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For immediate release

Laurier cuts back on enrolment
as applications continue increase

What does a university do when it keeps getting more popular with Ontario's high school students?

That problem has become acute for Wilfrid Laurier University which will cut back on its freshman enrolment this year after many years of steady growth.

James Wilgar, Registrar at Laurier, said the university plans to admit no more than 1,215 first-year students this fall despite the fact that 5,502 have applied. And 1,785 of them put Laurier as their first-choice on the three-choice application form.

"We don't have the physical capacity to respond to the growth in applications, nor could we admit more students without harming our faculty-student ratio and straining the dining hall, library and other facilities," Wilgar said.

He said the growth of applications has been steadily increasing for several years with the result that two years ago the freshman class grew by 22 per cent. Last year, efforts were made to cut back, and the growth was kept to 12 per cent.

Total undergraduate enrolment went from 3,200 to 3,500 in two years.

In business, a student must now have 76 per cent grade 13 average, up from 73 per cent last year. In other programs 62 per cent is generally required, an increase from 60 per cent.

As a result Wilfrid Laurier hopes to have a freshman class of about 1,215 this fall, a cut back from the 1,350 admitted last year.

Wilgar said admissions were cut off in the third week of July when the quota was reached, the earliest date in the university's history.