



News Release

Queenston School Sheilah Sweatman Gymnasium officially opens

Nov. 12, 2015 (Winnipeg, MB) – Winnipeg School Division has officially opened the new Queenston School Sheilah Sweatman Gymnasium, 9,590 sq. ft. addition to the original building. The Manitoba government provided support for the new gym, with parent and community fundraising, led by Gym Committee Chair Colleen McFadden, helping to make construction of additional space possible.

“I commend the Queenston gym committee for their efforts to expand the size of this new gym, which will create recreational opportunities for the entire community and encourage students to get active and participate in sports,” said Education and Advanced Learning Minister James Allum. “Students who are active are more successful in their studies, and the Manitoba government is committed to ensuring they have more opportunities to be involved in sports.”

“We have named the gym in memory of local hero Sheilah Sweatman,” said McFadden. “In the summer of 2011, at the age of 29, Sheilah tragically lost her life during a selfless, volunteer mission with Nelson B.C. Search and Rescue. Her commitment to helping others is a value we hope to instil in our children.”

The new gymnasium features an at-grade public entry, providing a new public face and foyer for the school onto Queenston Street, and safe playground access for students. There is a new elevator and barrier-free access to all new and existing floors in the school.

“Winnipeg School Division is committed to making our schools completely accessible to all students, throughout the division,” said Chair Mark Wasyliv, WSD Board of Trustees. “With every project our staff completes, we realize accessibility and environmental improvements.” Trustee Wasyliv also acknowledged what the new building means to the community.

“We’re very pleased to partner with Corydon Community Centre to make this space available during the evening, when not in use by the school, to its members and the general public,” he said.

The Queenston School Sheilah Sweatman Gymnasium was designed to meet Manitoba Hydro Power Smart guidelines, in addition to being LEED Certified. Design includes a special ‘bird-protection’ glass along the west and east glass walls to protect native bird populations, while also providing expansive views of the neighbourhood. All finishes are low-emitting for healthy interior environments.

“One of the most unique features of this entire space, and something our students are intrigued by, is the oculus, which reflects Sheilah’s signature onto the ground below,” said Principal Wade Gregg, Queenston School. The oculus is a domed window located in the front entrance on Queenston Street.

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The school's previous gymnasium is now a multi-purpose room used for daycare, lunch program and a variety of special events.

Queenston School is a Nursery to Grade 6 school with over 140 students. It is part of Winnipeg School Division, the largest school division in the province with 77 schools and over 33,000 students.

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