

# City council approves rink construction

by Greg Dennis

Halifax City Council has accepted Dalhousie University's application for construction of a new ice arena, but the proposed 1660 seat structure probably will not be completed before the homeless hockey Tigers open their 1981-82 season.

"I would think it will be ready towards Christmas time," said Jim Sykes, the school's director of planning and development, not ruling out the possibility of an earlier completion date. Sykes said he "is optimistic we might pick up time" since no delays caused by contract renewals are expected this year.

City Council granted unanimous consent to Dalhousie's application at a council meeting December 11, 1980. A 30 day appeal period, in which those opposed to the decision may plead their case, expires January 10, and the city's Planning and Appeals Board reports no beefs have been aired thus far. Ward Two alderman Ron Cromwell said he expects no problems since none of his constituents have

come to him with objections to the rink's construction, either before or after council's decision.

Construction of the rink, to be located on the corner of South and LeMarchant beside and annexed to the old gym, should be in full swing by March when the construction industry comes out of winter hibernation. Sykes said some work, presumably the clearing and excavating of the ground site, will begin in February. If construction has not begun by the end of that month, the university risks losing the insurance money from the old arena which was destroyed by fire in May, 1978. The original terms of the policy stated construction of replacement facilities had to commence before December 31, 1979, but separate extensions of one year and two months have been granted since then. A further delay may or may not produce another extension, and Dalhousie might be skating on thin ice if no work is done before March 1.

After the 30 day appeal period ends Saturday, Sykes

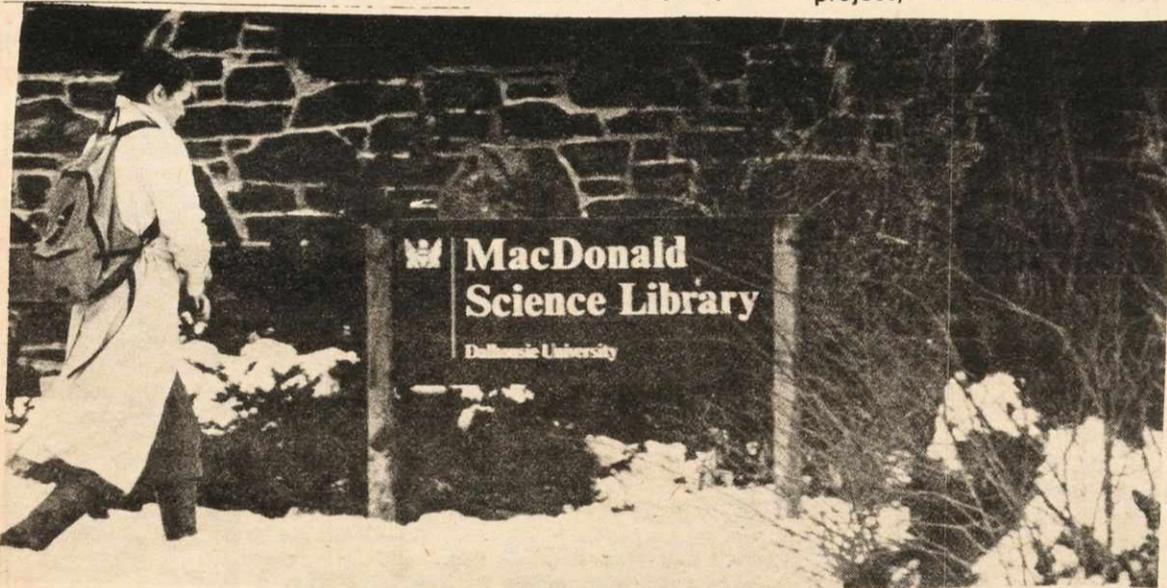


said, proposals from construction managers will be accepted rather than a public call of tenders. "That leaves us more involved in the project," he said. Construc-

tion of the building has been estimated at \$2 million.

For the past three years, varsity hockey has been played a considerable distance from the campus at the

Halifax Forum on Windsor Street, while women's hockey and intramural hockey and broomball have had to be played at the Forum and at St. Mary's University.



