SPORT FOR ALL

“A new facility, which will provide Dalhousie with 20 different activity areas, combined with a new program of ‘Sport For All’, promises an exciting future for the Division of Athletic and Recreation Services, the School of Physical Education, and the University.”

—from the 1976-77 annual report of the School of Physical Education.

With a student population of almost 9,000, Dalhousie University has long suffered a woeful lack of physical education, recreation and athletic facilities. Most of the existing facilities -- the gymnasium, the football field -- were designed for a student enrolment of only 700. That was in 1932. It was not until 1951 that the Memorial Rink was added, and it was not until the mid-50s that a proper track was laid around Studley Field.

The School of Physical Education, under whose wing all athletic, recreation and leisure time activities fall, was established in 1966. In the past 11 years, enrolment in the physical education academic programs has increased. And as the population of the student body generally has swelled, so has the wear and tear on the oversubscribed facilities increased.

Now the new Physical Education, Recreation and Athletic Centre is less than two years from completion. But delays in the construction have boosted the cost from what would have been about $5,500,000 in 1973 to $10,500,000 today.

As a result, the university has decided to embark on a major fund campaign.

The details: Page 3
$3.3 million campaign launched

Dalhousie University last night launched a major fund-raising campaign — target: $3,375,000 — for its new Physical Education, Recreation and Athletic Centre.

The centre is now under construction and is expected to be completed by late next year or early 1979.

The launching took place at a Shirebell Hall reception and was attended by members of the university’s Board of Governors, the Fund Council, officers of the university, and representatives of the School of Physical Education, community organizations, a large number of volunteer workers and news media representatives.

Dr. Henry D. Hicks, the president of Dalhousie, Stewart McInnes, general chairman of the DALPLEX Committee, and Dr. M.T. Ellis, director of the School of Physical Education, outlined the urgent need for the new facilities.

Why a campaign

DALPLEX is the name of the capital fund-raising program launched for Dalhousie’s long-awaited Physical Education, Recreation and Athletic Centre.

In 1931, when the present gymnasium was opened, there were only 700 students. By 1961, when the room was added, the student population had grown to 1,500.

In the last 26 years, enrolment has swelled to almost 9,000. There are 1,300 full- and part-time teachers, plus support staff. New courses in physical and health education have been added. The number of sports and recreational activities has increased. But the athletic facilities have remained the same. That is why Dalhousie needs the Physical Education, Athletic and Recreation Centre.

Even in the climate of today’s shrinking dollar, the centre is costing a lot of money — $10,500,000 for a facility that only four years ago would have cost about $5,500,000.

Much of the total cost is already assured: $6,750,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia under the Universities Capital Assistance Act; and $200,000 from the federal Department of Health and Welfare, toward an Olympic-standard swimming pool.

But $3,375,000 is still required, and must be raised from private sources. Hence the DALPLEX campaign.

WHAT DALPLEX WILL COST

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<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>600,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>9,400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture, equipment</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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<td>10,500,000</td>
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WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM

| Province of Nova Scotia | 6,925,000 |
| Federal Government     | 200,000   |
|                       | 7,125,000 |

AMOUNT NEEDED

From non-government sources $3,375,000

An asset to the community

DALPLEX is more than an athletic facility, it is more than a recreation centre. And it is more than a teaching and research unit. It is all of these things combined, and it will provide a service to the university and the public in the same way that the Dalhousie Arts Centre has become such a valuable facility, indeed an asset, to the whole community.

Stewart McInnes

DALPLEX chairman

A native of Halifax, Mr. McInnes is a graduate of Dalhousie (Bachelor of Arts, 1958, and Bachelor of Laws, 1961).

A member of the Halifax law firm of McInnes, Cooper and Robertson, Mr. McInnes was active in athletics at Dalhousie.

Among key members of the DALPLEX campaign committee are:

F.B. (Ted) WICKWIRE (B.Comm. 1959, LLB. 1962), a member of the Halifax law firm of MacInnes, Wilson and Hallett. He is chairman of the Major Gifts Division; and


Both Mr. Wickwire and Mr. Brown were also active in Dalhousie sports.

