

# NEWS FEATURE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



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### **Laurier to officially open \$15-million science building Jan. 23**

*Waterloo, Ont. (Jan. 9)* — Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo will officially open its new \$15-million science building on Monday, Jan. 23.

Mike Farnan, Cambridge MPP and Minister of Transportation, will declare the building open at the conclusion of an 11 a.m. ceremony. Public tours will be available from noon to 7 p.m.

In use since Jan. 3, the three-storey building at the corner of King Street and Bricker Avenue houses Laurier's departments of biology, chemistry, physics and computing, and psychology. More than 1,000 students, including 450 science majors, will use the new building on a regular basis.

"This building is a tribute to the generations of excellent teaching and research done in the sciences and in psychology at Laurier," says university president Lorna Marsden. "What's more, students for generations to come — and the society they'll serve — will benefit from these state-of-the-art facilities."

The \$18.3-million project, including new furnishings and renovations to existing facilities, was financed by a \$14.6-million grant under the government's jobsOntarioCapital program. It is estimated to have provided 108 person years of employment to mostly local trades people.

The 10,000-square-metre building was designed by Shore Tilbe Irwin and Partners of Toronto in association with Joe Somfay Architect of Waterloo. The general contractor was Cape Construction Group Inc. of Markham.

Described by one of the architects as "a village of buildings surrounding a courtyard," the building is comprised of a rotunda to the east containing two lecture halls, two main wings to the north and south with laboratories, and three smaller pods to the west

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housing offices. Enclosed is a large courtyard with seven living trees and a main stairway. The north and east exteriors feature a colonnade leading to the building's main entrance and the lecture theatres.

The building includes five classrooms, three lecture halls, 17 teaching laboratories, office space for 75 faculty and staff, office space for 35 graduate students, 20 research laboratories, 20 interview rooms for psychology, four computer rooms with facilities for 90 work stations, and special rooms to house the university's herbarium and zoological museum.

On the first floor are lecture halls, classrooms, computer rooms, meeting rooms, lounges, and a courtyard with eating area. Physics and computing, and psychology occupy the second floor; chemistry and biology are located on the third floor.

The building is fully accessible and selected teaching laboratories have special facilities to accommodate students in wheelchairs.

The new building replaces science facilities that were constructed in the 1950s and that, despite renovations, became outdated, inefficient, and overcrowded. Science enrolment has more than doubled from 1989-90 to this academic year.

In addition to providing more classrooms, research facilities, and office space, the building will ease space constraints elsewhere on campus for geography and a number of other departments.

After receiving the grant in June 1992, the university selected an architect that fall and site preparation began in September 1993; offices and laboratory equipment were moved into the building in December 1994.

The building is the first to be constructed since the adoption of the master plan for campus development. It provides an anchor for the campus green that will become a focal point and serve as the main entrance off King Street.

Laurier has undergraduate science programs in biology, chemistry, computing and computer electronics, geography, mathematics, and physics. Available in psychology are bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees, as well as master of arts degrees. Science students may participate in a summer internship program.