



50,000 SQUARE FEET OF TOP FACILITIES

Glittering new Recreation/Athletics Centre makes its debut beneath the quadrangle

By Lorie Sculthorp

If the new athletics complex fails to impress you, then likely nothing will.

Despite some setbacks along the way (including torrential rains in the summer of 1986 that turned the 30-foot deep excavation of the quadrangle into a seagull-filled lagoon), all is well and right on schedule with the new and unique Ryerson Recreation and Athletics Centre (RAC).

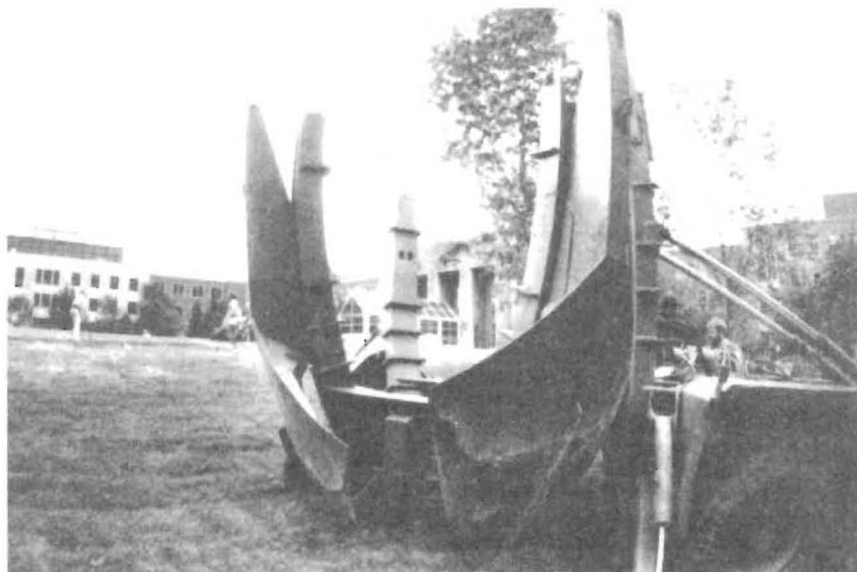
Tuesday, September 1, was the big day: opening day. The first squash ball was served, the first jogger was seen on the track, and the first of thousands of kilometres was cycled on the stationary bikes.

So hurry down if you haven't yet had a tour. Everyone can now see for themselves that what was only one short year ago, a two-storey deep hole in the ground, is today one of the best recreation and fitness facilities in the city. In fact, says **Jean Kennedy**, Assistant Director of Athletics and Recreation, it's quite simply "the best you can get."

The new complex under the Kerr Hall quadrangle, which is accessible by wheelchair, is humming with activity. There are people of all ages--students, staff, faculty, alumni and others--getting fit and staying fit, or learning new skills, or just having fun.

For under there, if you haven't yet had a chance to visit, are facilities previously unknown to the Ryerson community. There are seven international squash courts, a 50' X 80' fully equipped fitness and weight room (including six "Concept II" rowers, 12 "Monarch Ergonometer" bikes, weight stations and free weights), a fitness assessment room, a three-lane rubberized running track (11 laps to a mile), two gymnasiums and a dance studio.

All of this is attached by a tunnel to Ryerson's 25-yard pool and saunas, to the men's and women's changerooms (which have been extensively renovated), and to the gymnasiums in West Kerr Hall, which will continue



THE SOD SQUAD — The Kerr Hall quadrangle has been re-sodded, following construction of the new underground Recreation and Athletics Centre. The equipment in the foreground is a tree spade, used for lifting and transplanting trees. For a peek at the hidden treasure beneath this new surface, see the photographs on page 3. Photo by Jerry Davey.

to serve their current functions. (The old weight training rooms on the third floor of West Kerr Hall will now be used for institutional programs, summer campers and interuniversity teams.)

All of this, and more, in a big, bright and modern 50,000 square foot facility. Huge skylights at both ends of the structure, and an extra-wide and roomy gallery that runs the whole length of the building, disguise the fact that the centre is entirely underground.