Mr. McInnes

INFORMATION

Want to know more about DALPLEX?

For questions relating to fund-raising, committee and alumni.

ERICLE IRWIN, Director, Alumni Affairs and Fund; executive secretary, Dalhousie Fund Council — 424-2071.

For general information:

DEREK MANN, Director, Information and Public Relations, Editor, University News — 424-2817.

The architects

Architects for the Physical Education, Recreation and Athletic Centre are Leslie R. Faure and Associates Ltd., of Halifax.
Artist's impressions of the centre

The entrance, from the northwest.

The pool deck
The field house

Overlooking the pool

DALPLEX
It will be a participation centre

Over a period of years the university acquired enough property opposite Studley Field to allow the building of a centre that would cater to the needs of the 12,000-strong university family, the alumni and the community.

The centre will be a combined teaching-research unit and a facility for many kinds of sport and recreation, with the emphasis on participation.

The building will be 300 by 240 feet, and will provide 600,000 square feet of floor and swimming pool space — that's just over four acres, big enough to accommodate roughly five per cent of the university population. That means that about 600 participants can be using the centre at any one time.

There are three levels. The main floor will be an open floor that can be divided by portable partitions. This floor will accommodate:

- Five permanent basketball courts, plus space for two more that can be added quickly by movable taping methods;
- Five permanent softball courts, and space for two more, of a sort;
- Four permanent tennis courts, and two more;
- Twelve permanent badminton courts, and five more.

The main floor may also be used for such things as golf practice and archery. In addition, running around the inside perimeter of the building, above main floor level, is a 400-foot track.

The floor below will have changing rooms, team rooms, and a central equipment distribution centre. About one-third of this floor will be occupied by the School of Physical Education, with offices, classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, trainers' and treatment rooms and a lounge.

The third and lowest level will house the 50-metre Olympic-sized swimming pool and some lockers will be available for spectators, as well as a handball, squash and racquetball court.

The planners of DALPLEX have emphasized the concepts of accessibility and flexibility, with the accent on maximum participation and a minimum of spectators.

The centre will be fully accessible to wheelchairs and will have an elevator to move wheelchair participants between floors. Services will be linked to the university's central distribution system which will result in a saving in operating costs.

The type of roof construction being used has enabled the university to design a low-profile building, only 35 feet high, thus eliminating girder-type roof suspension. The absence of columns allows for greater visibility in the number of courts that can be in use simultaneously on the main floor.

DALPLEX will be the home of most of the programs of the School of Physical Education, and with other facilities available at the university, will become a fully integrated complex designed to encourage participation at all levels.

It will be a facility for academic work and research and for the development of healthy lifestyles as an integral part of university life since the earliest time.

At Dalhousie, athletic and recreational services have been offered for many years and since the School of Physical Education was established in 1966, additional programs have been incorporated into the total picture. These include the Bachelor's degree programs in physical education and health education. In addition there has been a tremendous expansion of intramural and recreational activities. In fact the academic program in health education and recreation, which was introduced as a minor subject in 1971, became so popular that in only four years it was developed into a degree program, along with a graduate course leading to a Master of Science degree.

The same time the community at large is also well served, a full-time program on Dalhousie for athletic and recreational facilities.

The program has been expanded in physical education, health education, athletics and recreation. It also acknowledged that its students have been more than patient in making do with what has come along to become the best facilities in the country, hence the decision to proceed with the construction of DALPLEX.

While the primary purposes of a university are teaching and research, the development of healthy lifestyles has been an integral part of university life since the earliest time.

In addition, DALPLEX will also provide the university with the facilities:
- To encourage the development of recreational and sporting opportunities for the whole community;
The 1976-77 annual report of the School of Physical Education

Dalhousie University
School of Physical Education

"It is clear that the Division of Athletic and Recreation Services must be fast approaching saturation, given the facilities we have available. The gains in participation have come from the hard work of the division and ingenious scheduling of our existing facilities and the exchange of access to our facilities for those in the community, thus further improving the efficiency of the total community facility supply. It is clear that Athletic and Recreation Services during 1976-77 was a major success story.

