

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Sir Wilfrid Laurier bust returned anonymously to University

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – The bust of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, missing from the university for more than a week, has been recovered.

An anonymous telephone call to Laurier security services at 4:25 a.m. today led officers to parking lot 10 between the John Aird Centre and University Avenue West. Security found the bust abandoned in a handicapped parking space.

The bust remains with security while officers complete their investigation. It will later be returned to the office of cultural affairs, which will review its location and installation.

“It really is a difficult issue for any cultural institution,” says Laurier cultural affairs coordinator Deborah Currie. “An item like this should be accessible to as many people as possible and we’d hate to have to lock it up to keep it safe. Right now we’re just so happy to have it returned to us in good condition.”

The bust went missing from the main foyer of the Arts C Building, which is locked between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. The thief or thieves pried it loose from its mounting on two wooden bases, screwed onto a pedestal, and secured to a riser. An engraved plaque reading “Wilfrid Laurier” was also missing.

The cast-bronze bust has been part of Laurier’s permanent collection since Ontario premier William Davis presented it as a gift in 1973 to mark the first board of governor’s meeting of the newly renamed Wilfrid Laurier University. Toronto-born artist Walter Seymour Allward created it in 1901.