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Contact:

Kevin Crowley, Associate Director: News & Editorial
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-1970 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

Homeopath donates house to Laurier for use as ‘global engagement’ residence

WATERLOO – Dr. Ron Harris is donating his home to Laurier for use as an innovative residence in which international and domestic students will live together and promote cultural awareness. The university will celebrate Dr. Harris’ gift on July 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the house, located at 102 Albert St. in Waterloo.

“It’s not every day that someone donates their home,” said Rob Donelson, vice-president of development & alumni relations. “However, Dr. Harris’ compassion and generosity is far from the every day. This is a truly exceptional gift coming from a truly caring and giving man, in loving memory of his wife.”

For more than 35 years, Dr. Harris and his wife offered affordable housing to international students attending university. As such it’s very fitting that starting in the fall of 2009, the Harris Hope House will become a Global Engagement Community (GEC).

The GEC is one of four Living Learning Communities on campus. These communities are themed residence environments, founded upon a specific set of interests that are structured to give students a high level of involvement at Laurier. The GEC is intended to be a place where international and domestic students alike live together in a residence where cultural diversity is apparent, discussed and celebrated. The philosophy behind the creation of the community is to promote an understanding of the increasingly distinct cultures represented on Laurier’s campus.

Dr. Harris said he chose to make this significant gift to Laurier because he strongly believes that “the world’s problems cannot be solved by accumulating wealth, but by sharing.”

The Harris Hope House recognition event will be held Wednesday, July 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Harris Hope House, located at 102 Albert St. in Waterloo.

At the event, Laurier president Dr. Max Blouw will thank Dr. Harris for his remarkable gift and will discuss the impact it will have on the Laurier community and, most specifically, its students.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend.