

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ATHLETICS

August 2005

"Trent students have provided enthusiastic leadership and financial support to the redevelopment of our athletics facilities. Combined with local partnerships, we now have the opportunity to provide high-quality facilities, coaching expertise and athlete development to both Trent and the broader community."

Bill Byrick
Athletics Director

For the third consecutive year, the Canadian Intramural Recreation Association (CIRA) awarded Ontario's Outstanding Intramural Achievement Award to Trent University in 2004-2005. Trent is known for its high level of participation (one-third of the student population) in intramural programs, whether in basketball, hockey, field sports, yoga or general fitness offerings. Trent is also proud of its varsity athletes, several of whom have gone on to compete at national and international levels in rowing, rugby, swimming and Nordic skiing.

Yet facilities and fields originally designed for only two thousand students have struggled with usage by more than seven thousand students annually. The poor condition of Trent fields at certain times of the season has been noted during varsity competitions. It also conveys a poor image to visiting prospective students, many of whom make their enrolment decision in the first 20 minutes of a campus visit.

Following two years of consultation, Trent has developed a Master Plan for Athletics that, over time, will broaden opportunities for students, faculty, staff and the community while striving for excellence in all aspects of Trent University athletics.

Key features of the new plan include:

- High quality artificial turf stadium (currently under construction) with lighting on the west bank
- Two new rectangular fields and a softball diamond on the east bank
- Outdoor recreation/education centre with access to waterways and nature areas
- Renovated athletics complex with expanded weight lifting and cardio areas, indoor rowing tank, rock climbing wall
- Wheelchair accessibility to the entire facility
- Physiotherapy business space and food/beverage facility
- Classroom space for general teaching and sports program use
- Option of a multi-purpose field house
- Additional student space, to meet the needs of clubs, faith groups, general gathering space and other student needs.

These new developments will see enhanced varsity performance and intra-mural participation, increased student usage of the waterways and nature areas, potential for centres of excellence in rowing, swimming and rugby, and premier facilities for community usage.

Community partnerships with rugby, soccer, and rowing associations have confirmed the importance and need for renewed facilities, and will leverage financial support for their development. The City of Peterborough Recreation Division has also indicated there is a significant and growing need for soccer fields in the area.

The new Master Plan has been enthusiastically received by students, who voted in a 2004 referendum for a levy to support the plan financially. At a time when alarming rates of obesity among Canadian children, youth and adults are being noted and poor health is straining the health care system, investing in the physical well being of our students and community members is both urgent and strategic.

***Athletics*\$3 million+**

Phase I: (\$500,000 to be fundraised against a Phase I cost of \$2.4 million; the remainder will be covered by a student levy and community usage fees)

- Artificial turf field and 1,000-seat stadium with lighting and attractive fencing (West Bank)
- 2 natural turf sports fields and one softball diamond (East Bank)
- Outdoor recreation/education centre with access to nature areas and waterways (for canoeing).
- Plan a multi-purpose field house facility with potential for indoor, year-round soccer and rugby, and venue for large university gatherings

Phase II: (\$2.5 million to be fundraised against a Phase II cost of \$5 million. The remainder will be covered by a student levy)

- New fitness facility with expanded weight lifting and cardio area, indoor rowing tank, rock climbing wall
- Outdoor pavilion area
- Wheelchair accessibility to the entire facility
- Physiotherapy space and food/beverage facility
- Classroom space for general teaching and sports program use
- Additional student space