Besides having the best fitness and weight-lifting equipment now available, the RAC also boasts the best and most appropriate floors on the market. The sprung beech flooring in the gymnasiums and the dance studio, and the sprung maple flooring in the squash courts, are designed to cushion the impact of those who are running and jumping, and to be kind to knee and ankle joints. The rubber flooring in the fitness and weight room is the same type used in Olympic competition and is espe-

cially important for weight lifting as it also acts as a cushion for joints to which many pounds of pressure are being applied.

The running track not only has a rubber floor, but also is banked in the corners. And just to keep the run interesting, it encircles the two gymnasiums and the fitness and weight room, so the runners can look down on the activities in these three areas. The track is separated from the centre gym by glass walls so that noisy activities in one gym do not form a distraction in another gym.

As the new school year gets rolling, so do the fitness and recreation programs offered by the RAC. And to meet the demand for classes--in dance (jazz, ballet, ballroom), aerobics (low-impact and advanced levels), weight training, aquatics, and sports such as squash, tennis, golf and fencing--the centre has hired five full-time staff. **Sandra Hart-Erwin** is the new Program

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Memberships in RAC available to faculty and staff

Ryerson's new Recreation and Athletics Centre (RAC) isn't just for students--it's for absolutely everyone. And the cost to belong is a bargain compared to rates in private clubs.

Memberships to the centre are being sold to members of the Ryerson community (that is, full-time faculty and staff), and their immediate families, at a reduced rate of \$100 a year. All seniors over the age of 60 can also take advantage of the \$100 annual fee.

Part-time faculty and staff, alumni, and part-time students can join for just \$200 a year. Corporate group rates are \$250 a person, and members of the general public are being offered the opportunity to join for an annual fee of \$350.

Since access to the centre, and the swimming pool, will be by electronic membership card, members will also be charged \$10 for the card, but that amount will be refunded upon return of the card at the end of their membership.

For \$25 a year extra, the centre will provide a towel service. Members can also rent a locker for a year at \$25. (But there will also be lockers available,

at no charge and on a daily basis, for those who wish to lock up their belongings while they use the facilities.)

In addition to the fitness and weight-lifting equipment available at the centre, the Department of Athletics and Recreation will offer an extensive range of instructional programs such as: jazz, ballet, tap or ballroom dancing; fencing, squash, tennis or golf; water aerobics, aquatics for seniors, learn to swim and Royal Life Saving courses; tai chi; women's weight training; low-impact aerobics, and the ever-popular stretch and tone classes. Most of these classes will cost an additional \$15 each, but some may be a little more, and they will be available only to members.

Members, however, will be allowed to bring guests--at a cost of \$5 an entry and \$3 for any class. Each member can only bring the same guest twice each month, but there is no limit on the number of guests a member may sign in each month.

As of the last week in August, some 250 memberships had been received. If you are interested in joining, or would like to tour the centre, call the Department of Athletics and Recreation at ext. 5096.

Athletics

(Continued from page 1)

Supervisor, **Brian O'Reilly** is Senior Fitness Specialist, **Rosie Posca** and **Loretta Bresolin** are Fitness Specialists, and **Debbie Post** is Aquatics Specialist. In addition, the centre has hired **Marie Balkissoon** as Customer Service Clerk, **Cheryl Bodnar** as Senior Customer Service Clerk, and **Therese Bowler** as Recreation Clerk.

One of the features of the new centre is a trophy case, which is located right at the main entrance at the south end of the building. The brightly lit, glass display area is a first for Ryerson.

"We've never had a place to display the Ryerson trophies," says Ms Kennedy. "And that's important because we have many trophies dating back to the early days of Ryerson. We're hoping alumni will come in and have a look for the trophies that they won when they were here."

But the trophy case isn't the only first. The underground complex itself, is the first major addition to athletics facilities that were constructed nearly 25 years ago to serve a maximum of 3,600 full-time students. Current full-time enrolment is close to 10,000.

