board and was undertaken in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. RFANS is proud to announce that Bud MacInnis is the first ever RFANS Technical Director.

As a result of these undertakings, a delegation from RFANS attended the Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel (AARFP) conference in Red Deer in April to discuss a potential partnership with them. This would see AARFP providing RFANS with instructor training and RFANS purchasing course material and delivering new courses. As part of this training, RFANS, in partnership with AARFP, offered an Arena Level 1 and Ice Maintenance Combined Course at the RBC Centre on June 21 & 22, 2023.

In my opinion, this partnership is a turning point in the history of RFANS, where we can offer our own coursing, under our own name, for the first time ever!

Bob Quigley, RFANS President

Our Support Team



Brittany Hunter RFANS Administrative Assistant

I graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Recreation and Sports Studies and I have eleven years' experience working in sport and recreation in a variety of roles. I was the Executive Director of RFANS for 4 years before moving back to New Brunswick in 2021 for a new career opportunity as the Director of Child Care & Youth Programs at the YMCA of Fredericton.

I am excited to have the chance to work remotely for RFANS again, in a smaller role, and to continue to be a part of the association's growth and development. Looking forward to reconnecting with everyone in a different capacity and seeing where RFANS goes next!



Robyn Morris Communications and Digital Media Manager

Hi, I'm Robyn!

I graduated (first ever virtual ceremony thanks to COVID) from Mount Saint Vincent University in 2020 with a Bachelor of Public Relations and a double minor in marketing and psychology. I also have a certificate in Applied Communication Arts from NSCC, allowing me to strategically pair creative design with written strategy to be my most creative self!

I grew up in Halifax, NS and have been a competitive highland dancer, cheerleader, and fitness competitor and have also enjoyed doing ballroom dancing and salsa. Currently, I do pole fitness and hit the gym every morning for my 5:45 am class. Growing up with recreation has shaped me into who I am today, allowing me to feel my best physically and mentally and giving me the skills to aid me in my professional career.

Working and volunteering with non-profits and charities in various sectors has been really rewarding and has become a soft spot for me. I've had the pleasure of working on multiple successful projects such as with Hope Blooms, Thoughtful Changes Mental Health, and numerous clients throughout Atlantic Canada as part of the RBR Development team.

I love pulling inspiration from my surroundings. You can often find me near the ocean, or wandering one of our many trails and parks, usually with my camera and coffee in hand and always with a sparkle.

I am so excited to be a part of the RNS/RFANS team and can't wait to meet you all and see the things we can do and the impact we can create for all Nova Scotians!



As I write this message, I can't help but notice the changing colours of the trees and the gradual drop in temperatures. It's amazing how quick the seasons transition. This summer, Nova Scotia welcomed the 10th North American Indigenous Games and 21 of our recreation facilities, spanning Kijipuktuk (Halifax), Dartmouth, Millbrook First Nation, and Sipekne'katik, played host to over 5000 athletes. This was a significant organizational undertaking, and it's something our recreation facilities can take pride in. Your role in contributing to the success of these games was absolutely crucial.

I hope that all our facilities experienced a productive summer, despite the challenges posed by floods, fires and hurricanes that inflicted damage and disruption. Our climate patterns are changing, and as facility operators, we find ourselves adapting to these changes, whether that be the challenges of extending seasons, or in extreme cases, managing damage caused by destructive weather systems.

Our role is also being expanded beyond traditional facility management. We are increasingly being called upon to step into emergency situations, serving as accessible comfort centers when needed. It's becoming increasingly apparent that there is a need for facility operators to be included in the decision-making process when emergency preparations are being made by organizations like Emergency Management Office (EMO). Collaboration is crucial to ensure our facilities are adequately prepared for such scenarios.

As we move into the winter season, RFANS continues its work on three key priorities to further its mission of supporting and advancing the field of recreation facility operations.

1. **Improving Organizational Structure:** The effectiveness of any organization relies heavily on its structure and governance. RFANS recognizes the importance of a well-organized board and is taking steps to:
 - a. Improve the organizational structure by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities for its board members, creating new committee structures, reviewing, and updating governance policies and practices to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective leadership.
2. **Enhancing Products and Services:** RFANS is committed to improving its products and services to better serve its members and the recreation facility industry. This includes:
 - a. **Creating New Training Opportunities:** RFANS is actively working on developing and expanding its training offerings with the development of new courses, workshops, and educational resources that address the evolving needs of the industry.
 - b. **Training Needs Assessment:** To ensure the training provided aligns with the current demands and challenges faced by recreation facility professionals, RFANS will conduct a training needs assessment. This process involves gathering feedback and insights from members and stakeholders to identify areas where training can be most beneficial.
 - c. **Training New Instructors:** Expanding our pool of qualified instructors is essential for delivering high-quality training programs. RFANS is identifying and training new instructors to lead these educational initiatives.
3. **Strengthening Relationships:** RFANS understands the importance of collaboration and engagement with stakeholders in the recreation facility industry including municipalities, government agencies, and other relevant organizations. RFANS will work on strengthening these partnerships to promote shared goals and initiatives. Our members are our most valuable asset. RFANS is implementing strategies to actively engage with and support its members, ensuring their needs and concerns are heard and addressed.

Our goals to enhance training opportunities, develop more efficient governance, and foster stronger relationships with stakeholders, will ultimately benefit both our organization and its members.

Jennie Greencorn, RFANS Executive Director

Thank You!

Thank you to the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism 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 contribution.





Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia

Memberships

Membership Types

- **Individual** \$85.00+HST
 - A person not directly associated to a facility, but interested in facility operations
 - Student
- **Facility** \$200.00+HST
 - Private or Board operated facilities
 - Universities
- **Municipal** \$200.00+HST – 1 Facility;
\$300.00+HST – 2 to 5 Facilities;
\$500.00+HST – 6 or more Facilities
Municipalities which operate recreation facilities
- **Corporate** \$250.00+HST
 - Any business, supplier or not for profit



For more details on becoming a member, renewing your membership or member benefits:

Check out our website @ <http://www.rfans.com/membership/>

Or call:

(O) 902-425-5450 ext 330 | (C) 902-870-7634

rfans@sportnovascotia.ca





Membership Benefits

- Monthly newsletter (digital mail out)
- Facility Focus Magazine twice a year (1 per facility) plus a digital copy
- Discounted rates on: Coursing and Conferences, Atlantic Recreation & Facilities Conference and Trade Show (ARFC), Partnerships/Sponsorship, Advertising rates
- Notification of current training opportunities
- First preference in advertisement in Facility Focus
- Resources and information for policies, trends and other requirements
- Free access to attend the AGM
- Notification of funding opportunities
- Voting eligibility for the Board of Directors elections and the eligibility to hold office

Memberships are renewed annually and follow the fiscal year (April 1st to March 31st). Pro-rated rates for memberships received after April 1st can be negotiated.

For more details on becoming a member and member benefits:

Check out our website @ <http://www.rfans.com/membership/>

Or call: (O) 902-425-5450 ext 330 | (C) 902-870-7634 | rfans@sportnovascotia.ca

We want to hear from YOU!

Are you doing something new or different in your facility? Does your company have important or interesting information to share about recreation facility operations? Are you selling equipment or looking to post a job? RFANS wants to know!

We'd love to share you information with our members!

Contact Jennie at rfans@sportnovascotia.ca or call 902-425-5450 ext 330



2nd Class Refrigeration Course

In partnership with the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency & Technical Safety Division of the Dept of Labour, Skills & Immigration

Online/Class Instruction via NSCC Akerley Campus, Dartmouth, NS
January to June 2024 (Registration deadline is November 17, 2023)

Certified Pool Operators Courses (Pool & Hot Tub Alliance)

National Swimming Pool Foundation Certification (NSPF)

May 7 to May 9, 2024 – Strait Area Pool, Port Hawkesbury, NS

November 5 to November 7, 2024 – East Hants Aquatic Centre, Elmsdale, NS



Sport Turf Courses

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Spring 2024 Dates (TBD)

More details to come - Check RFANS website and socials.

