



OUR FEATURED FACILITY – the ENERPLEX

Spring 2010

By Debbie Callison & Steve McLain, Fort St. John Recreation Department

The **ENERPLEX**, located in Fort St. John, British Columbia, opened its doors on September 16, 2009. This state-of-the-art recreation facility is owned and operated by the City of Fort St. John and is located in a highly developed commercial district at the corner of 96th Street and 96th Avenue – two major thoroughfares within the city.

The Enerplex compliments the City’s existing recreation infrastructure as it is located adjacent to the Curling Club, North Peace Arena, North Peace Leisure Pool, and Centennial Park (which includes water spray and skateboard features). It is in easy walking distance to the North Peace Secondary School, various primary schools, daycares, and community parks.



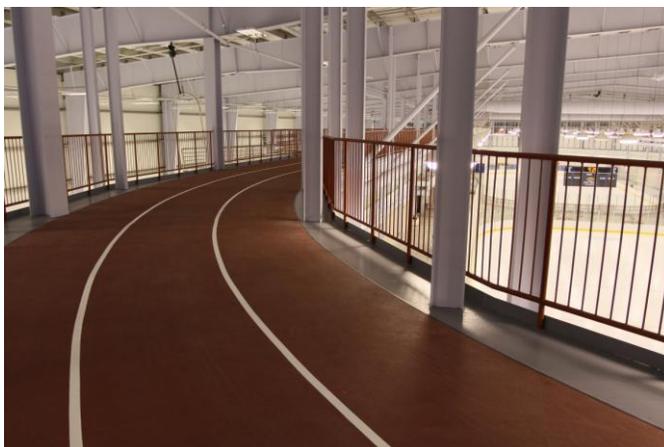
The Enerplex facility has been designed to create a lasting legacy that will shape the future of the Energetic City for years to come. It will be a centre of excellence for sports, promote community and personal wellness, and provide an attractive venue for events appealing to a wide range of interests.

The facility can accommodate many types of programming. The **FIRST FLOOR** is home to two NHL-sized rinks complete with protective netting and spectator seating. Removal of the ice surfaces and boards creates over 80,000 square feet of usable event space, in addition to the dressing rooms, concession, meeting rooms, plus ample space for mechanical and operations rooms.

The **SECOND FLOOR** features a 400 metre speed skating oval, one of only three indoor Olympic sized long tracks in North America. There is locker space and a concession located on the second level,. Supported by a concrete base, this level features another 60,000 square feet.



The **THIRD FLOOR** features a three lane walking track for use year round. The Northern Vac Track is 380 metres in length and features a rubberized running surface. This facility, sponsored by Northern Vac Services will provide community members with a free indoor walking area throughout the whole year.



Stairs and an elevator to the three levels make the facility completely accessible for all!

About the Building

The City has taken many measures to improve our environmental operation of the Enerplex. The exterior building panels are rated very high in efficiency and will assist in reducing our carbon footprint. All of the electrical motors are designed with energy conservation pony motors and variable speed drives are utilized through-out the refrigeration plant. As well, the horizontal fan condensers are on variable fan drive system to further aid in electrical efficiency. The entire facility employs a computerized building control to help control and minimize our energy consumption. The lighting system makes use of T5 energy efficient light bulbs arrayed in a zone system; all of which are motion sensed. The washrooms have low flow toilets and urinals, and in addition, the urinals and sinks are motion sensor triggered.



The refrigeration plant also boasts a redundancy factor and design provisions that would allow the Enerplex to tie into, and refrigerate, the neighboring ice facilities if needed in the future. Additionally, the Enerplex has the ability to capture 75 percent of its waste heat which is used to heat the domestic hot water, spectator areas, and the snow melt pits.

The future plans for the parking lot have been designed to include generous green space and completion of this part of the project is slated for summer 2010.

The first ice season of our new facility is well underway. As can easily be imagined, our team of recreation professionals had a very steep learning curve to provide our patrons with top-notch quality ice and efficient programming. We have already hosted several competitions, and judging by the rave reviews from our users, Fort St. John will be able to provide a truly world class venue for many years to come.

