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Laurier launches year-long centennial celebration to mark 100th anniversary

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will mark its 100th anniversary in 2011 and is planning a year-long centennial celebration that kicks off this coming Monday, Oct. 18.

Members of the media are invited to attend the launch event, which runs from 2-4 p.m. in the Turret on the Waterloo campus. A similar event will be held at Laurier's Brantford campus Wednesday, Oct. 20, from 2-4 p.m. in the main lobby of the SC Johnson Building.

Many centennial initiatives will be introduced, including a new scholarship program, a community volunteer initiative, a centennial website, and a wide range of celebratory events to be held over the next 12 months. Starting this weekend, large centennial banners will be attached to prominent university buildings.

"This centennial is a significant milestone for Wilfrid Laurier University and for the broader community," said president and vice-chancellor Max Blouw. "Laurier is part of a distinguished heritage that has been delivering exceptional post-secondary education and inspiring lives of leadership and purpose for nearly 100 years. We have much to celebrate and much to look forward to."

Wilfrid Laurier University traces its roots to 1911 when the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Canada opened on the current site of the university's Waterloo campus, near Albert Street and Bricker Avenue. The institution evolved over the years, undergoing a number of changes in name and structure. In 1973, it became a publicly funded university under the name Wilfrid Laurier University.

Today, Laurier has seven faculties, two campuses (Waterloo and Brantford), a Faculty of Social Work in Kitchener, a Toronto office and a weekend-format MBA program in Toronto, and an office in Chongqing, China. As well, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary remains a federated college of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Laurier's year-long centennial festivities will lead up to the 100th anniversary date of Oct. 30, 2011.