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Travel award encourages scholars from across Canada to visit Laurier Archives

WATERLOO – The Wilfrid Laurier University Archives has launched a new travel scholarship that encourages scholars from across Canada to conduct research at the university.

The award honours Joan Mitchell, a former head of Laurier’s Archives and Special Collections who built Canada’s leading archival collection on the environmental conservation movement at the university.

“We are absolutely thrilled to be able to launch this new award,” said Gohar Ashoughian, university librarian at the Laurier Library, which houses the Archives. “This will help to put Laurier, and our city, on the map for researchers from far and wide, exposing them to our university and the Kitchener-Waterloo community.”

In addition to its environmental materials – which emphasize water resources, Canada’s North and biosphere reserves – the Laurier Archives houses collections focusing on the history of Kitchener-Waterloo, the history of Laurier, and the history of the Lutheran Church in Canada. Researchers studying in any of these areas are eligible for the new award.

“The cost of traveling to Waterloo to conduct in-depth research can be prohibitive, especially for graduate students and new scholars,” said Julia Hendry, head of the Laurier Archives and Special Collections. “We were thrilled to receive the donation that allowed us to offer this grant and to celebrate Joan’s important work building the collection.”

Mitchell headed Laurier’s Archives from 1994 until her retirement in 2009. For more information about the Joan Mitchell Travel Award, please visit <http://library.wlu.ca/specialcollections/travelaward>.

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