

Keep your stick on the plastic

Cops vs. kids hockey game on Friday will kick off the one-week demo Rink will be available for hockey and skating enthusiasts until Oct. 28



RYANTAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Tim Oldfield, in foreground, the owners of IcePro, installs a synthetic rink on a field next to Dartmouth High School on Thursday. The rink will be up for a week-long trial starting Friday.

JENNIFER TAPLIN

METRO HALIFAX

Published: October 22, 2010 12:10 a.m.

Imagine a skating rink that doesn't need a Zamboni — or ice, for that matter.

A synthetic rink — which uses plastic instead of ice — was installed beside Dartmouth High School on Nantucket Road Thursday.

It's a one-week trial that starts Friday to see if a permanent synthetic rink would be popular enough in the area.

Tim Oldfield with Ice Pro, the company that installs synthetic rinks, said at least one councillor has approached him about trying it out elsewhere in HRM.

Even though synthetic rinks are smaller than ice rinks, Oldfield said they could relieve some of the pressure for ice time.

Ice Pro is covering the cost of the one-week demo, but HRM is coordinating programming for the week, and a kick-off party Friday afternoon.

Several hockey teams will try it out this week, and there will be several public skates.

Coun. Jim Smith said a permanent outdoor synthetic rink would provide his constituents with a year-round venue for skating without the maintenance costs of an ice rink.

The surface just needs to be swept off.

"We're looking at putting one somewhere in District 9 (Albro Lake-Harbourview) next year," he said.

Possible locations include a ball field on Green Road or next to the Boys and Girls Club on Farrell Street.

Installation

- A permanent synthetic rink would cost about \$65,000 to install.
- Coun. Jim Smith said he wouldn't require a vote from council to make it happen, just approval from the recreation department.