

Intelligible Sound at Charlottetown Civic Centre



Charlottetown Civic Centre, home to the PEI Rocket Hockey Club, host venue for local festivals, concerts, trade shows, and more, had a reputation for having bad sound. The horn cluster over centre ice was not performing to the expectations of the fans or clients of the facility. A simple service call changed the sound for the better.

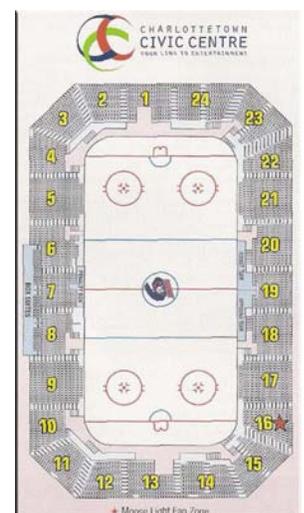
A phone call to Mr. Jay Perry, owner of Atlantic Integrated Systems, to repair the existing P.A. System, led to the discussion of a possible upgrade to the systems in the building. Mr. Perry reviewed the existing system with General Manager Dave McGrath and offered design recommendations to improve the sound in the facility. "The selling point for the new P.A. System, which included TOA's HX-5's speakers and F-120 subwoofers, F-2352 ceiling speakers, the D-901 Modular Digital Mixer, and the BG Series Amplifiers, was a recent successful installation at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario," remarked Mr. Perry.

Built in 1991, the Charlottetown Civic Centre features an NHL-sized ice surface with a floor area of 17,000 square feet. The facility boasts a fixed seating capacity of 3,717 with an additional 1,700 portable seats. The facility also includes 10 luxury suites, a VIP lounge, lobby and concession area, as well as conference and trade centre all of which received audio system upgrades. The installation was completed in two phases.

Atlantic Integrated Systems designs and installs audio/visual systems for many venues including arenas and churches on Prince Edward Island. Working in conjunction with island veteran sound company; Pater Audio, Jay designed and installed the equipment for the Civic Center. Mr. Perry conducted a basic room model with EASE Focus and the system was set up using SMAART Analysis. Upon completion of the design, Mr. Perry confirmed with TOA's Technical team that the design would work.

Initially the Civic Centre wanted to keep the costs of the upgrade down by updating the mid/high speakers and re-using the subwoofers and amplifiers from the existing system. TOA's HX-5 Variable Dispersion Speakers were chosen for the arena. The arena is a bowl shape with 360 degree seating. Speakers are placed above the glass boards of the ice surface. The speakers were flown from the cat-walk grid, with 5 HX-5 speakers down each side (one speaker for each section of seating, covering approximately 10 rows of seats), 3 HX-5 speakers were installed over each of the end zones to round out the system and provide uniform coverage throughout the arena.

The lobby/concession area and the VIP Lounge also received updated sound with the installation of new HX-5 and F-2352's respectively. Both





the lobby and the VIP Lounge have feeds from the arena allowing guests in these areas to be able to enjoy the ice surface/arena's entertainment.

"After the completion of Phase I of the project, we were not satisfied with the performance of the system. The top end worked quite well, however the bass was lacking definition." explained Mr. Perry. The performance of Phase I led to Phase II of the project, which included adding FB-120 subwoofers and new DA-250 amplifiers to the system. The system now has individual zone controls so that each of the seating sections can be adjusted for equalization and time alignment. Mr. McGrath, the facility's General Manager, as well as the fans and clients of the Charlottetown Civic Center are amazed at how much sound comes out of such small enclosures. Everyone is enjoying the improved sound coverage in the facility, the increased clarity, and intelligibility that TOA's system provides.

"As a result of this installation, I am getting more interest in TOA's HX-5 product and am using this product in an upcoming church installation and other projects that I have. I am impressed with the level of service and the quality of product that TOA provides," commented Mr. Perry.