

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Laurier celebrates \$100-million fundraising milestone

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WATERLOO — Wilfrid Laurier University has raised more than \$100 million through its most recent fundraising campaign — a record-setting milestone for Laurier that will be celebrated with a series of events to thank the university’s supporters, including students, staff, faculty, alumni, retirees and external friends.

“Raising more than \$100 million is a remarkable achievement,” said Laurier president Dr. Max Blouw. “The generosity of our supporters reflects enthusiasm for the many creative initiatives that are improving academic quality and enhancing student experience at this outstanding university.”

The \$100-million milestone will be marked by a series of events based on the theme: “Celebrating Hearts & Minds: When caring supports learning, amazing things can happen.”

In Waterloo, Laurier students are invited to enjoy cupcakes and a hot drink in a free commemorative mug on Thursday, November 29, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Concourse. Then on Monday, December 3, Laurier staff, faculty and retirees are invited to a lunch in the Theatre Auditorium from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Later that afternoon, a special invitation reception for donors, government officials and the news media will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Science Building Atrium.

Similar events are being held in Brantford, including an invitation breakfast for donors at the Brantford Golf & Country Club on Thursday, November 29, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and cupcakes and hot drinks for all Laurier Brantford students, staff and faculty in the Carnegie building on Monday, December 3, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

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More than \$100 million has been raised since Laurier's last campaign, which wrapped up in 1997 after reaching its goal of \$15 million.

Laurier is preparing to celebrate its centenary in 2011 and the \$100 million raised in recent years has positioned the university to meet the demands of a rapidly changing society. The funds are being used to improve all aspects of the university, from new academic programs and fellowships to the construction of new buildings and upgrades to existing teaching, research and sports facilities.

"Everyone in the Laurier family — from students to staff, faculty and alumni — are benefiting from the support of those who contributed to this campaign," said Scott Hayter, vice-president: university advancement. "More challenges lie ahead, and the need for support is ongoing, but we would like to pause a moment to recognize the \$100-million milestone and to pay tribute to the spirit of generosity that so characterizes the Laurier community."

Some of the key projects made possible through the latest fundraising campaign include:

- The new Centre for Co-operative Education & Career Development in Waterloo.
- The Balsillie School of International Affairs, a joint project with the Centre for International Governance Innovation and the University of Waterloo.
- The Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work in the historic St. Jerome's high school building in Kitchener.
- The Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship.
- Renovations and upgrades to University Stadium in Waterloo.
- The new Alumni Field on the Waterloo campus.
- The development of the Laurier Brantford campus, including major renovations and additions to the Heritage Block, such as the Student Centre, the Post House residence, the Wilkes House residence and recreational facility, Journalism House, and the new University Centre.
- Increased research capacity, including new research centres such as the Laurier Movement Disorder Research and Rehabilitation Centre, the Laurier Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience and the Laurier Centre for the Advancement of Music in the Community.
- New student fellowship programs, such as the Balsillie Fellowships and the Cleghorn Battlefield Study Fellowships.