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Coverage is invited

Black-tie gala to open John Aird Centre

The official opening of the \$10-million John Aird Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 30.

Attending the black-tie gala, which is by invitation only, will be John Black Aird, the university's chancellor emeritus for whom the five-storey building is named; Lyn McLeod, Minister of Colleges and Universities; Herb Epp, Waterloo North MPP; and Maureen Forrester, the university's chancellor.

Also invited are major donors and members of the board of governors.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be performed by Aird, who was Laurier's chancellor from 1977 to 1985. He was formerly Ontario's lieutenant-governor.

The evening will feature a brief music program in the 350-seat recital hall, tours of the 82,000-square-foot building and a slide show, chronicling its progress.

A "Hard Hat" concert will be held on Nov. 29 for those who were involved in the construction, which began in 1986.

An open house will be held for the Kitchener-Waterloo community from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 4. It will also feature a

music program, tours and a slide show.

The centre houses the faculties of music and social work and the departments of modern languages and mathematics.

Features of the building include an art gallery, an electronic music studio, an organ studio, two rehearsal halls, six classrooms, about 40 practice rooms and a language laboratory. It is attached to the Theatre Auditorium which has been renovated and now includes an orchestra pit and a new sound system.

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FACT SHEET

on

THE JOHN AIRD CENTRE

GENERAL

- cost \$10 million, including design and furnishings
- construction cost \$8.6 million
- provincial government contributed \$5.5 million
- construction began in August 1986
- five-storey building with 82,000 square feet
- named for John Aird, Laurier's chancellor emeritus; chancellor from 1977-85; and formerly Ontario's lieutenant-governor

HOUSES

- faculty of music on the second and third floors
- faculty of social work on the fourth floor
- departments of modern languages and mathematics on the fifth floor

FEATURES

- exterior is same stone used on the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C., Renaissance Stone from Cambridge
- design attention to acoustics
- 350-seat recital hall
- art gallery
- electronic music studio
- organ studio
- two rehearsal halls
- about 40 practice rooms
- language laboratory with software package developed by Laurier
- eight classrooms
- elevator large enough to move a grand piano
- second elevator to make dining hall fully accessible to the disabled
- incorporation of 600-seat theatre auditorium

RENOVATIONS TO THEATRE AUDITORIUM

- orchestra pit added
- balcony seating to be replaced
- acoustics and lighting to be refurbished