

## The Buildings of Dalhousie University

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# Dalhousie Memorial Arena

Address: 6185 South St.

Start Date: 1981

Completion Date: Spring 1982

Architect: Daniel F. Tull; J. G. Sykes

Contractor: Corkum Construction



New Dalhousie Rink - Model, 1981



New Dalhousie Rink - Construction, 1981

## Building History

Dalhousie's original Memorial Rink was erected in 1950 and commemorated the service and sacrifice of Dalhousie students who fought in the two World Wars. In May 1978, that rink burned down and a new Memorial Arena was designed to take its place. Today's Memorial Arena honours all those who served and sacrificed for Canada, and features a plaque of stone taken from the original building.

Architect for the Memorial Arena was Daniel F. Tull, with significant contribution from university planner-architect J.G. Sykes. The Memorial Arena is a replica of the arena at the University of Maine, with a unique scalloped, wooden roof design that President Henry Hicks loved. It has a seating capacity of 1143, with additional standing room for over 200.

Dalhousie had to tread carefully with the public in this building project because of the fierce controversy that had erupted in the 1970s with the construction of the Dalplex. The university applied to Halifax City Council for permission to build, since the plans exceeded zoning dimension regulations. Designers strove to meet area residents' request for an aesthetically pleasing structure. Besides enhancing the aesthetics of the building, the roof was meant to improve the structure's acoustics as well, and allow it to be used for events other than skating, such as concerts, convocations and exhibitions.

Construction of the Memorial Arena, contracted to H. W. Corkum Construction Ltd., began in 1981 and was completed by the spring of 1982. The building cost \$2.5 million, more than four times the old rink's cost. The first events were held there in June 1982 and the official opening took place on Remembrance Day, November 11, 1982. Dignitaries present at the opening ceremony included: John E. Shaffner, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia; Premier John M. Buchanan of Nova Scotia; Education Minister Terrence R.B. Donahoe; Gerald A. Regan, former federal minister for fitness and amateur sport; Dr. W. Andrew MacKay, President of Dalhousie;



Dalhousie Memorial Arena - Rink Roof,  
1988

Peter Corkum, builder; Daniel F. Tull, architect; Neil Erskine, Vice-President Academic, Dalhousie Student Union; and Sherman Zwicker, President of the Student Union in 1950-1951 when the original rink opened.

Today the Dalhousie Memorial Arena is the home of the Dalhousie Tigers Varsity Men's and Women's Hockey Teams and the Dalhousie Superskills Hockey Schools.

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Dalhousie Memorial Rink after May 13, 1978 fire, May 1978



Dal Rink - Exterior - Roof, March 1982



Dal Rink under construction, February 1982



IWK Kermesse 1982, first function in new rink - carnival rides, 1982

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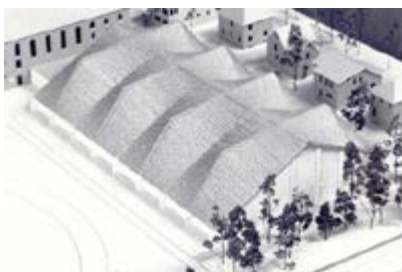
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IWK Kermesse 1982, first function in new rink - crowd scene, 1982



IWK Kermesse 1982, first function in new rink - flea market and arts & crafts show, 1982



Model of Dalhousie Memorial Arena's exterior, n.d.



Model of proposed new rink, December 11, 1980

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New rink under construction, 1981



Temporary Library Quarters in  
Dalhousie University Rink, Summer  
1966

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