

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Polar vortex hits South Cowichan - CVRD Participates in Innovative Energy Efficient Ice Resurfacing Pilot Project with FortisBC**

**Cowichan Valley, BC:** Over the past 4 months, the CVRD Island Savings Centre and Kerry Park Recreation Centre have been busy testing an innovative ice making technology called REALice that promises to reduce the electrical and gas energy used in making arena ice.

The traditional ice resurfacing process still used in many places around the world involves pre-heating the resurfacing water to remove micro air bubbles so that the water will freeze harder and stronger. REALice technology achieves the same result but through a different process. Instead of applying heat to remove air bubbles, the water is spun in a vortex like a whirlpool or tornado, forcing any entrained air bubbles to be sucked out of the water. The beauty of this process is that it requires no moving parts or heat; it simply relies on water pressure and uses ambient temperature water. **No more heating water to make great ice!**

Considering that ice resurfacing occurs up to 2,400 times per season with over 400L each session, the ability to switch to cold water offers big potential energy savings. In addition, resurfacing with cold water offers additional benefits including less work on the refrigeration plant to freeze the water, higher brine temperatures and less energy required to dehumidify the arena. Add these all together and the energy reductions in gas and electrical use is estimated to be 351GJ and 57,000 kWh respectively. This translates into over **\$8,000 in savings annually at each arena and a reduction of 35 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, all while producing world class ice at a professional level.**

On February 21, 2014, the pilot project completed after an 8 week trial with both CVRD arenas reporting resounding success. Ice at both facilities has been reported to be clear, hard, and strong – maintaining the high standards of the operators and receiving no complaints from any of the user groups including the Cowichan Capitals and Kerry Park Islanders.

Brad Coleman, Facility Operations Coordinator for the Island Savings Centre noted “I was a sceptic at first as it goes against all we are taught as icemakers using cold water only. After switching and witnessing results first hand and listening to user comments, I’m now convinced that this technology is the right choice for us!”

Tony Liddle, Facility Operations Coordinator at Kerry Park Recreation Centre added, “Our staff and users are completely satisfied with the switch, in fact if we hadn’t told users about it they wouldn’t even have noticed the change. On top of that, we are already seeing reductions in our gas and electricity usage.”

The CVRD would like to thank Watreco Sweden and Swich Services for the product, coordination, and technical support and FortisBC for funding the pilot project and providing innovative mechanisms to advance energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact in BC.

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