

Aitken center ice, one lump or two?

Since the completion of the Aitken University Centre (AUC), there have been numerous complaints about the ice quality. In addition there has been considerable speculation as to the ability of the AUC to produce a reasonable ice surface during an average summer day.

The ice making plant consists of an ammonia compressor, similar in principle to an ordinary

refrigerator and a system of pipes under the ice floor through which cold salt water is pumped.

Flooding the ice surface with water and turning on the cold brine produces, in theory, ice.

There are three main factors which affect the production of ice and its final quality. The most important one is the capacity of the compressor(s) to produce cold. This is measured in tons, an

archaic measurement referring to the energy necessary to freeze a ton of water at 32 degrees F.

The second major factor concerns ice thickness. If the ice is too thick, it simply cannot be frozen on the surface layer.

The third factor involves the number of times in a day in which the ice must be scraped and flooded to maintain a smooth ice surface. If this is done too often, it

is simply impossible to maintain hard ice, regardless of the capacity of the ice making plant.

The most comparable ice arenas in this part of the world are in Moncton and Halifax. Neither place reported any problems whatsoever with their ice surface.

The Moncton Coliseum, according to Manager Ron Babineau has an ice making capacity of 160 tons. He stated that "it is more

than adequate for the winter season in a heated building such as the Moncton arena "although it is out of the question to operate it in the summer."

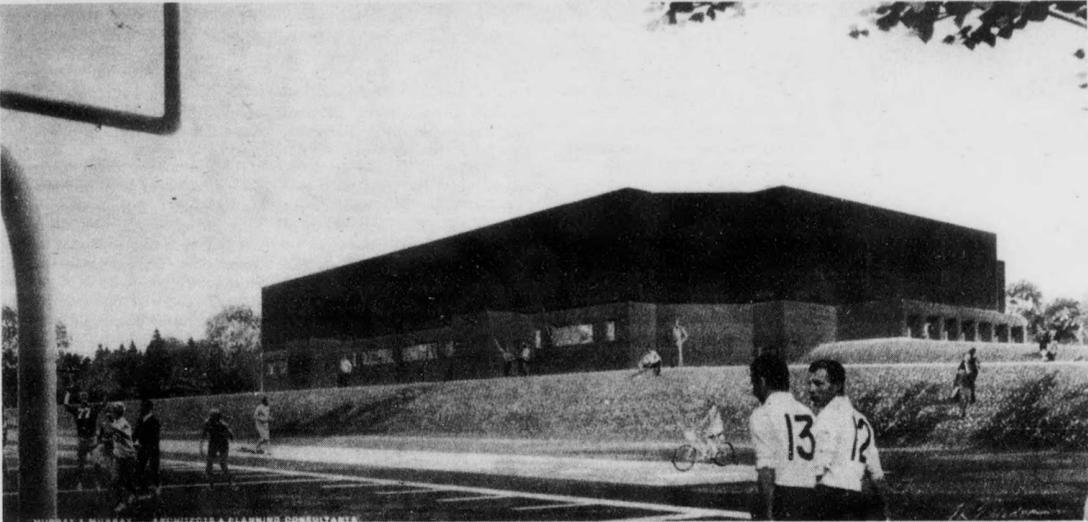
The Chief Engineer of the Halifax Forum stated that "the capacity of the Forum's ice making plant is 120 tons normal and up to 200 tons on standby." This ice plant operates two ice surfaces of about 30,000 sq ft in area. However, the main compressors are specially designed for 100 percent operation.

The AUC has an ice making plant of 115 tons. Adjusting for both area and volume, AUC has only 80 percent of the capacity of the Moncton arena.

Based on the main operational parameter, brine temperature, the AUC at least during the winter, should have an ice surface of equal quality to both Moncton and Halifax.

Problems with the ice surface this year therefore, can only be attributed to start-up problems, heavy scheduling and inexperienced staff. All of these problems will be corrected with time, according to Manager Roy Lutes of the AUC.

According to the experiences of both Moncton and Halifax it would be impossible to maintain a reasonable ice surface during the summer at AUC, given the capacity of the ice plant.



1500 march on Nova Scotia Legislature

HALIFAX (CUP) -- A noisy group of 1500 people marched on the Nova Scotia Legislature Friday March 25 to protest a government decision to reduce post-secondary education funding.

