

We're excited to bring you the latest on our efforts to secure a new ice plant for the Oxbow Arena! This journey toward a more sustainable and efficient facility is well underway; thanks to the dedication and support of our incredible community, \$529,869 has been raised toward the total goal.

## CURRENT ICE PLANT UPDATE

Our existing ice plant is operational for this busy season of hockey, curling, figure skating, and community events. To keep everything running smoothly, we've partnered with Cimco for expert maintenance, which will help extend the equipment's life as we work toward securing a new plant.

Though the system is holding up for now, it's nearing the end of its operational life. Careful maintenance and monitoring will help maximize its lifespan, giving us time to raise funds needed for a new system without service interruptions.

## WHY AN AMMONIA ICE PLANT?

After extensive research, an ammonia-based system is recommended as the best choice for our community. This plant would be built on skids and housed in a shipping container, making it portable and adaptable for use in a future arena.

- **Regulatory Compliance:** The Canadian government is phasing out Freon due to its environmental impact, making ammonia the most future-proof choice. An ammonia system will ensure our rink meets regulatory standards for years to come.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Ammonia systems are highly energy efficient. Facilities using ammonia average around \$2,200 per month in energy costs compared to \$6,500 with Freon. By choosing ammonia, we can ensure a more affordable ice season for all.
- **Safety:** Ammonia, while toxic at high levels, has a distinct smell, allowing for quick leak detection. Properly maintained ammonia systems have a strong record of safe operation, which will be supported by building and operational upgrades to meet the highest safety standards.
- **Longevity and Reliability:** Ammonia systems are known to last for decades with proper maintenance, Freon systems operate more frequently due to lower efficiency, leading to shorter lifespans and greater wear on equipment.
- **Cost and Funding Availability:** Ammonia systems have a higher upfront cost (about \$900,000, including installation and a C-can - for future portability), but they are eligible for various grants and have lower ongoing costs. Freon systems have lower initial costs (around \$500,000) but are less efficient and have limited grant support.

# ICE PLANT

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

# UPDATE

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES

We're thrilled to share that we've secured a \$147,000 grant from the Green Municipal Fund's Community Building Retrofit program, covering 80% of the cost for a comprehensive Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction study. This study will support sustainable practices at the Arena, Memorial Hall, and Swimming Pool, aiming for a 50% reduction in GHG emissions within ten years and an 80% reduction over twenty years. This feasibility study is also one of the requirements for future federal funding.

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Figure Skating Club and Oxbow Minor Hockey are working hard to organize fundraising events.

Current fundraisers include:

**Skate-A-Thon** on November 17th Join us for a fun day on the ice and support the new ice plant. Happening from 12 pm-5 pm on November 17! Contact Anne if you have any questions about supporting this great event at 306-485-9176. Go to <https://oxbow.ca/p/ice-plant-replacement-fundraisers> for pledge sheets and all the information.

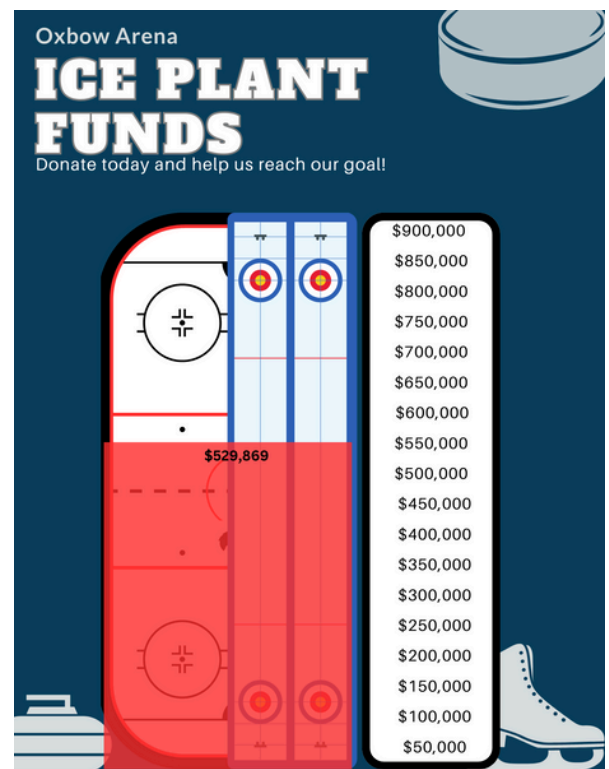
To donate, please make a cheque payable to Oxbow & District Recreation Board Inc. or send an e-transfer to [oxbowrecboard@gmail.com](mailto:oxbowrecboard@gmail.com) (specify "Ice Plant" in the memo). Donations can also be dropped off at the Town Office. Charitable tax receipts are available upon request.

## LOOKING AHEAD

With the new plant estimated to take 7-9 months to install, reaching our fundraising target as quickly as possible is essential. Once we place the order, additional grant applications won't be possible, so every donation counts as we work toward a sustainable future for the Oxbow Arena.

Choosing an ammonia-based plant aligns with our commitment to sustainability, operational efficiency, and reduced emissions, bringing us closer to a greener, more resilient community.

We are grateful for support from local companies, organizations, RM's and municipalities. Your donations are critical to meeting our funding goals, which will reduce our reliance on loans and keep operating costs manageable. We would not be where we are today without you!



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!  
TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING A RINK AND A COMMUNITY LEGACY THAT WILL SERVE  
GENERATIONS TO COME.**