NEW! Arena Level 1 & Ice Maintenance Course

In Partnership with the Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel

August 20 to 21, 2024

Pictou County Wellness Centre, Pictou County, NS



NEW! Building Maintenance Course

In Partnership with the Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel

May 27, 2024

RBC Centre, Dartmouth, NS



Midseason Ice Maintenance Course

January 17, 2024

RBC Centre, Dartmouth, NS

Leadership Summit for Senior Facility Management

April 9 - April 11, 2023

Four Points Sheraton, Halifax, NS



Playground Inspection Course

In Partnership with HRM and Canadian Playground Safety Institute (CPSI)

October 24 to October 27, 2024 Future Inn Halifax

Online Course options also available @ <https://www.cpsionline.ca/>

RFANS can also customize training, education or professional development for your staff.

For more information on any of our courses, please check out website at www.rfans.com or contact us @ rfans@sportnovascotia.ca or call 902-870-7634

Our Partners:



INAUGURAL ARENA LEVEL 1 & ICE MAINTENANCE COMBINED COURSE A SUCCESS!

On June 21st & 22nd, 2023, the Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel (AARFP), in partnership with RFANS hosted our inaugural Arena Level 1 & Ice Maintenance combined course at the RBC Centre in Dartmouth.

Thanks to Larry Golby, Education Rep from AARFP for teaching our first course to 21 operators, with varying levels of experience from 33 years to 2 months, from across NS and NB.

Larry also delivered a Train the Trainer course for potential RFANS instructors. Larry brings with him a wealth of knowledge and years of experience in the arena industry.

RFANS appreciates the support off AARFP and looks forward to strengthening our partnership.

Testimonials

Great course! Instructor was excellent! Very knowledgeable and easy to understand. Related real life examples which is excellent. Well done!

~ Arena Level 1 participant

Larry delivers a great course; relevant content, interactive, funny, class is inclusive and has great energy. Overall totally enjoyable!

~ Arena Level 1 participant

Really enjoyed the course. Great people!

~ Arena Level 1 participant

Larry was great! Welcome back to the Maritimes anytime!

~ Arena Level 1 participant



2023 Professional Development Courses



RFANS has partnered with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) to provide a broad range of professional development courses available to RFANS members.



Certificate in Ice Facility Operations

Take advantage of this career-enhancing opportunity to build your skills and knowledge in the field of ice operations! Successfully complete these four courses (minimum 60% exam grade) to receive your certificate:

- Basic Arena Refrigeration
- Ice Maintenance and Equipment Operations
- Ice Making and Painting Technologies
- Legal Awareness I - Supervising in a Recreation Environment



Outdoor Ice Symposium (Hybrid Event)

**Tuesday, January 23 and
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

The Bentway | Toronto, Ontario



Online Self-Study Courses

ORFA's self-study online courses are available **24 hours a day, 7 days a week** allowing you to learn at your own pace and in your own environment. These courses provide you with easy access to course information, resource materials, videos, practice quizzes, assignments, grade postings, certificates, and transcripts. All self-study courses and their respective exams must be completed within 30 days upon course enrollment.

Courses currently available include:

- Basic Arena Refrigeration
- Ice Maintenance and Equipment Operations
- Ice Making and Painting Technologies
- Legal Awareness I - Supervising in a Recreation Environment
- Legal Awareness II - Managing in a Recreation Environment
- Safe Ice Resurfacer Operator
- Safe Arena Refrigeration Plant Owner/Operator
- Recreation Facility Cleaning, Disinfection and Sanitization Principles
- Certified Ice Technician (CIT) Recertification Challenge Exam (only available to CIT holders)
- Certified Ice Technician (CIT) Recertification Course (only available to CIT holders)
- Public Skating Monitor

For course registration contact:

Jennie Greencorn, Executive Director
Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia
T: (902) 425-5450 ext 330 | C: (902) 870-7634
rfans@sportnovascotia.ca | www.rfans.com

For course descriptions and fees, visit
orfa.com/events2023

Follow us @orfainc



CSA HOCKEY HELMET PROGRAM

The CSA Hockey Helmet Program is such an important program that supports the provinces strategy to promote physical activity, accessibility and inclusion in sport and recreation programming.

With the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage and our corporate partner Cleve's Source for Sports, RFANS is pleased to continue offering the CSA Hockey Helmet Program to eligible facilities (recreational arenas, municipal recreation departments, and schools). Affordable CSA-approved hockey helmets provide participants with the proper protective gear required to participate in school-sponsored and public skates, for new residents to Canada and for employee safety.

Eligible facilities can purchase CSA hockey helmets for \$10.00 each to a maximum of 20 helmets. Helmets with face shields are also available at \$24.00 per unit.

Applications are due each December, with helmets delivered in January—only one application per facility per year.

To order now visit:
www.rfans.com/training/programs/



LOGBOOKS

Logbooks available for order are as follows:

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

For more details: call us @ 902-425-5450 ext 330. Logbooks are available for order year round and can be ordered by contacting RFANS by email or phone.

Prices and information available at www.rfans.com



RFANS has partnered with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) to bring a Certificate in Ice Facility Operations to Nova Scotia!

The courses required for successful completion are:

- 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!

PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) GRANT PROGRAM



Supporting you – from the ground up

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Through this grant program owners or managing partners of sport and recreation facilities can be eligible to receive up to 1/2 the total cost of the purchase of an AED or replacement batteries or pads for AEDs purchased through the program (taxes Included) to a maximum of \$1,500.00.

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be met to access funds from the AED Grant Program:

- Applications and quotes must be submitted by February 15 of each year to secure any funding.
- Proof of purchase of an AED must be submitted by March 31 of the year to receive the funding.
- Be a member in good standing with the [Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia](http://www.savelivesns.ca) to receive up to half of the cost of the purchase of an AED. Non-members will receive up to one third the cost.
- Must provide annual training of staff in the use of the equipment with initial training to take place within 3 months of receiving the AED unit. The goal is to train all staff and require at least one AED trained staff person to be present when the facility is opened.
- The AED must be registered on the EHS AED Registry and it must be made available for public use. www.savelivesns.ca
- Must maintain unit according to manufacturer specifications and document maintenance schedule.

AEDs; HELPING TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time. Making defibrillators easily accessible is essential to increase survivors across Nova Scotia. According to Heart & Stroke, tens of thousands of Canadian lives are lost each year due to sudden cardiac arrest.

Sudden cardiac arrest is an “electrical problem” in the heart. The heart beats erratically and ineffectively and cannot pump blood through the body to keep vital organs alive. Most cardiac arrests occur outside of the hospital. Recognizing this emergency, calling 911, performing CPR, and using an automated external defibrillator (AED) as soon as possible will drastically increase someone’s chance of survival. In fact, with each passing minute without the use of an AED, the chance of survival declines by 7 to 10 percent.

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable computerized medical device that analyzes and identifies shockable heart rhythms, advises the rescuer of the need for defibrillation, and delivers a shock if needed to restore a regular heart rhythm. An AED is easy and safe to use; using voice and visual prompts and only delivering a shock if it is needed.

With the placement of AEDs throughout Nova Scotia sport and recreation facilities, valuable time, and potentially lives, will be saved in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest emergency.

Source: Nova Scotia Emergency Health Services
www.savelivesns.ca

PROGRAM PARTNERS



EHS AED

Emergency Health Services **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR REGISTRY**



NOVA SCOTIANS NEED YOU!

Did you know Nova Scotia has an AED registry coordinated by Emergency Health Services!

AED Registration is free and recommended throughout Nova Scotia. EHS will provide you with internationally recognized location posters and window decals.

REGISTERING YOUR AED MEANS:

- Being a heart-safe community leader in Nova Scotia by helping to save more lives from sudden cardiac arrest
- Keeping your AED up to date (if needed)
- Helping EHS place more AEDs in areas of need



WE'RE HERE TO HELP:

- Questions about your AED such as placement and accessibility?
- Wondering if the temperature/environment might compromise your AED?
- Need replacement pads following use in an emergency?
- Need automated email reminders for pad and battery expiries?
- Anything else? Let us know!

Register now at www.savelivesns.ca or request a PDF or print form!



AARFP CONFERENCE, RED DEER ALBERTA - APRIL 2023

Contributed by RFANS

In April 2023, a delegation from RFANS attended the Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel Annual Conference and Tradeshow in Red Deer, Alberta. The primary objective of this participation was to engage in various professional and collaborative activities related to the field of recreation facility management and operations.

One key focus of the delegation was to strengthen the existing partnership between RFANS and AARFP. Partnerships between regional or national associations can be highly beneficial in terms of knowledge sharing, resource pooling, and mutual support. By attending this conference, RFANS aimed to foster stronger ties with AARFP, promoting collaboration and information exchange.

