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## Canada 150 grant from Tree Canada allows Laurier to plant mature trees in celebration of country's sesquicentennial

WATERLOO – Through a grant from Tree Canada, Wilfrid Laurier University will be planting a small strand of mature trees on its Waterloo campus as part of Canada 150 celebrations.

The trees will be planted adjacent to Laurier's Aboriginal Student Centre on Albert Street, and will include national and provincial emblem trees and symbolic First Nations trees such as eastern white pine, sugar maple, silver maple and red maple trees.

"Trees on campus are quite significant, especially considering they are often taken for granted," said Tyler Plante, outreach and program coordinator in Laurier's Sustainability Office. "They provide habitat for wildlife, shade for people and buildings, capture carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas), stabilize soils, improve air quality, and even improve human health by reducing stress all while beautifying the landscape."

Tree Canada is a charitable not-for-profit organization that has planted over 80 million trees and greened more than 600 schoolyards across the country. Its Tree to Our Nature program is providing Laurier with \$5,000 in funding, made possible in part by the Government of Canada.

"We would like to thank Tree Canada for their dedication to pursuing a greener and healthier living environment for Canadians," said Plante. "We are honoured to be selected as Canada 150 program grant recipients."

Laurier's project is among 150 planting celebrations that the program is supporting across the country in 2017 to commemorate Canada's sesquicentennial anniversary.

"All across the world, trees are a symbol of growth, strength, sustainability, hope, and peace," said Michael Rosen, president of Tree Canada. "Our #Canada150 tree-planting celebrations are a perfect way to commemorate Canada's legacy in a positive, meaningful and lasting way, all while engaging people from coast to coast to coast."

Through Laurier's Sustainability Office, tree planting is part of a larger effort to improve environmental awareness and action on Laurier's campuses and beyond.

"The environment is one of the major themes at the heart of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Confederation, which is why the Government of Canada is pleased to support Tree Canada," said the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage. "The Canada 150 project 'Tree to Our Nature' will not only leave a lasting legacy for future generations, but also allow Canadians to get closer to nature and increase their environmental awareness. As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I would like to acknowledge everyone taking part in this inspiring and unifying project. I applaud your efforts to help build healthy, sustainable communities."

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The Sustainability Office will hold a planting celebration in June 2017, with details to follow.

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## CONTACTS

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