"Despite a hold-the-line budget, the Division of Athletic and Recreation Services met with amazing success during this year. All programs reached new heights. The women varsity athletes won one national championship (field hockey) and won the AUAA conference championships in seven out of 12 possible sports. The men's program showed six victorious conference teams out of a possible 13 and one went on to win a silver medal at the national championships (soccer). This breadth and depth of performance has resulted from Dalhousie's commitment to provide equal opportunities for the achievement of excellence in each of the 25 varsity sport programs offered by the AUAA."

"A new facility, which will provide Dalhousie with 20 different activity areas, combined with a new program of 'Sport For All', promises an exciting future for the Division of Athletic and Recreation Services, the School of Physical Education and the university."

"Once again, the faculty have been extremely active in making their expertise available to the wider community. The section of this report documenting the significant community service activities of the faculty is a large one. Each of the activities identified represents a significant commitment on the part of a faculty member to permeate the walls of the university and to enrich the community at large. These activities, plus the formal commitment of our facilities, represent a massive commitment of the school to the people of Nova Scotia that goes beyond our commitment to provide academic services."

Annual Report 1976-77
Undergraduate health education

Bachelor of Science [Health Education] degree

In its second year, this program registered 37 full-time students. 12 of these were being registered for the second year. As many students transfer from other universities, Dalhousie does not offer training for students to study for four years in the program. Because of this, the program had its first graduate at the end of its second year of operation, an historic occasion in Canada.

Health Education Minor for B.P.E. students

The Health Education Division continues to offer a minor area of study for physical education majors. About 50 students took advantage of this option. These students, plus the health education majors, kept most health education classes at maximum enrolments.

Field Experience

Twenty-six students completed field experience in Halifax and Dartmouth City schools. The head of the Health Education Division initiated a meeting between the School of Physical Education personnel and public school administrators of Halifax City, Dartmouth City and Halifax County in an effort to see that our future needs are met in a manner convenient and helpful to the public schools.

Twelve students completed field experiences in community health agencies in Halifax. In this area too we seem to have made very positive strides.

School of Physical Education

A search committee was struck to seek, find, and recommend for appointment a new head. The outgoing head had held the position for five years and was granted a sabbatical leave to pursue doctoral studies. The division is on the verge of exciting and interesting changes; the new head should have an enjoyable, challenging experience.

Public Skating. Four hours a week. Upwards of 200 people.
*Super Skills Camps. Hockey schools—6 hours a week for 5 weeks. 150-200 participants.
*King's College. Six hours a week for hockey practice and league games.

Additional Ice Rentals to Community. Fifteen hours a week.

Track and Field

Halifax Board of School Commissioners. Annual track and field meets. Two days, 500-600 children.

Junior Soccer. Two hours on Sunday mornings. A total of approximately 60 people.

Nova Scotia Track and Field Association. 3-4 clinics throughout the year with approximately 30-40 people. 8-10 people train in our facilities on a regular basis.

Atlantic Coast Track and Field Club. Three days a week for two hours. 25-30 people train year round on our facilities—weight room, track and balcony of the rink.

Super Skills Soccer Camps. Three one-week. Camps of 8 hours a day, 100-150 participants.

Halifax Minor Football Association. Three hours, one evening a week during the Fall. 50-75 participants.

ABOVE: The sum total of the university's existing physical education and athletic facilities, except for the School's office section, in the old Arts Annex: The Gymnasium, the track, Studley Field and (part of) the Memorial Rink.


Publications: chairperson, national dance committee of CAPPER.

W.J. Shannon: 14th International Conference of Health Education, Ottawa, August 1976. Dalhousie representative on Canada's organizing committee, April 1976; Dalhousie representative at the conference; CAPPER representative at the conference; Chairperson, paper presentation session; Facilitator, special interest group.


Chairperson, ad hoc committee to determine the feasibility of financing behavioral science research by the Canadian Heart Foundation, Canadian Heart Foundation meeting, Winnipeg, September 1976.