Conferences, like the AARFP Conference and Tradeshow, provide an excellent platform for networking. Delegates from RFANS had the opportunity to connect with key stakeholders in the recreation facility industry. This interaction allows for the sharing of insights, challenges, and best practices among professionals, which can contribute to the advancement of the field. The conference also included educational sessions, workshops, and presentations. RFANS delegates attended these sessions to gain new knowledge and skills that can be applied in their roles within the recreation facility sector.

The world of recreation facility management and operations is continually evolving with the introduction of new technologies and innovative practices. Attending the conference offered RFANS delegates the chance to learn about the latest innovations, trends, and advancements in the industry. This knowledge can be instrumental in enhancing the quality and efficiency of recreation facility operations in Nova Scotia.

In addition to strengthening ties with AARFP, the delegation from RFANS had the opportunity to network with sister associations from across Canada. These interactions facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences on a national scale, enabling RFANS to gain insights from other provinces and territories and share its own experiences.



AARFP Board, staff and volunteers

SHOW UP
SO YOU CAN
SPEAK UP

NS SPORT & RECREATION
ANTI-RACISM

ShowUpToSpeakUp.ca

VenezVousFaireEntendre.ca

ANTI-RACISM DECLARATION

Here we stand up against racism and discrimination and support fair play for all.

Ici nous rejetons le racisme et la discrimination et nous supportons le "fair-play" pour tous.

Tett wetqotasik maskite'lkaqn aq penoqwite'lkemk, aq awnaqa k'paqma'tuek aq neps~tkwenmek papuaqn w'jit ms~t wen.

"Change happens when we make a conscious effort to make things better. Creating an Anti-Racism Declaration for recreation facilities aims to build a culture that does not tolerate racism and discrimination and takes action to change stereotypical beliefs and behaviours."

The NS Sport and Recreation Anti-Racism Week provided a safe platform for sharing lived experiences and educated those toward unlearning racist behaviours. It stemmed from acknowledging that our country has a legacy of racism and discrimination entrenched in our systems, institutions, beliefs, and behaviours.

During the province's first NS Sport and Recreation Anti-Racism Week, held November 14-18, 2023, RFANS declared its support towards anti-racism and discrimination in recreation facilities by launching a declaration in the form of a decal to recreation facilities and by signing Recreation NS's Anti-Racism Charter for Recreation.

RFANS encouraged sports teams to read or play the declaration through the audio system before competitive play and to display the decal in a visible area, such as a wall or on the glass in a penalty box.

"We can create change by taking action. We encourage all recreation facilities to participate."

RFANS had the pleasure of joining the Kings Mutual Century Centre for their anti-racism week event by doing a puck drop before their game as they committed themselves to eliminate racism and discrimination in their facilities. We look forward to seeing how you and others who have supported the declaration inspire others to do the same.

We encourage the continued support and participation of facilities managers/operators to forward this initiative.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

This facility is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for all of those involved.

This facility will not tolerate any forms of racism and/or discrimination.

Should there be any incident perceived as racism, or discrimination, it will be dealt with immediately.

Please report any incidents of racism and/or discrimination to facility staff, security, or persons renting facility.



ANTI-RACISM POLICY AND PROTOCOL TOOL

Developed by the Tripartite Forum as a resource to help sport and recreation facilities deal with incidents of racism and/or discrimination within facilities. The tripartite forum and RFANS partnered to promote this initiative.

This tool consists of a policy template, Incident Report Forms and facility signage. Signage is **FREE** and can be placed within your facility to indicate you have a policy and are a safe, respectful environment that does not tolerate racism and/or discrimination.

For more info: 902-425-5450 ext. 330

rfans@sportnovascotia.ca

www.rfans.com/resource-centre/



RECREATION FACILITY ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR REPORT FALL 2023

Contributed by Bud MacInnis

On July 17th I started as the Technical Director for RFANS. A little background on myself, I worked with Co-op Farm and Garden stores in Sales, as Controller and Manager. I was an Investigator and Mediator for the Tenancy Board of Nova Scotia. I worked with a 20 unit and a 82 unit Housing Co-op both on their Boards and as head of Maintenance. I sold RESPs, Registered Education Savings Plans. After all that I started my 26.5 year career as the Manager-chief power engineer at the Antigonish Arena until taking this position with RFANS.

Family and Sports have always played a big part of my life. I have 3 daughters, all working in health care and 6 grandchildren. I played, coached, and umpired men's fastball. I was a member of the Canadian Ski patrol. I played, coached, managed, and served on Boards for Junior and Senior hockey clubs. I guess my car has always had the trunk full of some sort of sports equipment, from ball gear, field maintenance supplies, hockey gear and now ice painting supplies.

My duties as Technical Director are to develop and expand existing and future programs for our industry. I will be working with current partnerships to grow these programs and will be teaching some courses and overseeing others in Atlantic Canada. Some of the courses RFANS will be delivering are Arena Level 1 and 2 ice Maintenance, Mid-Season Ice Maintenance, Certified Pool Operators, Turf Management, Playground Inspector courses, Leadership Development, Second Class Refrigeration course and others. A list of our courses can be found on the RFANS website, www.rfans.com. If you need for

example help with steps with replacing your floor, installing, and painting ice, new equipment or anything else, please reach out to us. We are in the process of developing a training video for painting the ice surface and installing logos, both painted and textile.

RFANS has partnered with Hockey Nova Scotia for the last couple of years installing Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and #Strongertogether logos in 16 facilities across Nova Scotia each year. RFANS has partnered with the Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel (AARFP) to deliver courses, to name just a couple of partnerships.

The landscape of our industry has changed over the years. We have new employees working in facilities all the time, so training is more important than ever. Training and networking will be a very large and enjoyable part of this job. If facilities need help with anything, RFANS is there to help. If we don't know the answer, we will find someone that does, that's when strong partnerships come into play. If you are not a member of RFANS and you would like to receive the benefits of being that being a member, bring, that information is on our website as well. I believe my time working at the Antigonish Arena as well as my time working at everything else before that will help me in this new position as the RFANS Technical Director.

Bud MacInnis

Technical Director

Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia

training-rfans@sportnovascotia.ca

902-867-0898 (mobile)



**ATLANTIC
RECREATION &
FACILITIES
CONFERENCE**

SAVE THE DATE

**May 29-31, 2024
Fredericton, NB**



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3 Myths About Outdoor Ice Rink Ammonia Refrigeration Systems

Our industrial chiller maintenance experts have been installing and servicing outdoor ice rink ammonia refrigeration systems in Toronto and beyond for decades. Warmer winter temperatures have led many municipalities to put in ice rink refrigeration systems as a way of extending the outdoor skating season for residents. This is where we noticed some common “myths” ice rink owners believe regarding outdoor ice rink maintenance. Here are the misconceptions along with our recommendations for proper maintenance of your ice rink ammonia refrigeration system.

Myth #1: Flood your ice rink with water when temperatures are below freezing to create strong ice

Applying vast amounts of standing water, even when temperatures are at their lowest, traps air during the freezing process. The result is a more porous sheet of ice that will weaken when the warm temperatures come and place a strain on your ice rink cooling system. Too much water can also create “shell ice” which, much like a frozen puddle, contains trapped air beneath it. If shell ice is formed, the only way to correct it is to completely scrape away the area and build again.

The best way to build a strong ice surface is to apply light sprays of water that will quickly freeze upon contact with the frozen surface. Properly functioning ice resurfacing equipment accomplishes this best.

Myth #2: How and when water is applied to your ice rink has little effect on the final outcome

Using water hoses to cover the surface of your chilling system is the recommended method (rather than elements from nature), but when and how it is applied plays a key role in the strength and smoothness of your ice surface.

To prevent ripples and bumps from forming, the water must be applied when there is no chance of interference from snow. Prior to spraying the surface, be sure to thoroughly scrape away all existing snow. To prevent indents and gullies from forming in your ice, the hose must be kept in continuous motion. Ensure that a thin mist is consistently and evenly applied to create a smooth surface.

Myth #3: Outdoor ice rinks require less maintenance and attention than indoor ice rinks.

Changing weather patterns and fluctuating temperatures dramatically affect the quality and integrity of outdoor ice rinks. Owners and operators must be prepared to respond to these constantly changing ice conditions for residents to fully enjoy the many benefits of an outdoor ice rink ammonia refrigeration system.

