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Acadia University to build world-class research complex

BY MARLA LANDERS

WOLFVILLE, N.B. (CUP) — Acadia University will soon be home to a world-class environmental sciences complex thanks to a donation from one of Canada's wealthiest families.

The eight-acre Environmental Sciences Research Centre — made possible through a donation from New Brunswick's Irving family will facilitate research in conservation biology, the ecology of wetlands and the effects of global warming in Eastern Canada.

"It's an absolutely magnificent contribution to student life at Acadia," university president Kelvin Ogilvie said when the gift was announced last Friday.

He added he expects the complex to attract potential students to Acadia.

"I'm pleased to be here," said Arthur Irving, who graduated from Acadia and serves as the school's chancellor, when plans for the complex were unveiled. "It's a great opportunity to help Acadia. We all have to work together."

Along with greenhouses of flora native to northeastern North America, the complex will house a fully wired, high-tech classroom. The research centre will also

include a botanical garden, public meeting area and nature trail, lawn area and brook.

Chris Houston, president of

"This is one of the most wonderful things I've witnessed in this community, and I've been here for 30 years."

the Acadia Students' Union, said he was impressed by the plans.

"It's an incredibly generous donation," he said. "I think it's something everyone on campus can benefit from. What

a great way to end the year."

Wolfville Mayor Bob Stead was also full of

praise for the Environmental Sciences Research Centre, which is expected to take up to two years to construct.

"This is one of the most will begin.

Big Brothers & Sisters

wonderful things I've witnessed in this community, and I've been here for 30 years," he said.

Some students, however, were not so impressed by Irving's donation.

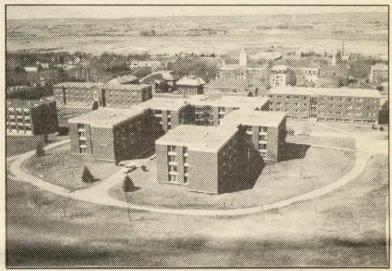
> Fourth-year student Graham Watts distributed literature at the meeting to announce the complex, outlining past environmental mishaps by Atlantic gasoline giant Irving Oil Limited.

"An opposing voice needed to be raised," Watts said, citing the 1970 sinking of the company's Irving Whale barge in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Some of the fuel oil contained in the barge spilled at the time of sinking, and small amounts

"An opposing voice needed to be raised."

have continued to leak out since then.

Publicists haven't announced when construction on the project will begin.



ACADIAN PERSPECTIVE: University campus to get more complex.







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ST. JOHN'S	-	06:00 11:05 ⁴ 17:15 ² 20:10 ⁶	-	06:00 ⁵ 10:25 21:35 ⁵	-	-	1
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³ Begins April 12 ² Begins April 19 ⁴ Ends April 18 ⁵ Week of April 1 only ⁶ Week of April 5 only ¹⁰ Begins April 5

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