

Outdoor Ice Hockey Rink Ideal Demonstration Venue for Fort Frances Power's Light Conversion Program

Winter sports are an important part of community life in Fort Frances. In particular, ice skating and hockey are popular pastimes. That's why when Fort Frances Power was developing its Conservation and Demand Management plan, they knew that a lighting conversion demonstration project would draw a lot of attention if it were located in a high-profile and well-used venue, such as the local outdoor hockey rink.



The Outdoor Rink Light Conversion program was initiated in 2006 as a demonstration program to educate customers (particularly commercial customers who might be considering industrial outdoor lighting options) and to create awareness of the energy savings that can be achieved by replacing inefficient halogen quartz floodlights with high efficiency High Pressure Sodium (HPS) fixtures. The 1500W halogen lights were discarded and the rink was retrofitted with eight 400W HPS lamps.

The eight new HPS lamps are expected to realize electricity savings of approximately \$640 annually.

HPS lamps produce considerably higher mean lumen per watt which means the lamps require less wattage for the same light exposure and need to be replaced far less frequently. The new fixtures consume 75% less energy and the bulb life is good for up to 15 years, versus the 2-year life cycle of a halogen bulb. The light produced has far less glare than traditional lamps and contains less than half of the mercury of other floodlight alternatives. Energy

efficient, cost effective, and good for the environment - three excellent reasons for the utility's lamp replacement project.

For those commercial entities looking to retrofit lighting systems to more energy efficient alternatives, Fort Frances Power will offer incentives this fall through the OPA Business Incentive Program which has been designed to encourage energy-efficiency improvements for business customers.

Fort Frances Power has taken the approach to educate and create customer awareness towards energy conservation. As a smaller local distribution company, the utility has continued to focus its limited resources on an appropriate mix of CDM initiatives that will provide the most benefit to all customers. The CDM plan includes, among other activities: energy conservation public communications sessions, a CFL light promotion program; a LED traffic light conversion program; and a distribution system improvements initiative. ■

Fort Frances Power Corporation (FFPC) distributes electric power to the Town of Fort Frances, Ontario. The Town is located approximately 300 km west of Thunder Bay, Ontario, approximately 250 km east of the Manitoba Border and is adjacent to the Town of International Falls, Minnesota. FFPC provides electrical service within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Fort Frances to approximately 3,900 customers.