Additionally, even though outdoor ice rinks are often more accessible to the public, they demand the same TSSA, WSIB, insurance, and safety standards that are required of indoor facilities. Outdoor Ice Rink Ammonia Refrigeration Systems Need Professional Maintenance

The charm and enjoyment of outdoor rinks is undeniable; but consideration, time, and the proper equipment are all needed to effectively maintain and operate the ammonia refrigeration system. If you are the owner or operator of an outdoor ice rink and in need of assistance with your ice rink refrigeration system, Berg Industrial Service Inc. is here to help. Our industrial refrigeration technicians provide ice rink installations, pre-season inspections, and regular, ongoing maintenance for outdoor ice rinks. Contact Berg today to schedule a consultation. For inquiries, contact

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2023 POWER ENGINEERS & PLANT MAINTENANCE EDUCATION FORUM INVITATION

As our profession evolves so does the educational needs of Plant Owners, Power Engineers, and Maintenance Professionals who operate and maintain our Plants in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

A wise man once said that “the only thing that is constant in today’s world is change”.

The Power Engineering Field is evolving everyday, and the “Power Engineers & Plant Maintenance Educational Forum” is the best way to stay current with the changing environment we all find ourselves in. Power Engineering is not just about operating plants, it is also about the staff who work in our plants and the maintenance involved in keeping them running safely. Our primary role is “Public Safety” which includes the safety of our plant staff, and the general public. We cannot do this unless our plants are maintained in a safe operational condition.

Changes in our environment (Climate Change) is affecting the way we do business now, and in the future. New technologies and regulations will have an impact on your business.

How we approach with the changing work forces, how we attract new highly qualified staff are all challenges we face.

The Educational Forum is open to any Plant Owner or Owner Representative, Power Engineers or others who shows a strong desire to expand their understanding of Power Engineering and who desire to become leaders in our profession, Maintenance Persons who help to manage plant maintenance programs and to Government Officials who have a strong interest in Plant & Public Safety. This also includes, but is not limited to, Professional Engineers, Maintenance Superintendents, Maintenance Supervisor, Maintenance Forman, suppliers, etc...

Again this year two Power Engineering students from the NSCC Akerley Campus are on the IPE Executive and will be invited to attend. We also have a student from NSCC, Ella Hanson, who is our Official Photographer for this year’s event The core elements and presentation will not change, and we hope to add new and exciting elements that will interest everyone. We recognize that Refrigeration Plants may have been underrepresented in the past and we are trying to add more areas of interest for these sites. Saying this, we need greater representation at the “Educational Forum” from these plants, so we can network and better understand their needs and the educational needs of plant staff.

We strongly encourage you, as the Chief Power Engineers and Chief Plant Operators, to promote and encourage your owners, key operating staff, maintenance partners, etc. to attend future Educational Forums”.

Sincerely your committee members:

Daniel Wagner, Shawna Publicover, Sarah Lumsden, Jordan MacPhee, Ryan Hobbs, & Rick Deveau, Shane Todd.

Daniel L. Wagner
Chairperson



NOVA SCOTIA POWER ENGINEERS & PLANT MAINTENANCE EDUCATION FORUM - 2023 AGENDA

DAY 1

Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

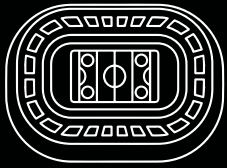
11:00 – 12:00	Registration
12:00 – 12:15	Forum Opening, Welcome Message and Important Information
12:15 – 12:45	NSIPE President’s Report and Update- Sarah Lumsden IPE & SOPEEC Updates-Don Ehlers
12:45 – 13:15	Technical Safety Branch Update- Jeff Dolan; LSI
13:15- 13:45	Apprenticeship Update- Don Adams; LSI
13:45 – 14:15	Review of Examination Results- Don Ehlers; LSI
14:15 – 15:00	PAN GLOBAL- James Cameron
15:00– 15:15	Break
15:15 – 15:45	NSCC Program Update- Don Jardine; NSCC Academic Chair
15:45– 16:30	Insurance Company Presentation
16:30– 17:15	Hydrogen Blending Presentation- Theo Street; Dalhousie University
17:15- 18:00	1st Class Certification Recognition of Achievement 2022/23
18:00 – 18:30	Social Break / Cash Bar
18:30- 20:00	Dinner- Best Western

DAY 2

Thursday, November 9th, 2023

08:30– 08:45	Blessing from Gary Joseph; Aboriginal Elder in Residence/ Sun Dancer at NSCC
08:45 – 09:30	What’s new in Control Systems- AEM
09:30 – 10:15	Respectful Communications & Human Rights- Don Jardine & Diane Hawco; NSCC
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee and Trade Show
10:45 – 11:15	Breakout Room Discussion:
11:15– 11:45	Breakout Room Feed back
11:45– 13:00	Lunch & Trade Show
13:00 – 13:45	Steam Traps- S.C. Delong / Spirax Sarco
13:45 – 14:15	B-52 & Refrigeration Codes & Regulations- Jamie Swindells
14:15 – 15:15	CIMCO –Refrigeration
15:15 – 15:45	Immigration and Skilled Trades Update- Tina Hennigar; Navigator Services
15: 45 –16:00	Question Period, Closing Remarks, & Feedback

For more information contact Sarah Lumsden at lumsden.sarah1@gmail.com



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PROVINCE SUPPORTS RECREATION FACILITIES: RENOS & NEW BUILDS

Contributed by Jennie Greencorn

The Province of NS's, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage Department's commitment to investing in our recreation facilities is key to their sustainability and survival, and to the health and well-being of our communities. In 2022-2023, the province made substantial financial contributions to many recreation facilities throughout all regions of the province via programs like Rink Revitalization Program, Recreation Facility Development Grant, Community Recreation Capital Grants, and Accessibility Grants, that have allowed them to do much needed renos and repairs, and in some cases new builds. This contribution is immense and has been a "game changer" for many of our facilities. Here is a small snapshot of some of that work that is being done across the province.



1

PICTOU ALL WHEELS SKATEPARK

Contributed by Ashley George – Fundraising Chair and Avid Skateboarder.

Since the late 80's, I've been skateboarding. My father and I were both involved with the first skatepark we had inside the Hector Arena, which was just the kids and teenagers bringing our own ramps from our driveways, needless to say, it was amazing especially to a 10 year old. The only problem was the inside would always be damp or worse muddy water, so it became kind of messy and more of a hazard it wasn't too long before they shut that down. The second was at the Brody Park in the 90's which consisted of a lot of steel ramps and rails donated from Trenton Works. That one lasted about 5 years before it was burned. In 2009, my father passed away suddenly from a heart attack. After a few days of letting it all sink in, I decided to put on an event in memory of my father with the intention of raising money for something that would have him remembered for his involvement in our community and the idea of a skatepark came to mind. The first few years we've raised roughly \$1000- \$1500 each show and as time went on, I realized it's going to take a lot more fundraising efforts to get a skatepark built. We started a committee and got together every couple of months with ideas, people came, and people went. We applied for funding and grants; sometimes we received, sometimes we didn't but we never gave up. The last 5 years we've found a solid group of people and started working hard having events once a month and the ball started rolling. The closer we got to our goal the more funding and donations and people came on board to make this dream a reality, and we did it! We are very happy with our skatepark and currently running a Skate School program with very high numbers for the fall and hoping to keep it going for spring St. Mary's Recplex, Sherbrooke.



2

HAWKES DREAM FIELD, DOMINION

Received funding for a new accessible baseball park and splash pad. They had their grand opening on July 2nd, 2023



3

ANTIGONISH ARENA

The Antigonish Area received funding to offset the cost of a new plate chiller, new condenser, new thermostats, new hose and sprayer for ice making, and a new textile line kit, as well as accessibility funding for a new ramp and platform in their seating area, accessible doors yet to be installed.



4

ST. MARY'S RECPLEX, SHERBROOKE

The St. Mary's Recplex received funding for siding repairs on their facility as well as a sprinkler system upgrade.



5

BARRINGTON ARENA

Funding received from the Province saw the Barrington Arena do a dramatic upgrade to their dressing room showers, provided new rubber floor matting and accessibility upgrades. The Municipality of Barrington values the funds they have received for capital improvements and thanks the province for their support.



BEFORE



AFTER

6

RBC CENTRE

The RBC Centre in Dartmouth replaced the boards in their players benches with glass to make the ice more accessible for sledge racing.



