

Thank you for your correspondence requesting the early opening of Dufferin Grove rink for Saturday November 20, 2010.

As you may be aware, making ice at this time of year can be challenging. Due to warm weather conditions, bright sunshine and physical plant capacity issues. These factors affect our ability to make ice at outdoor facilities and as a result we have had to adjust our rink opening plans.

As a benchmark, we require 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 for early open, on November 20. Refrigeration plants will be put into service as soon as conditions permit and we hope to be 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 understand 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

I hope you and your family enjoy the season.

Yours truly,

*Brenda Patterson
General Manager
Parks, Forestry and Recreation*