One of the scenic additions to the Dalhousie campus this term is the informative little signs all over campus explaining the obvious to tourists to the university who are too shy to go inside. While many students are placing bets on whether President MacKay wants to turn Dalhousie into a museum or a national park, others are wondering how many presidential festivities he will have to cancel this year to pay for these building markers.

## Financial strain may restrict entrance

OTTAWA (CUP)—Fewer students may be enrolled in Carleton's undergraduate law courses next year but it won't be from the lack of popularity.

Professor Lynn Campbell, chairperson of the law department, said financial strain may force severe enrollment restrictions.

Over enrollment is already a serious problem, he said, with 3400 students registered this year, an increase of 700 more than last year.

Some courses, such as consumer law and banking, have seminar groups of more than 70 students.

By September registration this year, only one law course, in addition to the introductory course, had openings. All other law courses were filled at pre-registration. However, the university forced the department to admit more stu-

dents.

Campbell said it was impossible to find adequate classroom accommodation in many instances.

"Students who are paying for these courses have a right to a seat," he said "I've had to refuse students admission to a course they require for graduation. Ultimately it is the students who suffer."

Another major difficulty facing the law faculty is a cutback of sessional lecturers.

Campbell said the department "is making hundreds of thousands of dollars for the university" and yet is unquestionably being squeezed tighter than other departments.

Next year the department will lose at least five of its sessional lecturers, said Campbell, and three more currently covered by the bud-

gets of overlapping faculties.

"Our sessionals are extremely high calibre," he said, coming from areas including the federal justice department. The average sessional salary is less than \$3000 per course.

Campbell said implementing course admission restrictions, which would require senate approval, is the only way to maintain, much less improve, the law department at Carleton if the university does not give the department more money.

He explained he was "looking to strengthen our academic and research programs" and "as the only school in the country offering an undergraduate law program we have a duty to Canada as well as Carleton students" to keep standards high.

## Anti-cutback strategy proposed

by Paul Clark

Two members of the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) Campus Committee at Dalhousie have written a four page "Proposal for Action" for fighting for adequate levels of funding for post-secondary education.

The paper, which will be presented to student council Sunday night, outlines a strategy for raising awareness and lobbying against government policy on education. Tactics suggested include button and pamphlet campaigns; distribution of a fact sheet on the government's "failures and successes"; cooperation with the Dalhousie administration, faculty and staff; meetings with government officials; and, finally, a march on Province House with other Nova Scotia institutions to protest the expected funding cutbacks and tuition hikes.

The proposal's authors, student council science reps Atul Sharma and Caroline Zayid, deplore the ineffectiveness of using "official" channels to express unhappiness with trends in post-secondary education. "Looking back, there has not been a single incident in which a real victory has been won for students," they say. "The provincial government, and its agencies, has consistently ignored or blatantly insulted the student movement in all its actions."

They cite in particular the government's apparent disregard for their opinions by making funding announcements only hours after hearing student presentations on this

issue, as well as the recent government appointment of a student to a government committee on student-aid without consultation with any elected student bodies.

"To have appointed no student would merely have showed (sic) insensitivity to the special perspective of students but to appoint a student in this way is simply a way of laughing at student government in Nova Scotia," they say.

Equally, Sharma and Zayid claim student leaders have a credibility problem with their electorate. Student leaders, they say, are increasingly perceived as "ineffective, inactive, and even indifferent to increases in tuition and residence fees."

In response to these problems they say, "we must make it abundantly clear that we will not quietly and dutifully acquiesce, under any circumstances, to the path the government has chosen to take in dealing with higher education."

The consequences of an unsuccessful student campaign could be severe. "I think a \$100 tuition could occur next year," Zayid said in an interview last Tuesday.

While it is up to the SUNS Campus Committee to evaluate this proposal, Zayid said it is also being taken to student council to promote discussion of issues often forgotten. "Things are going from bad to worse and no one's getting particularly angry about it."