7

WESTVILLE MINERS SPORTS COMPLEX

The Westville Minor Sports Complex were able to replace their concrete slab, install new boards and glass and replace components of their ice plant with funding received from the province in March 2023.

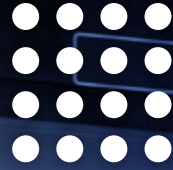


8

DIGBY AREA RECREATION CENTRE

The Digby Arena got a new scoreboard and is getting their dressing room showers replaced with funding assistance from the province.





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NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES: HIGHLIGHT ON RECREATION FACILITIES IN HOSTING MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

Contributed by RFANS

Nova Scotia, once again, demonstrated its exceptional hospitality and organizational skills in successfully hosting the 10th North American Indigenous Games, which took place from July 15th to 23rd, 2023. This remarkable event accommodated more than 5000 athletes, coaches, and team personnel hailing from over 756 Indigenous nations. They competed in 16 different sports across 21 diverse venues spanning Kijipuktuk (Halifax), Dartmouth, Millbrook First Nation, and Sipekne'katik, with the invaluable support of 3000 dedicated volunteers.

Recreation facilities play a central and indispensable role in the organization of major sporting events like the NAIG. These facilities serve as the foundational infrastructure upon which the entire event is built. Here's a more detailed exploration of their significance:

Crucial Infrastructure: Recreation facilities are the physical venues where athletes compete, spectators gather, and various sporting activities take place. They provide the necessary playing fields, courts, tracks, pools, and arenas tailored to specific sports. These specialized spaces are essential for athletes to showcase their skills.

Space and Accommodation: The vastness and adaptability of recreation facilities allow for the accommodation of a multitude of sports, events, and spectators. These venues can be transformed to meet the specific needs of each sport, providing athletes with the appropriate settings to perform at their best.

Support for Athletes: Athletes participating in major sporting events require more than just playing surfaces. They need access to training facilities, warm-up areas, medical support, and locker rooms. Recreation facilities provide these amenities, ensuring that athletes are adequately prepared and cared for.

Enhanced Spectator Experience: Major sporting events draw large crowds, and recreation facilities are designed with the

comfort and enjoyment of spectators in mind. They offer ample seating, concessions, restrooms, and other amenities to create an immersive and memorable experience for attendees.

Logistical Coordination: The planning and coordination between event organizers and recreation facility managers are fundamental to the event's success. This partnership involves meticulous attention to detail, addressing various aspects such as scheduling, logistics, security, and operational procedures.

Shared Responsibilities: Event organizers and facility managers share responsibilities in areas such as security arrangements, event scheduling, technical requirements, and staffing. They collaborate closely to ensure that all aspects of the event align with their respective goals and obligations.

Safety and Contingency Planning: Safety is a paramount concern for major sporting events, and recreation facilities are equipped with safety measures such as emergency exits, medical stations, and crowd control plans. Event organizers and facility managers work together to develop and implement comprehensive safety and contingency plans.



**2023 JEUX
AUTOCHTONES**
de l'Amérique du nord
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North American
**INDIGENOUS
GAMES 2023**
HALIFAX • NOVA SCOTIA

Accessibility and Inclusivity: Facilities are often designed with accessibility features to accommodate people with disabilities. Event organizers and facility managers work to ensure that the event is inclusive and accessible to all attendees.

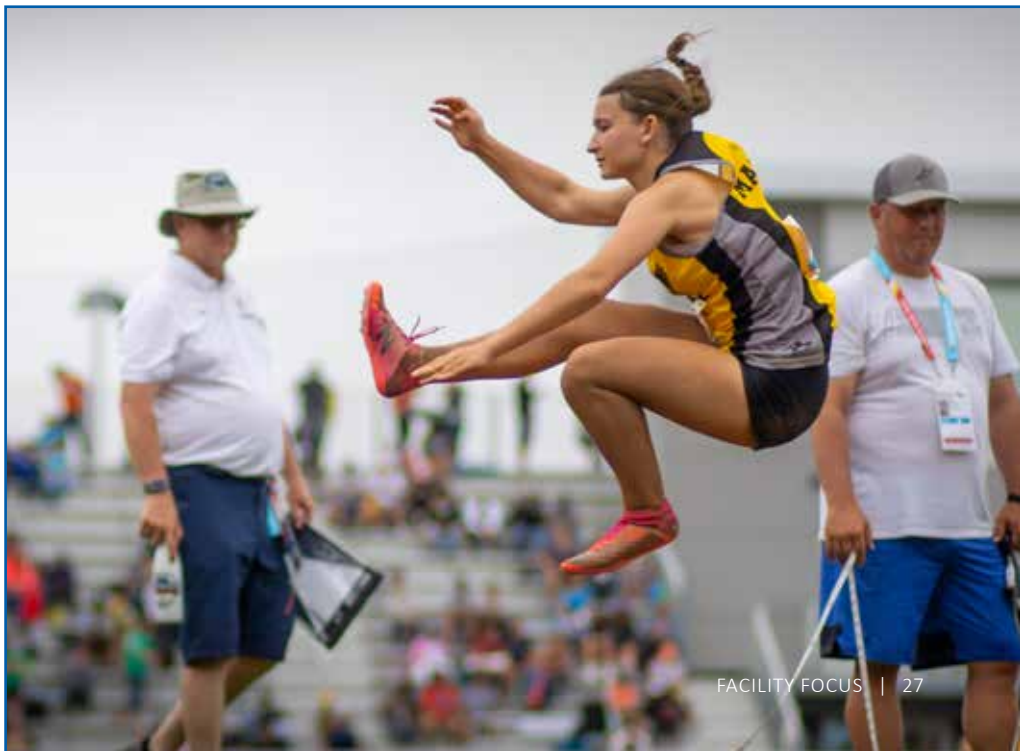
Community Engagement: Beyond the event itself, recreation facilities can serve as hubs for community engagement and pride. They may host community events, youth programs, and sports clinics, leaving a lasting legacy within the local community.

In essence, recreation facilities serve as the backbone of major sporting events. Their adaptability, infrastructure, and collaborative efforts with event organizers create an environment where athletes can excel, spectators can enjoy the competition, and the event can leave a positive and enduring impact on the community.

“In our capacity as the Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the organizing committee of NAIG 2023 for their outstanding efforts in hosting the games. We also wish to emphasize the vital contribution of the diverse range of recreation facilities that have played a crucial role in ensuring the success of this remarkable event.” — Jennie Grencorn, Executive Director, Recreation Facility Association of NS.

We would like to acknowledge the commitment of the following recreation facilities and their devoted staff for their invaluable contributions to the North American Indigenous Games. Additionally, we would like to spotlight in pictures some of the events that transpired within their venues.

- Sexton Memorial Gymnasium (Dalhousie) - Basketball
- Dauphinee Centre (SMU) - Wrestling
- RBC Centre, Dartmouth - Lacrosse
- Canada Games Centre, Halifax - Volleyball
- Dalplex - Basketball/Swimming
- Halifax Commons - Softball/Cultural Village
- BMO Soccer Centre, Bedford - Soccer
- Links at Brunello, Timberlea - Golf
- Lake Banook, Dartmouth - Canoe/Kayak
- Harbour East Courts, Dartmouth - Beach Volleyball
- Homburg Centre (SMU) - Basketball
- Millbrook Pow Wow Grounds, Millbrook - Archery
- Beazley Complex, Dartmouth - Athletics/Baseball
- Citadel Community Centre - Badminton
- Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre - Basketball
- Sipekne'katik – Softball





New to hockey? Discover the game this season with the NHL/NHLPA First Shift Program!

No hockey equipment? No hockey experience? No problem! Hockey Nova Scotia is excited to announce that registration for the 2023-24 NHL/NHLPA First Shift is open, and we are inviting families across the province to join us on the ice this season. This initiative is all about ensuring a positive experience for newcomers to hockey, making it accessible, affordable, safe, and most importantly, fun!

The program is open to all Canadian children between the ages of 6 and 10 years old who have never previously been registered in the sport.

Affordable: We understand that the cost of entry into hockey can be intimidating for some families. The NHL/NHLPA First Shift program aims to change that by offering a low-cost entry program, making it easier than ever for kids to try out this exciting sport.

Accessible and Manageable: We want to make hockey accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or prior experience with the game. With manageable time commitments and a focus on fun and learning, the First Shift program is perfect for beginners.

