

# Update!

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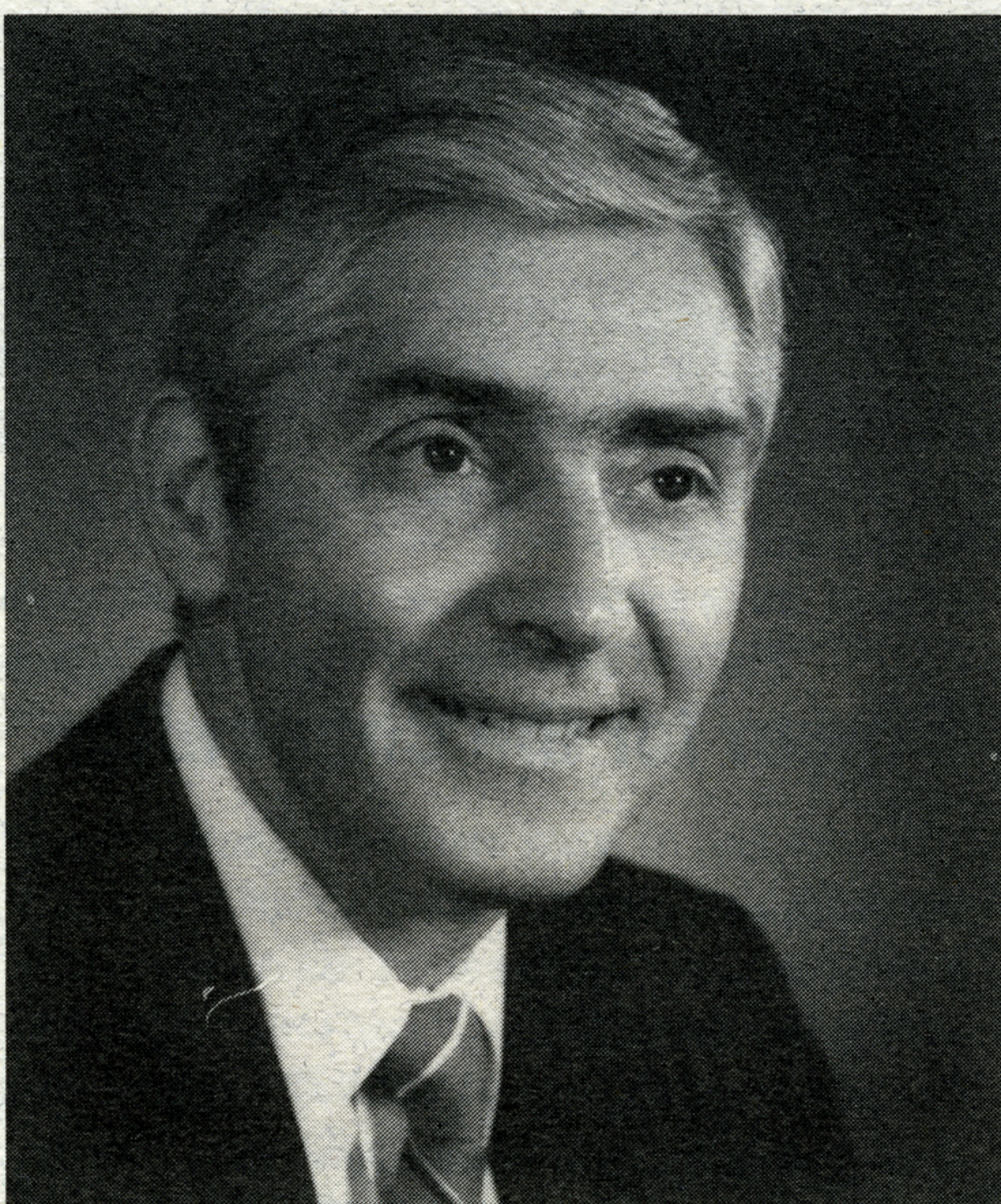
## College appoints new Chancellor

**R**espected educator, former cabinet minister and long-serving politician John R. Sweeney was installed as the new Chancellor of the University of St. Jerome's College in a ceremony that took place on December 8, 1991. The Board of Governors unanimously endorsed Mr. Sweeney's four-year renewable appointment at its October 24 meeting. He is the first layperson to hold the position in the College's 127-year history, succeeding the Most Reverend Anthony Tonnos, D.D., Bishop of Hamilton.

