

Parks, Forestry & Recreation
Brenda Patterson, General Manager

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12 November, 2010

TO: Mayor David Miller and Members of Council

FROM: Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

CC: PFR Directors

RE: Update - Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks - Season Opening

As you are aware, 14 of the City's outdoor ice rinks were scheduled to open on November 20. However, making ice this time of year can be challenging, and due to a number of factors we have had to adjust our rink opening plans.

Warm weather conditions, bright sunshine and plant capacity are all factors which impact our ability to make ice at outdoor facilities. As a benchmark, we need daytime temperatures not to exceed 5 degrees centigrade and zero degrees at night to facilitate ice-making. In addition, days with overcast skies are best for building and maintaining ice for outdoor rinks. Compressors running during warmer conditions put refrigeration plants at risk which can lead to costly repairs.

In order to effectively schedule rink operations staff and keep our energy consumption levels and associated costs at acceptable levels we have had to delay the start up of the plants at the 14 rinks that were originally scheduled to open on November 20. Refrigeration plants will be started-up as soon as conditions permit, and we hope that we are able to commence operations at these 14 locations by November 27. We expect the remaining rinks will open as planned on December 4.

While this decision only reflects a one week delay, I know it will be disappointing for Toronto's many rink enthusiasts who are anxious to get out on the ice. However, with respect to responsible allocation and use of resources, this is the best course of action available to us, given the unseasonably warm and sunny weather conditions and the framework we operate in with respect to scheduling staff.

Information about the City's outdoor rinks is available by calling 311 or on the Parks web site at www.toronto.ca/parks

Please contact me anytime, if you have any questions or require additional information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Patterson".

Brenda Patterson
General Manager
Parks, Forestry and Recreation