Safety First: Safety is our top priority. We remove any potential safety concerns by providing expert equipment fitting demonstrations and distribution of Bauer equipment from head to toe, ensuring that every child is well-prepared for the ice.

Fun, Fun, Fun: Above all, the First Shift program is designed to be fun! Our goal is to help your kids fall in love with hockey and create lasting memories on the ice.

Program Details Here's what you can expect when you register for the NHL/NHLPA First Shift program in Nova Scotia:

Registration Fee: The participant registration fee for this incredible program is \$299, which includes the full set of Bauer equipment, a welcome event, equipment fitting demonstrations, expert fit sessions, and equipment distribution.

On-Ice Experience: Participants will enjoy six weeks of on-ice sessions, with one session per week, each lasting an hour. These sessions provide a balance of fun and learning, and participants are covered by insurance.

Hockey Canada On-Ice Curriculum: Hockey Canada has developed a curriculum that focuses on small area games and skills stations. This curriculum covers a wide range of skating skills, puck handling, passing, and shooting exercises. Participants will also explore the sport through various basic motor movement patterns and enjoy fun games that provide a full range of hockey experiences. Our instructors are committed to building confidence and skill through praise and encouragement.

Join Us Today!

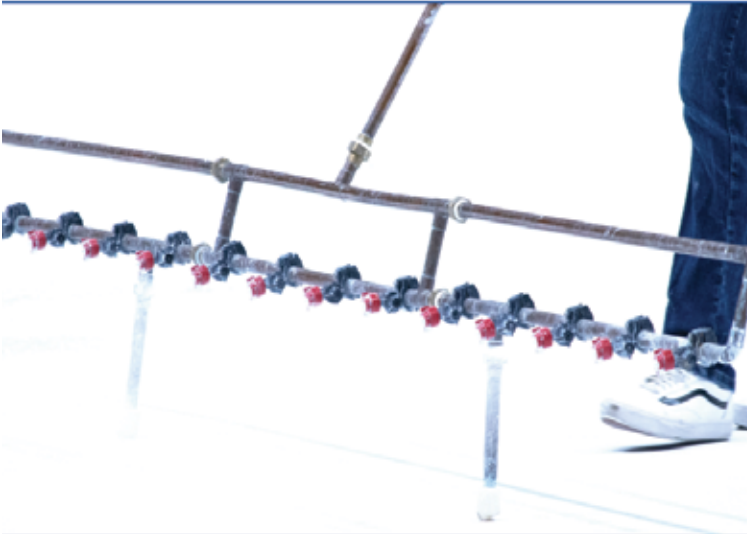
Are you ready to experience hockey this year? There are still spots available in **First Shift** programs hosted by the following associations:

- Pictou County Minor Hockey Association**
- Fundy Highland Female Hockey Association**
- Cape Breton Blizzard Female Hockey Association**
- Sydney Minor Hockey Association**
- Cole Harbour Bel Ayr Minor Hockey Association**
- Metro East Inferno Female Hockey Association**

To register or find more information about programs in Nova Scotia, please <https://www.firstshift.ca/locations/ns/>.

The **NHL/NHLPA First Shift** program can be the gateway to your new hockey journey this year. Get introduced to the sport with us this season!

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THE NEW HALIFAX COMMON AQUATIC FACILITY

Contributed by HRM/Ryan Nearing — Public Affairs Adviser, Corporate Communication Chief Administrative Office



In early July of this year, the Halifax Regional Municipality officially opened the Halifax Commons Aquatics Facility.

The Facility is part of the **Halifax Common Master Plan** – which guides the future use of one of the municipality’s premiere public spaces. The **Halifax Commons** – a dynamic, public space centrally located on the Halifax Peninsula – offers a unique sense of place and community identity while also providing spaces for recreation and leisure, social gatherings and celebrations, connection to the outdoors, and ties to history.

The Halifax Commons Aquatics Facility features the following amenities:

- a 13,500 square foot pool with capacity for 300 swimmers;
- a barrier-free lift to allow safe access for users of all abilities;
- roped-off swimming lanes for lap swimmers and aquatic climbing walls;
- a multi-purpose room and kitchenette, which will operate as a year-round recreation venue with a capacity of up to 75 people offering live music, community celebrations, meetings, and other programming;
- a modular stage;
- universal washrooms and change rooms; and
- public washrooms open to all park users.

Access to lane swimming and open swims is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional programming, including swimming lessons, rentals, and aquatics sports, are available with a fee.

During the operational season, swim times can be found on our website. www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation

The energy consumption at the facility is supplemented by a rooftop solar electric system. This aligns with *HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together* – the municipality’s climate action plan with a goal to achieve net-zero municipal operations by 2030.

The Facility now joins an extensive list of supervised beaches, outdoor pools, and splash pads throughout the Halifax region.

The Facility will also contribute to the municipality’s **aquatics programming**, which features many levels of swimming lessons for all ages and abilities – including aquacise and aquafit arthritis therapy, pre-school swim classes, instructor and lifeguard training programs, the Lifesaving Society’s Swim for Life program, and speciality courses in first aid and junior lifeguard training.

In the coming years, the municipality will be offering additional programming – including Masters’ swimming and waterpolo.

Capital funding for the Halifax Commons Aquatics Facility was approved by Halifax Regional Council in October 2021 and the project has been delivered on-time and on-budget. Additional funding was also provided by the Province of Nova Scotia through the **Canada Community Building Fund**.

Work continues at and around the Facility. In July 2022, the municipality sought public art proposals for a piece that will be integrated in the Facility and that work will begin in the coming months. And this past spring, Halifax Regional Council approved funding for a larger playground.

In addition to the Halifax Commons Aquatic Facility, the Halifax Commons includes the **Emera Oval** – the largest outdoor, artificially refrigerated ice surface east of Quebec – as well as tennis courts, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, and plenty of green space for residents to enjoy.

The Halifax Commons Aquatics Facility offers a significant enhancement for urban aquatics, recreational plan, entertainment – and serves as an outdoor oasis for residents to enjoy. For more information on the Halifax Commons Aquatics Facility, visit www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/programs-activities/swimming/supervised-beaches-outdoor-pools-splash-pads/halifax



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Most public pools are below grade and constructed of form-poured, steel-reinforced concrete or Gunitite over a grid of reinforcing steel.

Regardless of the pool mechanical design, winter conditions can cause severe damage to tank interior finishes (paint, grout, plaster, liners, tile bands, coping stone) and any water or moisture left inside pipes can freeze and split them as well as valves and fittings, pump casings, hair strainers, or pressure filter tanks if the water or moisture is within the frost line. Pipe and fitting rupture under concrete and steel decking or beneath several inches of thick concrete at the pool's deep end can be very expensive to repair.

Moisture in the soil and fill around a pool and under the decking when frozen can produce sufficient forces to collapse the pool walls and lift the pool bottom. Once a floor deflects or a wall shifts, the pool tank integrity is lost forever.

For each month of below zero weather, the frost will penetrate deeper into the ground and in some areas of the country can penetrate up to six feet in depth; indeed, in the far north there is permafrost as insufficient warm degree days occur in sequence to remove the frost from the depths. However, across most of the larger inhabited areas of Canada late October to mid-November is a three-week window of fluctuating temperatures when leaves have all fallen yet nature's pool cover - I C E - has not yet formed permanently to close off the dirt and debris that entered the water since the typical Labour Day end-of-season. The fact that ice does not form until late December in many jurisdictions suggests that summer parks crews or full time arena staff might well be available to properly clean up the pool interior by raking out leaves, air blowing and drying pipe lines and removing metering pumps, feeders and gauges to heated winter storage locations. Plastic pipe and lines can shrink or expand as much as six inches per 100 lineal feet over a seasonal temperature ranges which clearly dictates using flex couplings or trenches to allow some movement to occur without shearing off wall inlet stubs or cracking drain fittings.

Once pool water is properly balanced for user comfort and protection of the components of the pool and recirculation system, the disinfection, filtration and chemical feed systems deal with the introduced contaminants brought into the pool by bathers, wind, rain, or vandals. When a pool is topped up in the spring or fall, the water can be considered to be in a state of equilibrium and does not require any chemical treatment once balanced with buffers. It is only air laden with bacteria, spores, leaves, grass, dust or vandals tossing in debris that can require adjustment of the "water chemistry".

