

**Backgrounder:  
The Revitalization of Richardson Stadium**

The campaign for Richardson Stadium

- The revitalization of Richardson Stadium is a \$20.27-million project that will create one of the top facilities of its kind in Ontario.
- It is part of the Fields and Stadium priority, within the university's \$500-million [Initiative Campaign](#), with a goal of revitalizing Queen's athletics and recreation facilities to promote the health and wellness of students and the broader Queen's and Kingston communities.
- Fundraising efforts have been supported by the Initiative Campaign's Fields & Stadium Cabinet, co-chaired by Paul and Vicki Hand. The campaign for the stadium's revitalization kicked off in March, 2014 with the [announcement of a \\$10 million pledge](#) to the project from Queen's alumnus and former Gael Stu Lang and his wife Kim. This was followed by a [\\$5 million contribution](#) from the Richardson Foundation, as well as other donations.
- Philanthropic support to the Fields and Stadium priority has already seen the revitalization of Nixon Field, Tindal Field, and Miklas-McCarney Field, providing new artificial turf facilities for Queen's students and the community.
- The revitalization of Richardson Stadium is the next step in the Fields and Stadium priority, and fundraising continues for the next phase: adding a pavilion to the revitalized Richardson Stadium. The Pavilion would house facilities such as locker rooms and training facilities, and complete the revitalized stadium's bowl design.

About the revitalized facility

- The architect for the new facility is Shoalts and Zaback and the general contractor is M. Sullivan & Son, both of which are local firms and have worked on numerous projects at Queen's. Recently, Shoalts and Zaback worked on the two new residence buildings, and M. Sullivan & Son worked on the new School of Medicine building and the complete renovation of Gordon Hall.
- The new Richardson Stadium will occupy the same location as the current stadium and will include an artificial turf field, state-of-the-art scoreboard, and bowl-style seating.
- Seating will initially be constructed in a U-shape and accommodate 9,000 spectators, with temporary seating placed in the north section. Pending successful fundraising, a pavilion and additional permanent seating would be built in the north section, completing the bowl design and bringing the stadium's capacity up to approximately 10,000.
- The revitalized stadium will be used by a number of Queen's teams, including football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey.
- Philanthropy will fund \$17.27 million of the revitalization project, with the university contributing the remaining \$3 million toward necessary infrastructure upgrades. Given the poor condition of the current stadium, without a revitalization the stadium would continue to

deteriorate to the point where the university would have to invest significant resources to repair or renovate the existing structure.

- Queen's aims to have the new facility open for the 2016 football season, with construction beginning after the end of the 2015 season, to minimize interruptions in the use of the stadium.
- The modern facility will support the excellence of Queen's athletics and recreation programs and expand the possible uses for the field, including hosting opportunities for tournaments at the regional, provincial and national levels, bringing economic benefits to the city.

#### The stadium's history and current situation

- The original Richardson Stadium was built in 1921 on Queen's Main Campus for a cost of \$50,000. It was a gift of James Armstrong Richardson, Queen's Chancellor from 1929 to 1939. It was named for his brother George Taylor Richardson, a prominent Queen's athlete who was killed in France during the First World War.
- In 1972 portions of Richardson were moved to West Campus and the stadium was rebuilt in its present location.
- Now more than 40 years old, the existing Richardson Stadium is in a state of deterioration and no longer meets the university's needs.
- In May 2013 an engineering report recommended the removal of some of the stadium's bleachers and, in June of that year, temporary seating was brought in to accommodate spectators.
- [Read more about the stadium's history](#)