

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Installation of artificial turf at stadium to begin next week

Waterloo (May 19) — Community access to Seagram Stadium in Waterloo will be enhanced with the installation of Waterloo Region's first artificial turf beginning next week.

Wilfrid Laurier University committed itself to installing the artificial turf when it acquired the stadium from the city in July 1992.

The turf will be installed at a cost of \$1.7 million. Local contractor McLean-Peister Ltd. of Kitchener will prepare the field's base and install the drainage system for \$500,000 and Edel Grass Inc. of Charlotte, N. C., will install the elastic padding and turf for \$1 million. Other improvements totalling \$200,000 will also be made.

Work will begin with excavation of the field, expected to be completed by July 15. The installation of the turf is scheduled for completion by September.

The turf will enable the field to be available for more high school football games — often limited in order to preserve its condition for university games — and other athletic events and community uses.

Over the last year, the indoor and outdoor facilities have been used for a range of activities from minor sports league playoffs to the Sounds of Summer drum and bugle corps competition, Oktoberfest, track and fields events of the Waterloo region's two school boards, company picnics, high school football games, and drill practices of the K-W Skating Club.

The stadium has also been used for the practices and games of four of Laurier's varsity teams, instruction in its physical education program, and intramural programs at both Laurier and the University of Waterloo.

For Laurier, the acquisition of the stadium has permitted the construction of a new science building on part of the former practice field, increased flexibility for the development of the lower half of the campus, enabled football locker space in a residence to be returned to student use, and eased congestion in Laurier's Athletic Complex.

WLU has raised more than \$800,000 to pay for facility improvements and will continue to seek funding from private sources for the balance.

The 4,000-seat stadium was built in 1957 with funding from the city, Joseph E. Seagram and Sons Ltd., and Ontario Hydro. UW leased the stadium from 1968 until 1975 when it quit claimed the lease.