

BACKGROUND

RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE CANADA (RIInC) PROGRAM Wanderer's Grounds Field House - Rehabilitation Project



Project Type:

Rehabilitation and repair of existing recreational infrastructure

Project Detail:

This project is a collaborative initiative of the Halifax Regional Municipality in partnership with the Wanderer's Amateur Athletic Club which will serve to enhance the scope and quality of the sport, recreation, social and cultural opportunities available to local athletes and spectators and to commemorate the region's rich sports history. The refurbishment of the building will include heritage protection and interpretation which will acknowledge the building and site's historical significance in relation to the original Wanderer's Amateur Athletic Club and Halifax's naval history.

Purpose of the Project:

- Building rehabilitation to upgrade and restore the former Navy League of Canada Recreation Centre "Dry Canteen" and brand the building as the Wanderer's Grounds Field House.
- Enhance amenities for sports, recreational, social, and cultural activities on the Wanderer's Grounds and in the immediate vicinity.
- Heritage protection and interpretation to acknowledge the building and site's historical significance in relation to the original Wanderer's Amateur Athletic Club, Halifax's naval history, and contextual relationship to the Halifax Commons, Citadel Hill and the Halifax Public Gardens.
- Streetscape enhancement in association with the Wanderer's Grounds (c.1886), Halifax Public Gardens (c.1866) a National Historic Site, HRM greenhouses, and the Gardener's Lodge (c.1902) a registered heritage property. Prospective future heritage district.
- Environmental upgrades resulting in reduced water and energy consumption.

Wanderer’s Amateur Athletic Club (2009-) In 2009, the Halifax Rugby Football Club and the Halifax Tars Rugby Football Club created a registered non-profit society for the purpose of launching a coordinated and collaborative fund-raising campaign, and to assume the role of property manager under a Facility Management Agreement with HRM.

Resurrecting the venerable name of the Wanderer’s Amateur Athletic Club in association with re-naming the building as the Wanderer’s Grounds Field House creates a new synergy for the facility. The building and its amenities will now be identified with a locale rich in sites of interest to residents, visitors and tourists.

Recent Milestones

- In 2006, Navy League of Canada “Dry Canteen” closed due to chronic under-capitalization and limited functionality.
- Demolition was averted and \$85,000 re-directed to efforts to rehabilitate the building for sport and community use - January 2007.
- Capital commitment of an additional \$400,000 approved in HRM 2009-2010 budget - May 2009.
- Registration of building as municipally registered heritage property - June 2009.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Wanderer’s Amateur Athletic Club approved by Halifax Regional Council - June 23 2009.

Funding

Halifax Regional Municipality	\$400,000	Confirmed
Wanderer’s Amateur Athletic Club	\$200,000	In Progress
Government of Canada (RInC)	<u>\$300,000</u>	Confirmed
	\$900,000	