why wlu* is changing to wlu**

* Waterloo Luthern University

** Wilfrid Laurier University

Waterloo Lutheran University was the last independent church-related university in the province of Ontario.

As such, the University received only half of the per capita operating grants given by the government to the 14 provincially assisted universities. Furthermore, WLU was not eligible for capital grants for the development of the campus.

In the late sixties, WLU was forced to seek a change in this financing arrangement when it became increasingly clear that the rising costs of operating the University could not be met by the Church or existing income sources. Since the Provincial Government was not planning any changes in the grant system for church related universities and colleges, the Eastern Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America was asked in 1972 to allow the University to seek Provincial status under a new name sponsorship as a secular university.

Among matters to be negotiated with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities was the question of compensation to the Synod for its investment in the University. The Government presented the University with five criteria which had to be met in order to achieve provincially assisted status. Three of these were formalities but the other two involved the appointment of a community Board of Governors, replacing the all-Lutheran Board and the removal of the word Lutheran from the University name. Of course this left 'Waterloo University', which because of the existence of the neighbouring University of Waterloo was unacceptable.

A Name-Change Committee was appointed, representing faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community at large. This committee reviewed almost 200 names and also noted the responses of polls which were taken by the students and the alumni. In both polls the most popular choice for a new name was Wilfrid Laurier University.

After the Synod at its Annual Meeting in June 1973 had voted acceptance of an agreement whereby the Synod would be compensated to the sum of approximately $3.5 million plus retain the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and its lands, the Board of Governors at a subsequent

meeting decided upon Wilfrid Laurier University as the name for the new university. A government bill was drafted which received Royal Assent on August 6, 1973 by the Lieutenant Governor and former WLU Chancellor William Ross Macdonald.

The new name honours the memory of a great Canadian Prime Minister.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the first French-Canadian Prime Minister, a man who fervently believed in the multi-cultural nature of the country and who devoted his life to this belief. He was Prime Minister of Canada in 1911 when the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, the forerunner of Waterloo Lutheran University, was founded.

In his biography "Laurier: The First Canadian" author Joseph Schull, identifies Laurier as the first Canadian leader to embody in himself the essential idea of two racial and language groups, French and English working in harmony for a united Canada.

"Certainly Laurier in his public career sought at all times to advance the mutual understanding of the two main racial components of the Canadian people. He did so with a courage and a mastery of he English language which won him wide support outside Quebec, and he fought continuously within French Canada for a greater appreciation of English-Canadian values. . ."

While the name is a tribute to one of Canada's great personages, it is not altogether coincidental that the initials WLU will remain for the new name.

Many people have for years referred to the University as simply WLU and the initials have authority in academic circles across Canada. They are also well-known by athletic enthusiasts, for the WLU Golden Hawk Athletic teams have earned respect across the nation, having qualified for four national finals in recent years.

The initials will provide a link with the fondly remembered years of Waterloo Lutheran University and the exciting, eagerly anticipated years ahead as - **WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY.**

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY will become the name of the university effective November 1st 1973.

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY will continue to be a small university with an enrolment of 2500 undergraduate students.

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY becomes Ontario's 15th provincially assisted university. The extra operating grants will enable WLU to lower the faculty student ratio and give the student the use of better equipment and facilities. In addition, when the Government of Ontario lifts the current freeze on capital grants for building extensions, WLU will become eligible for these grants.

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY will continue to work with the University of Waterloo in many areas and students will still be allowed to cross register at the other university, while University of Waterloo students will continue to take some courses at WLU, to the benefit of all concerned.

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY will continue to strive to offer a personalized education with emphasis on student/professor relationships.