Ice plant heats new arena

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stands. The heat is recovered from the ice-making process and piped under the seats. It's one of several energy-saving extras.

"It's the ice plant heating the building," said Mike Richardson, the town's manager of facilities and parks.

How new is this stuff? Much of the technology wasn't around when Mr. Richardson was general manager of the $38-million General Motors Centre when it opened in Oshawa in 2006.

• Red, black and white aren't just the Clipper jersey colours. They give a clean, modern feel to the place. Love the tiling work at the washroom entrances.

• You can watch a figure skater's performance or a hockey game from the seats or go behind a goal. You can sip a cappuccino from the upstairs snack bar on a bistro table overlooking the ice.

• Glass is big and not just around the rinks. You can see some of it driving by. There's much more inside, giving it a bright, natural look. But don't be worried about bright sun blinding a goaltender. It works a lot like two-way glass in your home or business. And saves more energy.

• Accessible parking is at the same grade as the entrance, which also features a large kiss and ride zone. There is parking for 290 vehicles.

• The Stouffville Figure Skating Club, which is moving to the complex, will have the town's ultimate corner office. It's one of two glass cubes that sit above and between the rinks. The club also has an ice-level room and storage space.

FIGURE SKATERS

The Stouffville Spirit Jr. A will play and practice at the Stouffville Arena. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association will rent plenty of ice on the new pads but keep the old rink as its base. Other tenants include the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League, which is the men's and women's organization, and the Stouffville Markham Girls hockey club.

• There are 12 dressing rooms, all of different dimensions, under the stands. The smallest can be used by parents dressing their children or for girls playing on boys' teams who need their own space.

"You're like a kid in a candy store building one of these," said Rob Raycroft, the town's director of leisure and community services. "You'll likely only do this once in a career and you want to do it right."

Price for the arena has not been broken down. Total price tag for the rinks/fire hall project was $24 million.

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