Chairperson, ad hoc committee to determine a plan for implementation of a behavioral science research program, Canadian Heart Foundation meetings, Ottawa, December 1976 and January 1977.

Preserner of "The need for behavioral science research to reduce cardiovascular disease risk." Public education committee, Canadian Heart Foundation annual meeting, Edmonton, October 1976.

Chairperson, health education committee of CAPPER.

Consultant to Halifax Grammar School re-school physical education program.

SUMMARY

In retrospect the year has been an extraordinarily active one. The university at large has supported our aspirations, and the faculty have responded by collectively delivering excellent services in teaching, coaching, research, and community development.
In fair condition but in constant use, the only full-sized gym floor in the university.

Weight room.

The lower gym.

Classroom.

Showers.
How the site was chosen

In considering the selection of the site for the Physical Education, Recreation and Athletic Centre, the planners and university officers considered a number of factors.

Regarded as of prime importance were:
1. Inter-relationship with existing facilities to permit their continuing effective use in the educational and recreational activities for which the School of Physical Education is responsible.
2. Ready access for students and staff, and for members of the wider community interested in opportunities for physical recreation.
3. Availability of land to permit construction of one building large enough to meet the needs of the School’s program.
4. Avoidance of disruption of regular activities of the university.
5. Maintenance of existing outdoor facilities and of the opportunity to add to them.
6. Efficient use of university property which would ensure the minimum additional land acquisition and avoid unnecessary demolition of existing housing.
7. Development of a centre suitable to the university and the neighborhood, with minimal inconvenience to neighbours.

ALTERNATIVE SITES

Three sites were given careful consideration:
1. East of the Rink—the area bounded by South Street on the south, University Avenue on the north, Seymour Street on the east, and the Rink on the west, also involving closure of the affection section of Le Marchant Street.
2. Studeb Field—bounded by South Street on the south, LeMarchant Street on the east, the road past the Life Sciences Centre on the north.
3. The South Street Site, acquired between 1962 and 1972 on the south side of South Street, opposite Studeb Field.

All these assumed the ultimate development of the south-of-South Street property for recreation space, for either indoor or outdoor activity, or for both. Any of the three sites could have been used, had the land been available (as it was on the south-of-South Street site).

Site 1 would have included part of the area for indoor recreation space proposed in the university’s 1967 master plan, but the site was rejected because:
1. The university did not (and still does not) own land essential for the centre and, three years ago, had no way to acquire it.
2. Delay of some years in acquiring land would have postponed the construction of new facilities as it still would today, would result in substantial additional costs (as it has), and would be the cost of acquiring more land.
3. Housing owned by citizens as well as the university would have had to be destroyed, unnecessary and unfortunate since other sites were available.

Site 2 and 3 remained the feasible alternatives, but in the end, Site 3, south of South Street, was selected as the more appropriate, and not merely for economic reasons.

Site 2, Studeb Field was rejected because:
1. Costs, even in 1973-74, would have been higher.
2. The university’s only full-sized field, for football, soccer, hockey, rugby, track events etc., would have been lost forever.
3. Because of the nature of the underlying ground (already on a hill, move hard rock, a building such as is envisaged now would have stuck out like a sore thumb, its southern wall, for example, would have risen from the inside edge of the South Street sidewalk, at least 40 feet vertically, perhaps higher.

Site 3, the chosen one, permits the preservation of the existing outdoor facilities on Studeb Field, seems though they may be for a university of Dalhousie’s size. It avoids disruption of existing athletic, physical education and recreation programs, and it permits construction of a building with a low profile, a profile which from street level will appear even lower because of the natural depression in the ground.

Late in 1973, area residents suggested a number of other possible sites. These were all considered by the university and the architects for the centre. Seven of 11 alternative sites suggested were required in accordance with long-range plans of the university for purposes other than sports, and other suggestions were not practical for a variety of reasons.

Information Office staffer Kate Carmichael surveys the progress on the Physical Education, Recreation and Athletic Centre, progress that university planner Jim Styles says is "pulling ahead" toward the late 1978 completion target.