

Dalplex near completion

★ Oct. 18 opening

by Kerry DeLorey

Dalplex, the long awaited sport and physical activity centre, is nearing completion and official opening is slated for October 19—Fall Convocation.

However, Joel Jacobson, Public Relations Officer for Dalplex, is not quite sure when the facility will open its doors to students.

"We had hoped we would be in there by now, but there have been delays with the lockers, bleachers and court dividers—all because the truckers strike in the States has had an effect."



The bottom level features an Olympic-size 50-metre swimming pool, four racket ball courts, four squash courts plus a second weight room.

In the main field house, there is room at any one time for five basketball courts, seven volleyball courts, a dozen badminton courts, or five tennis courts.

The residents of the South Street area who were so 'fired up' over the construction of the complex seem to have cooled down considerably, said Jacobson.

"I have spoken to several people who are sport involved, but who live in the area—one fellow said there was more dust created at his house by the construction of the Life Sciences Centre than by Dalplex, which was virtually next door to his place."

Jacobson said that although in the initial stages of construction, the residents were afraid the building would be a 'huge high rise type structure, looking like a massive dome sitting in the middle of space,' it is actually 40 feet below the surface, and doesn't take away from the "beauty of the area."

"Many people who opposed it will actually join it, because it will be a good recreational facility for them," he said.

A full Dalplex price brochure is available and according to it, community memberships range from \$275 per year down to \$75 for the summer term.

Dalhousie Alumni will also enjoy full year, academic year, one term and summer term rates.

Although the services of Dalplex are free to full-time Dal students, the part-timers will have to pay \$75 for a full year, \$50 for the academic year, \$35 for one term and \$25 for the summer.

A family rate (spouse and all children 12 and under) is also available at a slightly higher rate.

"Although the electricians strike cost us about \$150,000, we ran pretty well within the \$10.5 million budget, of which government gave us about three quarters and \$3 million which the Dal Fund Council has raised so far."

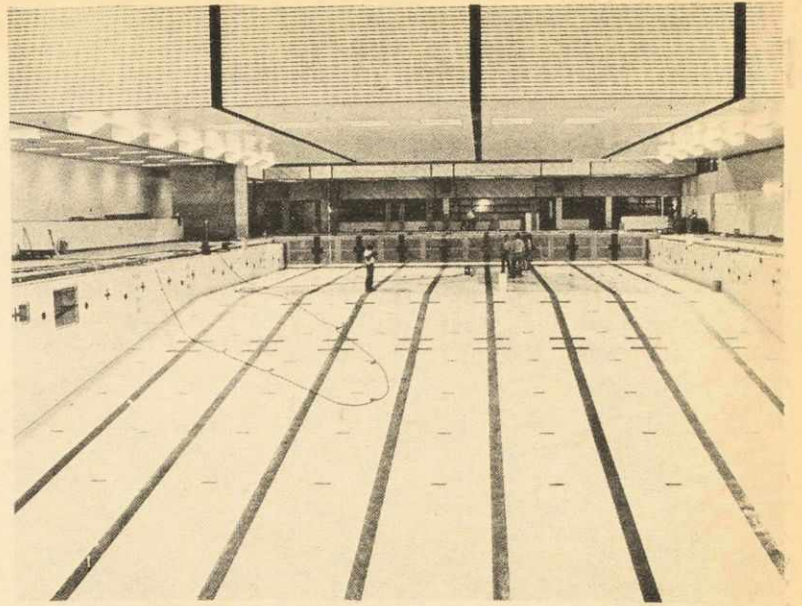
Jacobson said the number one priority of Dalplex will be Phys Ed classes, number two will be varsity programs which will take place during a certain time period each day, the third will be sport and activity schools, clubs and intramural programs and fourth will be free choice participation.

"We feel the pool will probably have the most access because it is 50 metres long with two bulkheads which will divide it into three separate areas—there is no way that every area will be in reserve use at the same time."



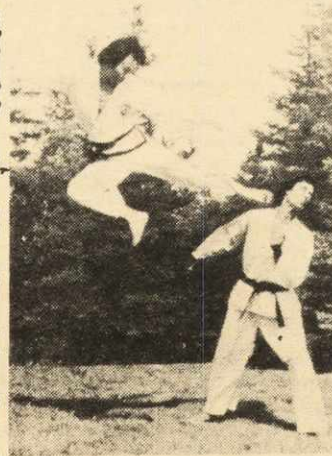
An interesting feature of the facility will be free accessibility of athletic equipment including towels, T-shirts, shorts, socks, and athletic supports. Members need only bring proper footwear or a swimsuit. Although "free" to those paying a membership fee, Dal students will be charged a fee for this service.

"There will be no permanent lockers at Dalplex . . . lockers will be available on a day-to-day basis only, so that when you come in, you pick up your equipment and a key to a locker which would be turned in when leaving," Jacobson said.



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