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Laurier's Special Constable Service welcomes Toyota gift

WATERLOO – A new made-in-Woodstock crossover SUV has been added to Laurier's Special Constable Service fleet as part of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada's (TMMC) celebration of 25 years of building vehicles in Ontario.

The RAV4, equipped with identification decals, roof lights, a public address system and an air horn, will be turned over to Laurier on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, by Ray Tanguay, chairman of TMMC and a Class of '83 Laurier alumnus.

"Safety is always a top priority at Toyota, and that includes the safety of our team members, our vehicles, and our community," Tanguay said in a statement prior to his campus visit.

Ensuring a secure and healthy campus environment for students, employees and visitors is Laurier's primary concern as well, Laurier President Max Blouw said. "We very much appreciate the support of Toyota in helping us respond quickly to any health or safety issue that might arise."

The donation of a RAV4 to each of 10 community organizations in Waterloo Region and Woodstock was announced last fall at a TMMC anniversary dinner attended by Global Toyota President Akio Toyoda.

Rod Curran, director of Laurier's Special Constable Service, said the RAV4 will allow supervisors to back up special constables during calls, and will also be used by staff attending training courses. The service puts about 30,000 kilometres a year on its patrol vehicles. Special constables also monitor campus activity by bicycle and on foot.

When construction of its Cambridge plant began in 1986, TMMC expected to employ 1,000 people and build 50,000 vehicles a year. The workforce now exceeds 6,500, with more than 400,000 Toyota and Lexus vehicles produced in Cambridge and Woodstock in 2011.

Note: The presentation of the vehicle will take place March 6 at 9:45 a.m. outside the Laurier building at 202 Regina St., adjacent to Lodge Street, in Waterloo.