The marchers, including students, faculty, and maintenance workers, gathered at Dalhousie University and proceeded two

kilometres downtown to Province House carrying placards, chanting and singing.

The Atlantic Association of Universities (AAU) had requested, through the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Council (MPHEC), a 12.5% increase in university funding. The MPHEC then recommended an 11.5%

increase to the government. As well, they asked that tuition costs be frozen for three years, but if that did not happen, they requested that tuition not be increased any more than 4%. The Council of Maritime Premiers has rejected their recommendations and has decided to grant an increase in funding of 7% for 1977-78.

Premier Gerald Regan told the crowd that "we are living in a difficult time and students must carry a portion of the increased costs." He promised to do everything in his power to stop an unreasonable increase. Regan stated that he was not prepared to "take money away from hospitals or social services", but he was reluctant to discuss other recipients of government funding such as large corporations.

Opposition leader John Buchanan told the protesters that he would "introduce a resolution to call on the government to insure no more than a minimal increase in tuition."

NDP leader Jeremy Akerman received an unenthusiastic response when he declined to support students demands. He stated that he would not consent to more public money being handed to universities until "better priorities are shown by university administrations."

Support was expressed for the student requests by Roland Pucetti on behalf of the Nova Scotia Faculty Association, and by Gerry Jollimore President of the Nova Scotia Labour Council. "We're all in this together," Jollimore suggested, "you're all the children of workers."

March organizers were pleased with the turnout. AFS/FEA secretary coordinator Don Soucy was impressed with the students who did not fall for the government's comments. "They tried to con students and be

emotional, but the students saw through that to the real issue. An increase in tuition fees mean poor students will be pushed out."

At a meeting on Thursday Regan told students that he did not have faith in the MPHEC recommendations. "They have only been around for a couple of years and do not have enough information." He also said that the Council of Maritime Premiers' decision was based solely on economic considerations, not academic.

Nova Scotia's media gave favorable treatment to Wednesday's public forum at Dalhousie and interviewed both students and

faculty.

Students taking part in the march were from eleven of the Province's twelve institutions: Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Nova Scotia Institute of Technology, King's College, Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, and Mount Saint Vincent Universities in Halifax; Acadia in Wolfville; Saint Francis Xavier in Antigonish; College of Cape Breton in Sydney; and the Nova Scotia Teachers College and Agricultural College in Truro.

Students leaders anticipate further action prior to the end of this year's term.

ANYBODY, WITH DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK CAN GO TO UNIVERSITY REGARDLESS OF TUITION INCREASES



THE GREAT MIDDLE CLASS MYTH

No job? UIC...maybe

Students wishing to apply for unemployment benefits this summer will be able to do so in the SUB next month. Staff from the Unemployment Insurance Commission will be receiving claims in

Room 103 on April 12th and 13th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A representative of Canada Manpower will also be present to register any student who has not yet done so.

In order to be eligible for unemployment benefits, a student must have had at least eight weeks of insurable earnings in the last fifty-two, must be registered with Manpower, and must be available, capable, and looking for work.

When filing a claim, the applicant must bring his/her record of employment (separation slips), and should be able to prove that s/he is looking for work.

Mr. Alan Andrew, Public Liaison Officer of the Fredericton UIC said that even students who may be leaving town for the summer should apply here. There is two week waiting period after a student's last exam until the first cheque, and to wait until moving elsewhere would waste time.

Once filed, a claim can be transferred anywhere in Canada, as long as both offices are notified of the move.

Mr. Andrew made no attempt to disguise the fact that jobs will be difficult to come by this year. He advises students to use services offered by Manpower to the fullest extent. A person will have to really push themselves to find employment; constant checking with the Job Bank, seeing a company's personnel officer in person, and willing to take a job other than wait for one that they want.

Students taking part time work may still be eligible for unemployment benefits, depending on the amount earned. These earnings must be noted as "earned" rather than "received".

Any student still unsure of summer employment and/or desiring further information about the Unemployment Insurance Commission should phone the UIC office at 454-3910 or attend the sessions on the 12th and 13th of April.

Due to the increase in industrialization and the decrease in birthrate, labour economists foresee a surplus of jobs by 1985, in fact more than the available skilled manpower can fill.

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