

McMaster making West Hamilton,

HAMILTON'S *Discovery* DISTRICT

by Nick Markettos

Driving along Longwood Road or Aberdeen you can't help but notice the demolition work as the old Camco site disappears. The site is being revitalized and with it the economy of Hamilton is moving into the 21st century bringing with it prosperity and new jobs.

McMaster University is transforming a largely abandoned 37-acre industrial brownfield site into a premiere innovation park. It will be the only one of its kind in the region and will build on the University's existing reputation and prominence in research and productive partnerships with business and governments.



When fully developed MIP (McMaster Innovation Park) will house more than one million square feet of offices, laboratories, teaching, training and conference facilities. This represents a potential investment of \$400 million in this area, the majority of which will come from the private sector and public partnerships.

Some 1,500 long term and valuable jobs will be created with an annual direct payroll impact of more than \$100 million to the local economy. These numbers do not include the economic impact of neighbouring developments in West Hamilton, an area that is becoming known as Hamilton's Discovery District.

McMaster has a proven track record of successful partnerships with governments, business and industry. The University has been working with its current and future partners to ensure that through new developments, cures and discoveries benefits society as a whole.

The University's partners recognize the added value that comes with pooling resources and working together.

General Motors of Canada, in partnership with McMaster University will house the new GM of Canada Centre for Corrosion Engineering Research at MIP. Other large and small potential business partners are looking at MIP as an attractive location for their research and development activities. Physical proximity to one of the nations best intellectual resources, will allow companies to stay in the leading edge, compete in the global market and grow.


The substantial commitment to the McMaster Innovation Park from all three levels of government speaks volumes.

The Ontario Government contributed \$10-million to MIP and the City of Hamilton has contributed \$5-million toward the project. At the federal level the CANMET Materials Technology Laboratory, a federal government agency specializing in innovative metal and materials development, announced in June 2005, that it will locate its laboratories at MIP and will become a key component of MIP. As a result, more than 100 of the best materials scientists in Canada will be located at MIP and will work along side industry and academic researchers. It represents a \$60M commitment from the federal government to the Park.

In addition to partnerships with the business and governments, MIP will also create skills development and training opportunities with Mohawk College and other educational establishments in the region. As Ontario and Canada transform their economy so do the skills of a modern work force change. Advanced manufacturing requires skills that are very different to those of one or two generations ago.

Canadian companies who are planning to invest in new machinery require the comfort that a well trained work force is readily available to operate these machines and, MIP, through its partnerships with Mohawk and industry will help us to leap-frog ahead of our global competitors.

The McMaster Innovation Park will link McMaster's vision, talent and partners. It will benefit researchers and business by providing the opportunity to forge partnerships with industry and government that stimulate job creation and prosperity in the community. It will allow Canada to capture the economic value of the work done by its researchers in university, industry and government laboratories.

The McMaster Innovation Park will be an inspiring place that will attract knowledge workers from around the world with its design, landscape and open spaces. Future prosperity depends on our ability to innovate and to do this. It will set a new standard for best practices in transforming a brownfield site into a model of economic, environmental and social sustainability. 



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