

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Community volunteers help renovate Post House for students *GVES gives Laurier Brantford \$100,000 as part of \$500,000 fundraising campaign*

For Immediate Release

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BRANTFORD – The Grand Valley Educational Society (GVES) is giving the Brantford campus of Wilfrid Laurier University \$100,000. The GVES will present a cheque to Laurier Brantford during a society meeting tonight at 5:30 p.m. in the Post House Lounge at 41 George Street in downtown Brantford.

The \$100,000 is the first installment of what the GVES is raising for Laurier Brantford through its Student Life Campaign. The goal of the volunteer-based campaign is \$500,000, with half the money going to Laurier and half to Mohawk College's Brantford campus.

Laurier Brantford's share will help cover the cost of renovating the Post House building. Formerly home to a number of businesses, including a post office, the Post House residence houses 57 students (including 3 residence life staff) in a series of apartments with three, four or seven single-person bedrooms.

"This contribution is just one more way in which the Grand Valley Educational Society is helping Laurier grow in Brantford," said Leo Groarke, dean of Laurier Brantford. "The university recognizes that the continued success of our Brantford campus is, to a large extent, the result of our positive partnership with GVES and the generosity of the many area residents who support our efforts."

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This is the GVES's second fundraising campaign. In the late 1990s, the volunteer group helped bring Laurier to Brantford and raised \$2 million for building renovations as well as student scholarships and bursaries. It later expanded its mandate to include all post-secondary institutions in Brantford.

"The GVES is thrilled with the response we've so far had to our efforts to support post-secondary education in this area," said Colleen Miller, president of the GVES and co-chair of the Student Life Campaign. "Our volunteer-based campaign has been well received by the people of Brantford and we are well on our way to meeting our goal."

Laurier Brantford was launched, in part, to capitalize on an increasing demand for post-secondary education. It opened in the newly renovated Carnegie Library in 1999 with close to 100 full- and part-time students. It has since added two residence facilities that accommodate 260 students, acquired two buildings to increase teaching and office space, and now has 750 full- and part-time students.

Laurier Brantford and Mohawk College offer a series of joint programs that allow students to earn both a degree and a diploma in four years.

The Student Life Campaign is co-chaired by Miller and Cindy Swanson. The GVES is welcoming public and private support. Anyone wishing more information is encouraged to contact the GVES at (519) 756-2499 or at gves@bfree.on.ca.