

# Altona

## News Release

For Immediate Release



### Electric Zamboni Arrives in Altona

**Altona, MB. April 16, 2024:**

The Town of Altona has replaced the ice resurfacer in the Sunflower Gardens Arena with a new electric model.

Budgeted for in the Town of Altona's 2023 Financial Plan, this vehicle was purchased in 2023, but due to a supply chain issue, delivery was delayed. In March of 2024, it was finally delivered just in time for a handful of uses before the ice was removed for the season. Currently, this vehicle is sporting a sleek black exterior, which will be wrapped with community sponsored logos in time for next season.

The previous Zamboni was a 2003 traditional propane-fueled model. Throughout the years, maintenance costs for this older model started to increase and repairs

were needed beyond the regular servicing, so Council decided to incorporate a new resurfacer into the 2023 budget. The old resurfacer was traded in for this one, and \$10,000 was received for the trade-in. After the trade-in amount, the total cost paid by the Town of Altona was \$145,379.45 which falls within the \$170,000 that was initially budgeted.

Watching it on the ice, spectators likely will not notice a difference between this electric ice resurfacer compared to the previous propane model. It works just like the propane-fueled models, but slightly smoother and quieter. One regular flood will use 10-15% of the battery power, and the vehicle is then immediately plugged in and will recharge to 100% before the next flood.

The decision to transition to an electric-powered ice resurfacer stemmed from several key factors aligning with the Town of Altona's commitment to environmental responsibility outlined in the Strategic Plan. By opting for this electric Zamboni, the town aims to significantly reduce its carbon footprint, and enhance the air quality within the arena. Unlike its propane-fueled predecessor, which generated approximately 5 tonnes of carbon emissions annually, the emission-free nature of the electric model not only aligns with our environmental goals but also promises substantial cost savings. The elimination of propane expenses alone marks a significant financial benefit. Additionally, the lithium battery-powered design of this Zamboni has fewer inner moving parts, which means reduced maintenance requirements and lower ongoing operational costs.

It is expected that this ice resurfacer will provide the Sunflower Gardens Arena with around 20 years of service, similar to the previous model. The "Zamboni" name is highly trusted in the ice resurfacer industry, and they have proven to produce quality products. During the time this Zamboni is in use, it is anticipated that the lithium batteries will need to be replaced once, typically around the 10-to-12-year mark.

### **Quotes**

"In following with our strategic priorities, Council carefully weighed the pros and cons of this decision. Ultimately, it was decided that this electric ice resurfacer was the best choice fiscally and environmentally. Additionally, prioritizing electric power enhances safety by eliminating the risks associated with propane tanks in our facilities."

- Mayor Harv Schroeder, Town of Altona

***Please direct inquiries to:***

Keira Thurston  
Communications Officer  
Town of Altona  
PO Box 1630  
Altona, MB  
R0G 0B0  
Phone: (204) 324-6468  
Fax: (204) 324-1550