"St. Jerome's is proud to have associated with it in a public way a person of John Sweeney's personal character and public achievement," notes College President Dr. Douglas Letson. "He is a distinguished educator whose life has given witness to sound moral and Catholic values, and he is someone who has lived personally the social teachings of the Catholic Church, both as a citizen, and as an exemplary member of the Provincial Government."

Mr. Sweeney was elected as the member of the Ontario Legislature for the riding of Kitchener-Wilmot in 1975, and held the constituency until his retirement from politics in 1990. An effective and constructive critic while on the Opposition benches, he quickly became one of the Peterson government's key cabinet ministers when the Liberals assumed power in 1985.

Mr. Sweeney served as Minister of Community and Social Services, Minister of Municipal Affairs; and Minister of Housing in the Peterson cabinet. He enjoyed a reputation as a caring, competent, and informed minister. Currently, Mr. Sweeney is Planner-in-Residence at the University of Waterloo's School of Urban and Regional Planning. He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener, and his effectiveness in government was recognized by Premier Bob Rae's recent appointment of Mr. Sweeney to the Premier's Health Council. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Kitchener, and Habitat for Humanity (Canada).



The college's new Chancellor: John R. Sweeney.

Photo: courtesy of J. Sweeney

**T**he invitation to serve as Chancellor is a high honour which I have readily accepted," says Mr. Sweeney. "The role of St. Jerome's as a Catholic College within the University of Waterloo, and its ability to reach out to the wider community is a rich resource for both. My association with St. Jerome's has been a most positive one over the years," he adds. "When I was Director of Education for the Waterloo Separate School Board, we jointly established a programme at the College to train teachers in the important areas of Family Life and Human Sexuality. For six years I served on the College's Board of Governors, and came to a fuller understanding of the unique role played by St. Jerome's within the university community. One of my daughters is a St. Jerome's graduate. As Chancellor I hope to advance the objectives of the College in whatever way I can."

"I am delighted with Mr. Sweeney's appointment," adds Board of Governors Chair Mary McLaughlin. "He will truly be an example to the entire College community."

**B**orn in St. John, New Brunswick in 1931, Mr. Sweeney attended elementary school in St. John and Montreal. His secondary education was received at St. Michael's College School in Toronto, and he earned his BA and MEd degrees at the University of Toronto.

Mr. Sweeney was a teacher and principal in the Toronto Separate School Board from 1952 to 1962, and he was Provincial School Inspector from 1962 to 1968. He was appointed Director of Education of the Waterloo Region Separate School Board in 1968, and served in that capacity until his election to the Ontario Legislature in 1975.

Mr. Sweeney and his wife, the former Kay Doran, have ten children and ten grandchildren. Several members of the Sweeney family were present for the installation. During his inaugural address, Mr. Sweeney acknowledged the close relationships shared by the members of his family. "Those of you who know my family know that we are very much a part of each others' lives," he said. "When somebody is in trouble, all the others gather around. When we experience a joyful occasion like this, we share it. Therefore, you will understand when I say that the Sweeney family is deeply honoured by what you have done today, by bestowing on me – and therefore on all of the family – the Chancellorship of this great University."

The installation took place during a special liturgy that saw a number of honoured guests and representatives of other universities bring greetings to the new Chancellor. Among them was Deborah Pecoskie (BA '72), Chair of the Graduates' Association Executive Committee, who told Mr. Sweeney that "the voices of 4,000 graduates welcome you."

The day's celebration concluded with a reception at Notre Dame College.

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