

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Laurier celebrates installation of artificial turf at stadium

Waterloo, Ont. (Sept 15) — Wilfrid Laurier University will celebrate the installation of artificial turf at Seagram Stadium before the annual homecoming football game on Saturday, Oct. 1.

The 2 p.m. game against the Mustangs of the University of Western Ontario will be one of the highlights of homecoming celebrations Friday, Sept. 30, to Sunday, Oct. 2. More than 3,000 of the university's 38,000 alumni are expected to attend reunion dinners, dances, and the alumni association's general meeting.

And while the installation of the turf, completed earlier this month, is being celebrated, Laurier will continue to sell off its football field — one square yard at a time.

Alumni and others are being encouraged to purchase a section of the field to help pay the \$1.7-million cost of its installation. Since mid-June, about 150 individuals have donated \$23,500 by purchasing 235 square yards of the field.

Some are contributing toward the purchase of the home end zone to honor Rich Newbrough for 26 years of service to the football team and the physical education program. A former member of the football team purchased the spot where he scored his first touchdown in a playoff game on the way to the 1991 Vanier Cup championship.

To date, Laurier has raised about \$818,000 to pay for the turf installation and other facility improvements, and will continue to seek funding from private sources in the \$3-million campaign.

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, provided more facilities for its physical education and intramural programs, and eased congestion in the Athletic Complex.

The turf also enables the field to be available for more high school football games — previously limited to preserve its condition for university games — and other athletic events and community uses.

The pre-game ceremony will begin at 1:40 p.m. on Oct. 1.

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The Artificial Turf

The Base

- McLean-Peister Ltd. of Kitchener prepared the field's base and installed drainage system for \$500,000
- 12,339 cubic metres of material removed and replaced with 10,000 cubic metres of sand, stone, and crushed stone, to build base
- conduit for electrical cables for floodlights, and public address and communication systems buried under turf
- field has seven-inch crown from the centre line to the perimeter

The Turf

- Edel Grass Inc. of Charlotte, N.C., installed the elastic padding and turf for \$1 million
- granular recycled tires from Cambridge plant, granular foam, and pea gravel were bonded with polyurethane to form elastic layer
- artificial turf was sewn together and glued to the 38-mm elastic layer.
- artificial turf composed of texturized polypropylene and polyester yarns knitted together
- 10,229 square metres of artificial turf used
- lines were prefabricated or will be inlaid (painted lines are temporary)

Other

- 195 tons of finely-crushed brick used to improve the surface of the track

Uses

- varsity football games for Laurier and University of Waterloo
- high school football games
- other athletic and community events

Benefits to Laurier

- acquisition of stadium permitted construction of new science building on former practice field
- increased flexibility for development of lower half of campus
- more facilities for physical education program, and intramural and recreational sports
- congestion eased in Athletic Complex

Funding

- university selling sections of one square yard to help pay for installation
- about 150 individuals have donated \$23,500 by purchasing 235 square yards of the field
- part of larger \$3-million campaign for Laurier Sports Centre and Stadium Project