

City of Calgary Hosts the Grand Opening of the Inland Athletic Park



Stan Sundquist, Vice President & General Manager, Inland Aggregates Limited, addresses the crowd gathered for the Inland Athletic Park Grand Opening.

On Saturday, September 23, 2006, the City of Calgary officially opened the Inland Athletic Park. The park is a result of a unique partnership between Inland Aggregates, the City of Calgary, the province of Alberta and various sport and recreation groups.

Since 1983, the gravel products mined from Inland Aggregates' Stoney Trail pit had been used to build many of Calgary's communities. In fact, the products are the foundation of many of Calgary's municipal and commercial infrastructures; residential subdivisions; and even the building of homes.

While aggregate products are vital to the development of communities, residents do not always consider it desirable to have a gravel operation in their own neighborhood. However, while operating the pit Inland Aggregates was dedicated to being good corporate neighbors to the surrounding residents.

That dedication extended not only through the life of the pit, but also to finding and implementing secondary land uses that will bring further beneficial enhancements to these communities once the gravel extraction operations conclude.

In the case of the Stoney Trail pit, as plans were being prepared to either reclaim the land to its previous use or to convert the land to another use such as a golf course, subdivision, commercial area or farmland, Inland Aggregates was approached with the idea for the creation of an athletic park.

By working closely with Calgary's City Council, as well as with the provincial government, utility companies and several departments of the City of Calgary, the groups were able to design and construct this much needed recreation facility on the site.

The Inland Athletic Park is a multi-functional, 55-acre park which includes two baseball diamonds, two full size rugby/football fields, one major and four national size soccer fields, two lacrosse fields, a tobogganing hill, and a pond for winter time skating.

Users of this park will never know that this area was once one of the biggest aggregate operations in Calgary. Instead, the Inland Athletic Park will be known for providing residents, most especially the youth of Calgary, with one of the best multi-use sports facilities in the province. In addition, the park will serve as a permanent reminder of the benefits that can result when industries work together with communities.



Following the grand opening ceremonies, the crowd was treated to a rugby game played by the Calgary Saracens Athletic Association.