The cost of the RAC was \$5.4 million with \$1.5 million coming from the provincial government and most of the remaining \$3.9 million of the construction costs to be

paid for by a special student fee, approved by a student referendum in February 1985. This is why there is no student membership fee. All that students pay for is the access card and \$10 per semester for any instructional program.

The fee, that began with this school year, is \$20 per term. It will rise to \$25 per term in September of 1991 and to \$30 per term in September of 1997, and continue until the mortgage is retired, which will take about 25 years at current interest rates.

It is also worth mentioning that

the design for the two-storey complex was a finalist in *The Canadian Architect Magazine* 1986 Awards of Excellence and was the only recreational project to receive an honorable mention. The architects were Lett/Smith of Toronto.

With both the relandscaping of the quadrangle and the interior finished, all that remains to be done is to officially open Ryerson's newest addition. Plans are now in progress for a ceremony on the afternoon of Friday, October 30, a fitting highlight to Ryerson's celebration of National Universities' Week

Cumulative deficit of \$1.39 million confirmed by audited financial report

Ryerson's audited financial statements show a cumulative operating deficit of \$1.39 million as of last March 31, the end of the 1986/87 fiscal year.

That figure represents a decline of \$123,000 from the budgeted cumulative deficit of \$1.52 million, approved by the board of governors in May 1986.

The audited statements show income of \$74.95 million and expenditures of \$74.39 million, resulting in a surplus of \$565,000. However, interfund transfers and appropriations totalling \$730,000 leave a bottom line fiscal year deficit of \$165,000.

The deficit at the beginning of the 1986/87 fiscal year was \$1.22 million and the board had approved an increase of \$290,000 in that figure in order to provide a budget adequate to meet the Institute's minimum needs.

The 1987/88 operating budget of \$80.3 million projects a further decline of \$47,000 in the cumulative deficit.

The audited statements were presented and approved at the June 29 meeting of the board, which also approved payment of \$41,500 to Clarkson Gordon and reappointed the company as auditors for the 1987/88 fiscal year.



An inside look at the new RAC

These photographs were taken recently, as work on the new Recreation and Athletics Centre beneath the quadrangle neared completion.

TOP LEFT: The jogging track, overlooking one of three large multi-purpose rooms.

TOP RIGHT: The elevated gallery from which action on seven squash courts (at left) can be viewed.

LEFT: One of several sprung wood floors in the complex is installed. The slats of wood running at right angles to the floor boards include a high density foam padding that provides the required resilience.

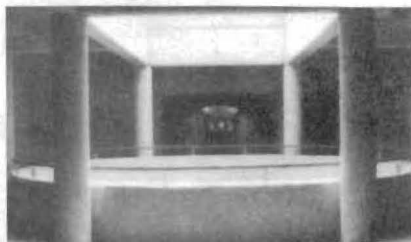
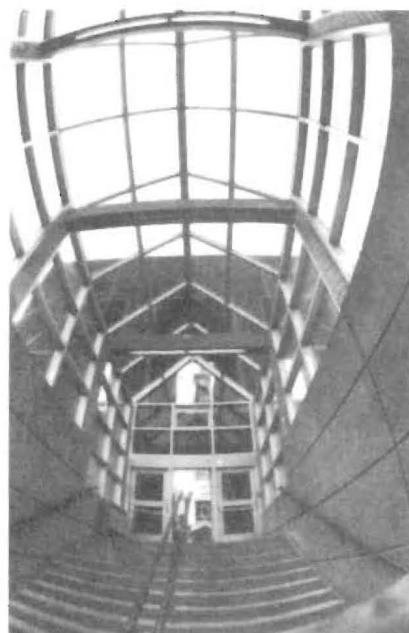
RIGHT: The skylighted entrance, through the old Normal School facade at the south end of the quadrangle.

BOTTOM LEFT: A workman installs heat sensors on the ceiling beside the jogging track.

BELOW, TOP: A bird's eye view of the central gallery, which runs the length of the complex.

BELOW, BOTTOM: The view from under the skylight at the north end of the quadrangle.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Floor markings in one of the multi-purpose rooms are checked.



Photographs by Jerry Davey