

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



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### **Laurier to officially open apartment-style residence for 300 students**

Wilfrid Laurier University will officially open its new residence for 300 students with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Occupied since Labor Day, the \$10.9-million Bricker Avenue Residence features 75 apartment-style units each with four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. Four of the 1,000-square-foot units have been specially designed for physically challenged people.

Laurier now has a total of 1,163 residence beds in eight buildings. Of those, 1,057 or 91 per cent are reserved for first-year students. With the new residence, the university is able to accommodate almost all of the first-year students wanting to live in residence.

The 10-storey residence has three floors for men and three for women — all in first year. The four other floors accommodate 48 senior, graduate, exchange, and international students. Residence life is supervised by a head resident couple, an assistant head resident, and seven dons.

"Students are delighted to have such a wonderful place to call home and the campus community as a whole seems quite proud of the residence," says Mike Belanger, director of housing.

Designed by Fryett-Shifflett Associates of Guelph, the tiered building has 120,000 gross square feet. Amenities include a games room, computer room, billiard room, television lounge, study room, bicycle and general storage rooms, laundry facilities, mailroom, tuck-shop, and conference office.

Gilvesy Construction of Tillsonburg was the general contractor for the project, for which ground was broken in July 1990. Four other local companies had major roles: Paragon Engineering Ltd. of Kitchener, mechanical and electrical consultants; Kappeler Masonry (Conestogo) Ltd. of Kitchener, brick, stone, and marble; Gosen Electric Ltd. of Waterloo, electrical work; and Pessada Painting and Decorating of Kitchener, painting and floor coverings.

A 12-member users' committee with student representatives made recommendations regarding all aspects of the building's interior including room and unit design, furnishings, and common area facilities.

A second committee, the esthetics committee, gave advice regarding the exterior of the building and landscaping. Five large deciduous trees on the building site, including a Black Walnut in front of the residence, were preserved.

The residence is being financed with the assistance of a \$3.9-million subsidy over 25 years from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

NOTE: Tours of the residence, including the living units, will be offered after the ceremony. The ribbon cutting itself will take place at 1:30 p.m.