WINTERIZING ABOVE DECK LEVEL

Remove and store inside a change room all ladders; guard chairs, ring buoys, reach poles, float lines, flume ride entry and exit sections, station posts, drinking fountains, and loose play equipment. Diving boards should always be stored on their edge, never flat or used as a shelf to store other equipment. Metal or wooden boards and diving platforms can warp if not placed on their edge for the winter.

Sink "U" traps should be removed and toilets and urinals fully drained, and cleaned, then removed and turned upside down or on their sides. Alternatively, ethylene glycol can be poured into all sinks, toilets and shower or deck drains to fill the traps after all water has been removed from them. The owner will need to decide whether the cost of labour to carry out the removal process, or the cost of the glycol required to protect the plumbing is more financially viable.

Hose bibs should be fully opened or removed as should all shower and tap fixtures after draining and isolating all water lines in unheated buildings. Water meters, vacuum and pressure gauges, thermometers, flow meters, drain plugs; should all be removed, thoroughly de-watered and the threads greased or coated with two laps of Teflon tape in late fall. Wedge anchors, deck anchors, cup anchors and starting platform sleeves; should be packed with expanded polystyrene or newsprint packing wads.

Metering pumps, chemical controllers, test kits, first aid kits, SCBA, ventilators and any other obviously temperature sensitive equipment should be taken off site and kept in heated and secure storage. An ideal situation occurs when such equipment can be stored in an area where servicing in preparation for next year's season can be carried out.

Chemical control electrodes must remain moist at all times. pH and O.R.P. probes should be taken in sealed transparent vials with KCl or balanced water in them to a warm storage area for the winter months. Should the membrane or wick area be allowed to dry, the electrode gel might seep out or expand and rupture the bulb end. At several hundred dollars each, these probes should be taken care of properly. Even finger greases or oils can permanently damage their sensitivity thus the "O" ring sealed storage bottles must be used over the winter.

P.A. systems, phones, vending machines, computers and any other equipment that would attract vandalism or theft should also be taken to central stores during the off season; as well as surplus chemicals and paints.

DECK LEVEL WINTERIZING

Skimmers require particular care. Leaf baskets should be removed and stored indoors. Weirs can be removed and stored as well. Fall is an excellent time to order replacement weirs and hinges as well as new lids and baskets. In fact, all pool equipment parts that show evidence of wear in the fall should be re-stocked prior to the New Year as pool supply houses are very busy in the spring. The trim valves and float valves that are a part of the skimmer should be removed and stored as well.

Ice provides a natural pool cover after all debris has been removed from the pool through diligent cleaning and one last vacuuming of the sides and bottom. The result of thorough cleaning and preparation in the fall will result in cost savings in the spring when it may not even be necessary to drain the pool for scrubbing or painting.

The use of airbags, water bubblers, logs, styrofoam panels, old tires, used telephone or hydro poles, empty oil drums and other junk to prevent outward ice pressure against pool walls is a concept without merit unless the pool walls slope inward. In this instance, the ice could jam upward with such force that an explosion-like noise as the ice or pool walls fracture might disturb the neighbours. Upward ice movement will also knock off steps, break ladders and lift coping stone slabs. Underwater lights and speakers will also be damaged by ice movement. But the ice pressure is needed to counteract the inward pressures of frozen backfill and soil around the pool walls. Most outdoor pools avoid this damage by virtue of proper design in the first instance.

While there is a snow to water ratio of 7:1 (seven inches of snow is approximately equal to one inch of rain), drifting snow and sleet, winter rainfall and hail can contribute to fill up the pool over 5 to 7 months inattention. Most outdoor pool operators tend to lower the water one half meter or more after blowing and sealing the lines and fittings. But remember when dumping the water from a public pool in some areas of Ontario, there may be local bylaws that require the water to be released to storm sewer systems rather than the sanitary systems. At any rate, it can be considered common courtesy to contact the operators of the municipal waste water treatment systems and advise them of the volume of water

you intend to dump, and what concentrations of chemicals it contains. This might also be a consideration when you plan on re-filling in the spring; contact the water treatment plant to let them know you're going to be using a considerable volume of water in the next day or so.

Outdoor pools with liners should remain filled during winter months. An empty liner pool can actually blow away by virtue of the venturi effect of strong cross winds.

BELOW DECK WINTERIZING

Outdoor pools with liners should remain filled during winter months. An empty liner pool can actually blow away by virtue of the venturi effect of strong cross winds. Your nice community pool could thus really become a total community pool as it travels about the neighbourhood courtesy of the winter storms and winds if it is fully drained at the end of the season. Wall inlet lines must be blown dry with nitrogen or air. Shop Vacs with discharge blower connections will provide sufficient airflow to dry the lines; it's volume, not pressure that is required. It may take several hours per line to fully dry out the system. Once dried, cap off the lines with threaded ABS plastic plugs using Teflon tape to seal the threads.

Heaters, boilers, heat exchangers, recirculation pumps, lint traps, filter tanks, pump volutes; all have frost or drain plugs located at the lowest level of the unit. These plugs must be removed, greased and can be re-taped with Teflon, while allowing the unit to drain out completely. Pump seals, motor bearings and filter anodes should be

serviced or if necessary, replaced in the fall. Spring start up time is the worst season of the year to seek pool parts and service. Late fall is the best when prices are lower and staff well trained by summer's experience.

The most critical and expensive problematic devices in outdoor pool winterizing are the deep end drains. Whenever the drain sumps are more than 3.0 meters below deck level or 2.0 meters below wall inlets, it is usually not necessary to winterize the drains as the frost level will not freeze the water this deep. However, if the pool should suddenly lose water in mid-winter, the water in the sumps could freeze and expand thus fracturing the pipe connections as well as breaking off hydrostat fittings. At some pools, the bottom was fully covered with bales of straw to prevent frost action, but spring cleanup was very messy and costly.

In pools with less than 1.5 meters of water cover, it is wise to drain the pool in late fall, blow dry the drain lines and install expandable rubber test plugs to seal off the lines completely once dry. Of course pool drain fittings or pipe larger than 3.0 inches in diameter are not usually threaded on the inside surface so these special plumber's test plugs are required. Once the drain lines are dried and sealed, the pool should be re-filled to just below the side wall inlet fittings. When re-filling, the fresh water should be close to the pool tank temperature to avoid thermal shock to the structure and coatings. This process is costly and time consuming but to neglect this important step can result in loss of the drain system eventually and unnecessary huge expenses to install new side drains or cut open the main pool floor slab to replace split drain pipe and fractured drain sump pits.

As the weight of a pool full of water to operating level weighs less than the ground excavated for its construction, pools tend to float in the soil as geologists tell us it behaves as a fluid. One who doubts this can try floating a soup bowl in a pan of water by adding water into the bowl to see if it will sink.

Gases, air, water, ground water, wells, rainfall, washouts under deck, moisture laden clay soils can all contribute to the floating of a concrete pool. Once a pool does lift or shift, it is usually impossible to have it return to the correct location and attitude or level. To help minimize the problem of this phenomena, 6", 4", 2" or 1 1/2" inside diameter hydrostatic relief valves are installed through the bottom of each main drain sump pit. These valves are not unlike the concept of a sink stopper. They connect to a perforated pipe or well point that goes well into the sub-soil and are surrounded by a filter fabric material and crusher run washed clear gravel at least 3/4" in size. Should pressure develop outside the pool shell that exceeds the weight of water in the pool, the valve cap will open to allow the gases or fluids into the pool. Sand, stones or grit can lodge under the gasket or around the "O" ring of this valve and face plate such that when the pressure is equalized, water seeps out of the pool and may wash out the fill under the pool floor creating an even greater problem. In effect, there is now a hole in the ground under the bottom of the pool.

Many pool operators replace the hydrostatic valve "O" rings or gaskets each year to ensure a tight fit or waterproof seal and thus reduce loss of water during the operating season.

Once the systems are down for the winter, the motor control centre should be de-energized at the fuse or breaker panel having fuses removed and locking out disconnect switches such that motors cannot be inadvertently started which would burn out seals and shafts as no cooling water is in the lines.

PREPARING FOR RE-OPENING

By carefully reversing all of the preceding actions, the pool can be placed into operation in spring rather quickly. Remember to make application to the local health unit well in advance of opening day to ensure you have received written permission to open.

Water temperature must be monitored if filling a pool quickly by fire hoses or other rapid means. Thermal shock can cause cracking of pool tanks or at least pop out any caulking or waterstop that is not properly placed. Replacement of any major components with other than identical model and size could result in a full compliance order to meet current Regulations for Class "A" and Class "B" pools which again might prove to be extremely costly.

