



OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

670 – 2nd Avenue ~ Box 520
Rivers, Manitoba ~ R0K 1X0

Telephone: 204-328-5300 ~ Fax: 204-328-5374

Email: cao@riverdalemb.ca
website: www.riversdaly.ca

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RE: Riverdale Community Centre – Plant Update

It's been a challenging start to the ice season at the Riverdale Community Centre, and as we face another unfortunate delay in starting up, we want to share some information with you about why it's taken longer than usual to get our ice installed.

Over the course of last season, the refrigeration system experienced several operational challenges that resulted in periods of downtime. Inspection identified issues with the pumps, brine, and suspected corrosion throughout the system. The corrosion and improperly sized pumps reduced the chiller's operating ability to about 5% of its designed capacity.

In response, the Municipality planned an overall refresh of the refrigeration plant to address known deficiencies, improve reliability, and support the continued operation of the system. This work started in May with the anticipated completion date of September 1st. Although the work continued to progress through the summer months, we did experience delays due to lead time on some parts and materials as well as schedule coordination of many contractors required to complete the different items under the scope of work.

The scope of work included:

- Main Pump Replacement: Complete the required engineering to properly size a replacement main pump to match the demands of the chiller and filtration system. The existing pump is in poor condition, and the final pump requirements may need to be confirmed based on the final system configuration.
- Ice Sheet Pumps: Overhaul both ice sheet circulation pumps.
- Trane Chiller: Clean the Trane chiller, test tubing, and reconstruct heads.
- Instrumentation: Install improved instrumentation, including pressure gauges and temperature indicators, to provide better monitoring of system operation.
- Pump Bases: Repair or replace deteriorated pump bases that have become corroded and compromised.
- Brine System: Completed Brine Chemistry and replaced the entirety of the Brine in the circulatory system.

These improvements were intended to address existing equipment concerns and improve the overall reliability, monitoring, and operation of the refrigeration plant.

On Saturday, after all of the parts had been replaced, and tested, we attempted to start up the chiller, and to everyone's disappointment, there was an electric fault.

On Sunday, a technician came out to the arena from Winnipeg, and diagnosed the issue, and is returning today with the necessary parts to repair the fault, and attempt another start-up of the unit.

We can appreciate that this is frustrating for the community who have been looking forward to getting on the ice. We have been looking forward to welcoming our hockey teams, skaters, and curlers back in to the rink.

We will post updates as this process continues and hopefully be sharing some good news following today's service of the brine chiller.

Marci Quane, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
p. 204-328-5300
f. 204-328-5374
www.riversdaly.ca