

The Township of Brock

REALice Pilot Program



Description

REALice Pilot Program and introduction of new Electric Ice Resurfacer at Foster Hewitt Memorial Community Centre

In September 2022, Council approved the REALice pilot program at Foster Hewitt Memorial Community Centre for the 2023/2024 ice season. The REALice pilot aims to achieve significant cost savings and lower GHG emissions. The REALice system utilizes mechanical technology with no moving parts to achieve the elimination of microbubbles from cold water. Historically, water had to be heated to make and maintain ice.

Brock Township's first electric ice resurfacing unit from Zamboni eliminates propane use, reduces CO emissions, and minimizes the need for air exchanges and dehumidification in the arena. Monitoring electric and natural gas consumption alongside the REALice system installation in the 2023/2024 ice season aims to identify potential savings.

This facility has also received new high efficiency gas boilers and a domestic hot water system using the boilers for hot water to reduce duplication of heating water. This provides more efficient heating for the lobby and dressing room areas. Embracing innovative technologies will help the Township offset expenses through fuel and maintenance savings.

Progress to date

The REALice system was installed in September 2023 and has been used for the creation of the ice surface and standard ice maintenance, showcasing progress towards the desired environmental and operational benefits at Foster Hewitt Memorial Community Centre.

Desired outcomes



The REALice pilot aims to achieve significant cost savings and lower GHG emissions. Potential savings of \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually have been suggested. This will be fully determined after the pilot year.



Additionally, between 25 and 30 tonnes of CO2 emissions would be saved annually, with reductions in Natural Gas usage. This reduction should effectively decrease the carbon footprint for this facility.



The introduction of the first electric ice resurfacing machine in the Township of Brock

