

The Dream Lives On

By James van Raalte, President UNB Student Union

Thirty years ago, the students on this campus had a dream. "We need a building that will be the focus of student life at UNB for years to come.", they said. "We need a space where people can meet away from the classroom, an area to relax, a place to call our own." A place to call our own.

Since that time, the Student Union Building was built. And the dream of those students became a reality. And because of them, we all enjoy another "home away from home", rooms to gather in to discuss the finer things in life, an escape when the library becomes too claustrophobic, a five-minute getaway when cramming for finals becomes impossible. Our own place.

The dream didn't end there. Shortly after the SUB opened, in 1969, students began to talk of the future. "We need to grow.", they said. "As UNB expands, we need to move in the same direction" This special insert is a record of that dream. It presents a history of the Student Union Building - from the time it was just an idea to the structure we are all familiar with today.

Imagine what UNB would be like without the SUB. Imagine walking from d'Avray Hall to the library in the cold of winter without stopping at the SUB to warm up first. Imagine no cafeteria for lunch, group meetings or Skydiggers concerts. Imagine the *Brunswickan*, CHSR, Help Centre or Student Union offices scattered all over the campus. Imagine no SUBTowne, no Smoke Shoppe, no Flannery's, no Travel Cuts, no Social Club. Imagine what we would have today if there had been no dream, no place to call our own.

The dream lives on. Three decades later, the vision of a better facility where the needs of all students are fulfilled is still alive. The topic of expanding the SUB has arisen from time to time over the years, with various plans and proposals, but never has the dream been this close to becoming true. A better place.

Imagine what UNB could be like with a larger SUB. Imagine offices and meeting rooms for all the clubs and societies on campus. Imagine Counselling Services, the Placement Centre, the Dean of Students and Health Centre all under one roof. Imagine lounge spaces for international, mature, grad and part-time students. Imagine an expanded cafeteria or Social Cub. Imagine the place.

Twenty-five years from now, what will the students be saying? Will they still be having the same dream that exists today or will they have a better SUB and be able to dream new dreams of their own? Will they thank us for our foresight? Will they look back, just as we do now, and say "Imagine - they wanted us to have this place to call our own".

Imagine, now, the students all those years ago who wanted us to have a SUB - a place to call our own - and thank them.

Thank you.

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Special thanks to
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