Winterizing and summarizing public pools properly requires check lists and directives based on competent and logical experience which varies greatly from pool to pool and community to community. Having stated the above, it is not always in the best community interest to have students who have had a long hot summer's work experience rush about on labour day weekend to close a pool and get to the college or school frosh party on time leaving the outdoor pools in a manner that might result in long term mechanical or structural permanent damage. Don't just turn out the lights and lock the door. When you return next spring, the pool just might not hold water!

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IS YOUR RECREATION FACILITY WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE?

Contributed by RFANS

Does your facility have a culture that respects individual difference and enables the people we support and the people we work with to be their authentic self and fulfill their potential? Recreation facilities play a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community, promoting physical and mental well-being, and socialization. To truly serve their purpose, these spaces must be welcoming and inclusive to all individuals, regardless of their background, abilities, or circumstances. Creating an inclusive recreation facility is not only a matter of accessibility but also a commitment to creating an environment where everyone feels comfortable, respected, and valued. In this article, we will explore the key indicators of a welcoming and inclusive recreation facility.

1. Accessibility

Accessibility is the foundation of inclusivity. A welcoming recreation facility should be physically accessible to individuals with disabilities. This includes features such as ramps, wide doorways, accessible parking spaces, and elevators or lifts where needed. Accessible restrooms and changing facilities are also crucial. Moreover, signage and wayfinding should be clear and easy to understand for all, including those with visual or cognitive impairments.

2. Diverse Programming

An inclusive recreation facility offers a diverse range of programs and activities that cater to people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. This may include adaptive sports, cultural events, fitness classes, and recreational activities designed to accommodate various skill levels and interests. The facility should actively seek input from the community to ensure programming reflects the needs and interests of its users.

3. Staff Training and Sensitivity

Employees and staff members should undergo training on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This training should encompass understanding different cultures, respecting individual identities, and addressing unconscious biases. Staff should be sensitive to the unique needs of all visitors and provide assistance or accommodations when necessary.



4. Inclusive Policies

Inclusive recreation facilities should have clearly defined policies that reflect their commitment to diversity and inclusion. This may include policies against discrimination, harassment, or bullying, as well as protocols for handling complaints or concerns in a respectful and confidential manner. Visitors should feel safe reporting any incidents or issues they encounter.

5. Affordable Options

Financial barriers can limit access to recreation facilities for some individuals and families. Therefore, a welcoming and inclusive facility should offer affordable membership options, scholarships, or sliding-scale fees to ensure that everyone in the community can participate.

6. Cultural Competence

Understanding and respecting the diverse cultures within the community is essential. Recreation facilities should celebrate cultural diversity by hosting events, displays, or exhibits that showcase the traditions and heritage of different groups. Moreover, staff should be culturally competent and sensitive to the needs of individuals from various cultural backgrounds.

7. Gender-Neutral Facilities

To be truly inclusive, recreation facilities should provide gender-neutral restrooms and changing areas. This not only accommodates individuals who identify as non-binary or transgender but also makes it easier for parents or caregivers of different genders to assist children or dependents.



8. Welcoming Spaces

The physical environment of the facility should be designed to be inviting and comfortable for all. This includes creating spaces where people can socialize, relax, or simply enjoy the surroundings. Comfortable seating, green spaces, and natural lighting can contribute to a welcoming atmosphere.

9. Communication and Outreach

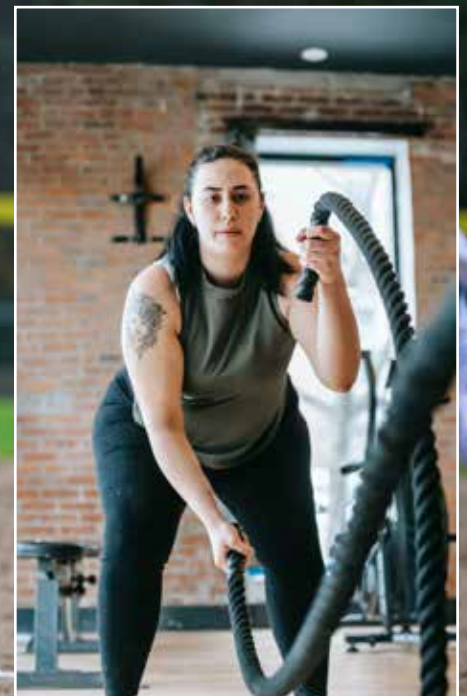
Effective communication is key to ensuring that all members of the community are aware of the recreation facility's offerings and events. Outreach efforts should reach diverse communities, including those who may face barriers to participation. This may involve multilingual materials, accessible websites, and partnerships with local organizations.

10. Feedback Mechanisms

A welcoming and inclusive recreation facility actively seeks feedback from its users. Regular surveys, suggestion boxes, and open forums provide opportunities for visitors to share their experiences and offer suggestions for improvement. This feedback can inform changes and enhancements to the facility's inclusivity efforts.



In conclusion, a welcoming and inclusive recreation facility goes beyond physical accessibility. It is a place where diversity is celebrated, where everyone is respected, and where individuals from all walks of life can come together to enjoy the benefits of recreation and community engagement. By prioritizing accessibility, diversity, and cultural sensitivity, these facilities become valuable assets that contribute to the well-being and social cohesion of the communities they serve.



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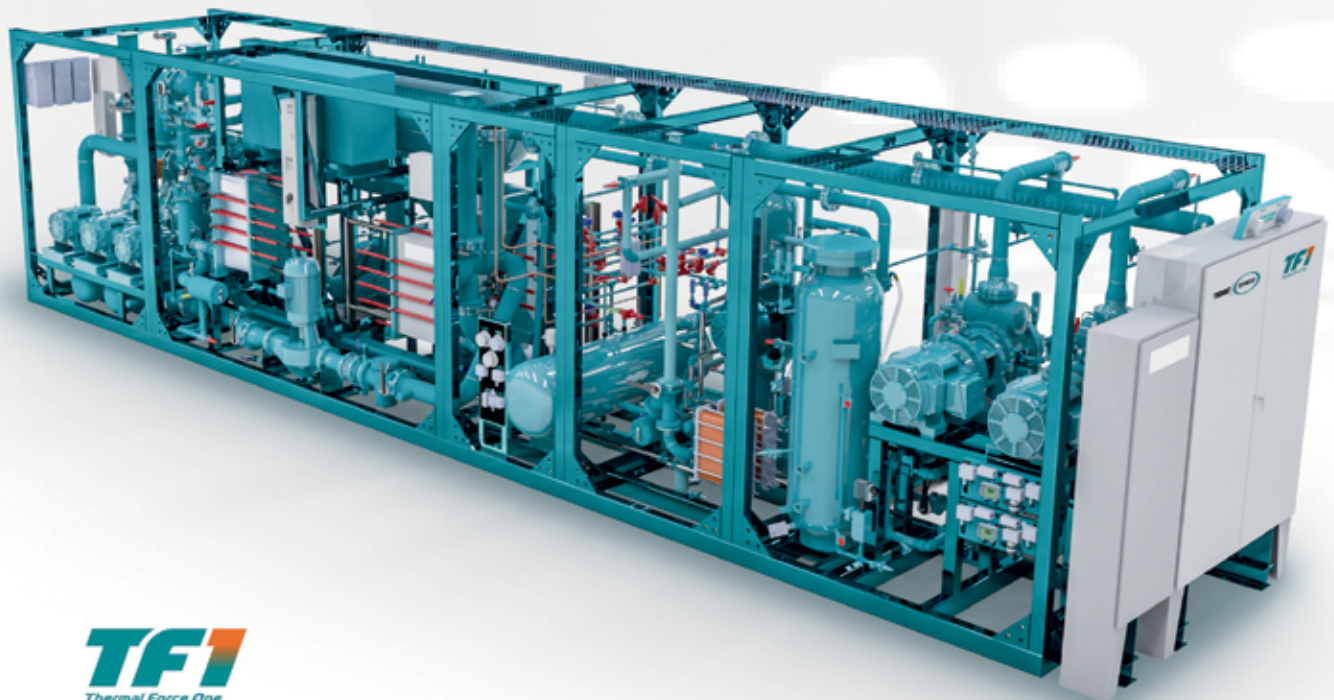
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