



# Hillfield Strathallan College

Here Excellence is a Way of Life

MEDIA RELEASE

Attention: News Directors

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HILLFIELD STRATHALLAN COLLEGE ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION DOLLAR DONATION FROM INTERNATIONALLY-RENOVED INDUSTRIALIST AND PHILANTHROPIST, MICHAEL G. DEGROOTE AT TODAY'S GRAND OPENING CEREMONIES BRINGING HIS FAMILY'S TOTAL GIVING TO THIS \$42 MILLION PROJECT TO \$19.5 MILLION.

***Hillfield Strathallan College held its Grand Opening Ceremony today for the new state-of-the-art Michael G. DeGroot Senior School, Phase I of a \$42 million investment to create new learning spaces at its Fennell Street West Campus.***

**Hamilton, ON** - Today's Grand Opening Ceremony marked the completion of Phase I of the '**Transformation HSC Campaign**': a \$42 million investment by **Hillfield Strathallan College** to create new learning spaces at its Fennell Street West Campus. Mr. Michael G. DeGroot, members of his family, Olympian Marnie McBean, contributors to the campaign and community members were on hand to officially open the new state-of-the-art **Michael G. DeGroot Senior School**. "Today's ceremony was an opportunity to pause, reflect and be grateful for all of the people, energy, talent and kindness that has come together to allow this spectacular learning environment; a dream only a few short years ago - to become a reality", said **Mr. Marc Ayotte, Head of College**.

**Hillfield Strathallan College** also announced today a **\$6 million** donation from internationally-renowned industrialist and philanthropist, **Michael G. DeGroot**, as the anchor contribution towards its **Athletic Complex and Community Centre -- Phase II of the 'Transformation HSC Campaign'**: a \$15 million investment to create world-class training and instruction facilities at its Fennell Street West Campus.

The College hopes this donation will inspire similar gestures from alumni, current families and community leaders, to boost continued philanthropic support to allow the College to begin construction in the next few months. To date the College has raised \$33 million for the '**Transformation HSC Campaign**' -- \$19.5 million of which has been donated by the DeGroot Family. "It is hard not to be inspired by the DeGroot Family's generosity and unwavering support of the College and its commitment to preparing students for their future", said **Mr. Ayotte, Head of College**.

Mr. DeGroot has deep-rooted connections to the College spanning more than 40 years. His four children and five of his grandchildren are alumni of HSC, and his granddaughter is a current student. As a **Patron of HSC**, he is one of four current guardians of the College's history, traditions and future directions; this is the highest honour bestowed by the College on its supporters. Mr. DeGroot is an honorary graduate of the Class of 2009.

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**The Athletic Complex and Community Centre** will add an additional 35,000 square feet of world-class training and instruction facilities and will include a College-wide Assembly Hall, which will serve as an integral central rallying place for the HSC community. The new complex will include three large gymnasias, (one specifically designated for Early Education use), a multi-purpose athletics studio, conditioning room, change rooms and related administrative spaces. There will be seating for up to 450 people in the bleachers.

“Having such a facility will no doubt have an impact on our community and will inevitably attract elite athletes who will help build our program. It will also help increase our profile locally, provincially and nationally”, said **Mr. Paul Masotti, Director of Athletics.**

It will also see the completion of state-of-the-art performing arts facilities including a 100-seat multi-purpose performance space, allow for the creation of a permanent home for the College’s expanding and dynamic drama program, and provide for the centralization of the College’s Health Services.

The realization of additional arts spaces will provide new opportunities to deliver and expand the College’s arts program. In addition, renovations to the vacated art rooms near the current Virtue-Fitzgerald Centre for the Arts will create a home for the College’s drama program, while the new multi-purpose performance space will offer all students an opportunity to build their self-confidence through self-expression and various forms of presentation.

“The arts are involved in developing the whole person which is what we are all about here at HSC. We are really nurturing the whole child with arts, with academics and with athletics. We are looking forward to a time when we have proper rehearsal and performance spaces for all four schools”, said **Dr. Greg Burton, Director of the Arts.**

Hillfield Strathallan College is a **not-for-profit, independent day school**, governed by an arm’s length **Board of Governors**, and affiliated with the Conference of Independent Schools (**CIS**), the Canadian Association of Independent Schools (**CAIS**) and the Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators (**CCMA**). In addition to meeting Ministry of Education requirements, the College offers the Advanced Placement program which is comparable to first year university studies. It adheres to all CIS and CAIS standards and undergoes an exhaustive evaluation, on a regular basis, by the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CA+IS), the main accrediting agency for independent schools in Canada.

Since **1901**, Hillfield Strathallan College has served the Hamilton and Golden Horseshoe area by providing young people with extraordinary educational opportunities. It offers an enriched academic, arts and athletic program, through its four schools, from early Montessori ages and JK to Grade 12.

Now in its second century, Hillfield Strathallan College remains committed to excellence achieved through a broad approach to education that integrates academic training, character development, and social skills to nurture the whole student.

A successful blending of tradition and innovation, together with a strong partnership between home and school, has created a dynamic learning environment and a cohesive community where students are encouraged to become good citizens, strong leaders, and lifelong learners. For more information, visit: **[www.hsc.on.ca](http://www.hsc.on.ca)**.

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