

Something Great in Common

Two Buildings Become One Garden City Collegiate (and that's just to start)

There's a new addition at Garden City Collegiate... and it's literally bringing staff and students together.

Since 1995, Garden City Collegiate has been one school operating between two unconnected buildings – the Garden City building and what was once Jefferson Junior High. With many students and staff having to travel outdoors from one building to the other, this gap created a lingering sense of two different schools. (The fact that people would have to deal with rain or freezing cold weather as they went back and forth wasn't particularly enjoyable either.)

All that has changed – and on May 12th, it will be made official as the school holds a grand opening event to celebrate the long-awaited and much anticipated addition.

The new space is designed to give Garden City Collegiate a superior central space for socializing. Boasting an abundance of natural light, high ceilings and seating for 250, there's plenty of room for people to meet, greet and even eat lunch from the "Go-pher Lunch" canteen.

Gym-Dandy

But the link is more than just a meeting place. It also houses a brand-new gymnasium and exercise area that will be the envy of schools throughout the province.

Saying the new gym is expansive is an understatement. It's one of the largest gym facilities in Manitoba, providing students with a place they



can pursue their health and fitness goals or cheer and watch school teams take on competitors. The space also adds opportunities for larger school events which will further bring everyone together.

Cheryl Senensky works in the main office at the school and knows how excited everyone is about the project finally coming together.

"The block-long school has increased the sense of school spirit as well as the students and staff pride in the school," says Senensky. "Some of the

students have been saying things about how they love that there is a place for the kids to hang out and how it's a great place to go when you don't have classes."

Garden City Collegiate will show off its new space to the public with an exciting opening event on May 12th at 7 pm.

The evening will feature performances by the Garden City Senior Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz Group and the Reality Check Dance Group. Light refreshments will be served, courtesy of

the Grade 11 and 12 Food & Nutrition Students. Tours of the entire school will also be offered by our student volunteers.

From Opening to Anniversary

As the opening of the new common area leads the school into a new future, Garden City Collegiate is celebrating its history in a big way.

The school celebrates its 50th anniversary next year – and as part of the 50th Anniversary Committee, Senensky can tell you there's a lot of celebrating on the horizon.

"It gives me great pride to be coordinating the 50th Anniversary Reunion of the school, along with my co-chairs, Jodi Gilmore, Albert Yanofsky, and Harriet Zaidman," says Senensky. "I am excited to announce that the 50th Anniversary Reunion will be dedicated in memory of Howard Sinaisky, a former teacher and alumnus, who was instrumental in putting together GC's 25th Anniversary Reunion in 1986."

All Garden City Collegiate alumni are invited to join in celebrating the milestone event, with a whole weekend's worth of things to do:

Friday May 20, 2011

It's an old fashioned North End BBQ at the school! Get together and enjoy some grilled goodness to start the weekend off right.

Saturday, May 21, 2011

The morning offers a "Magical History Tour" where people can hop on a bus for a guided tour of significant sites in West Kildonan and the North End. It's a unique opportunity for people to learn about the places, people and events that shaped our community, from the earliest settlement to the 1919 General



Strike to our newest schools.

Daytime activities at the school include sports events, chess and plenty of time to socialize with old and new friends. The day ends with a dinner & dance at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

Sunday, May 22, 2011

The weekend draws to a close with a special good-bye breakfast brunch.

For Senensky, who has worked at the school since 1986, the weekend promises to be almost as much of a family get-together as it is a celebration of the school.

"My entire family attended Garden City Collegiate, back in the 70's," explains Senensky. "My oldest son graduated from the school in 2009, and my

youngest son is currently in 9th grade."

"Helping coordinate this upcoming reunion is a ton of work, but well worth it!" she says. "At times, I think I am crazy for getting involved in the planning of the 50th! However, when it is all said and done, I am certain it will be an amazing experience. I am looking forward to re-connecting with old friends, teachers & former staff."

Join in the celebration and see what Garden City Collegiate looks like today, starting with the Commons Grand Opening event on May 12th at 7 pm. For more information and updates, visit <http://www.7oaks.org/school/gardencity/Pages/default.aspx>

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