

AN EVER-CHANGING CAMPUS

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When Bytown College opened in 1848, under the warm, welcoming shadow of Ottawa's Notre Dame Cathedral, who could have foretold that, by the beginning of the 19th century, the modest institution would grow into an 80-acre campus in the heart of Canada's capital?

It wasn't until 1949 that the administration decided to permanently establish itself in Sandy Hill, finally giving up on the idea of moving to Ottawa's suburbs. Following this decision, several buildings were constructed in the 1950s, such as Vanier Hall (1954) for Medicine and Simard Hall (1955) for the faculties of Arts, Law and Social Sciences, the Library School, and the central library. A science complex including Marion (1958), Vachon (1960) and Gendron (1960) was built on the University's old playing field. In 1960, construction was completed on Sedes Sapientiae Centre (now Saint Paul University) to house the faculties of Philosophy, Theology and Canon Law. In fact, from 1951 to 1960, the University spent over \$8,500,000 in building construction costs.

At the end of 1960, President Henri Légaré, O.M.I., along with architect Jean-Serge Le Fort, presented an expansion plan that laid out 22 construction projects to be completed over the next 20 years at a cost of \$31,500,000. In particular, this master plan provided for the construction of a new wing in the Faculty of Medicine building (Vanier Library, carried out in 1963); a law building; a student residence (Marchand Hall, completed in 1964); a sports centre; buildings for physics and mathematics, engineering, nursing, home economics, and fine arts; a convocation and performance hall; a student social centre; a field station for geology and biology; a psychosocial centre; a university hospital; a second wing for the Faculty of Arts to house the libraries; and a residence that could accommodate 1,000 male students and 200 female students¹. This master plan shows that in the early 1960s, the Oblate Fathers had grand plans for the future of the University of Ottawa. The 1965 restructuring would both change and considerably bolster their physical expansion plans.

After the 1965 restructuring and with financial support from the Government of Ontario for over \$50 million over ten years², the new administration of the University began the campus' makeover. As noted by then-president Roger Guindon, O.M.I., everyone, including the Ontario government, agreed that in terms of physical facilities, our campus was underdeveloped compared to other campuses in the province. The former master plan that had been presented in 1960 and revised in 1963 was put on hold. The Office of Construction and Renovations was also established. In 1966, James Murray, a planning consultant, was tasked with completely revising the expansion plan.

From 1965 to 1968, the year that the new master plan was adopted, some buildings were completed, including the first residence for female students inaugurated in 1966 in the presence of Eveline Le Blanc, the first dean of women. That same year, the new chancellor, Pauline Vanier, inaugurated Macdonald Hall. Named after Keith MacDonald, founder of the Department of Physics, the building housed the departments of Physics and Mathematics. In 1967, during the Canadian Centennial, the campus was given a new look in the form of a park replacing the parking lot in front of Tabaret Hall.

¹ External Relations press release, December 14, 1960

² The *Gazette*, July 1975, page 6

In 1968, the new master plan, prepared by architectural firm Martineau, Lapierre, Murray & Murray, was adopted. At the heart of the \$100-million plan was a university centre for student organizations, clubs and services; a humanities and social sciences library; a sports complex for the School of Physical Education and Recreation with a pool and gym; and buildings for the Department of Engineering and the Child Study Centre. It also provided for building a health sciences centre valued at over \$50 million.

The first building, Colonel By Hall, was completed in 1970. Built at a cost of \$9 million, Colonel By housed the departments of Engineering and Geology, and the School of Nursing. Two other buildings were also completed that year—Stanton residence, named after William Stanton, O.M.I., a sports coach from the early 1900s; and the Child Study Centre.

Also in 1970, the administration bought the old *Juniorat Sacré-Coeur* located at the corner of Laurier and Cumberland. Built in 1893-1894, the visual arts building became the oldest building of the University.

A new residence opened for students in 1971. The tallest building (20 stories) on campus, it was named Thompson in honor of the dean of the former Faculty of Law at the end of the 19th century and prime minister of Canada from 1892 to 1894. The following year, the humanities and social sciences libraries were brought together in one building that was named after Auguste Morisset, founder of the Library School and long-time library administrator.

In 1972, demolition of the last old building—which had housed the faculties of Medicine and Science after the Second World War—erased the final traces of a time when financial means were much more modest.

Montpetit Hall was officially inaugurated in 1973 in the presence of Médéric Montpetit, O.M.I., founder and director of the Institute of Physical Education and Recreation from 1949 to 1964. Also in 1973, Fauteux Hall was completed, finally uniting the Civil Law and Common Law sections under one roof. The Law building was named after Gérald Fauteux, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and dean of the Faculty of Law from 1953 to 1962. The building also housed the University Archives. That same year, the Power Plant was inaugurated.

The 1974 opening of the University Centre marked a major step in our campus' development. Planned for years and built at a cost of \$6 million, Jock Turcot Centre was named after the former president of the Students' Union and an avid supporter of the project. The complex, which was intended as a gathering place for the University community, was partly funded by the Jock Turcot Fund established in memory of Turcot, who died unexpectedly during his mandate in 1965.

The construction project for an education building came about more slowly. After budget cuts for the 1972-73 academic year, the master plan was revised. It wasn't until 1978 that the Faculty of Education moved to a new building that was named after René Lamoureux, O.M.I., founder of the *École normale*. This building was the final piece of a university campus that, in one decade, had radically changed our institution's physical appearance.

Health Sciences Centre

Still, the 1968 master plan was not quite complete, since it had provided for the construction of a health sciences centre. The project was pushed back several times for financial reasons. The dream finally became reality in 1982. Built on the Alta Vista campus, Roger Guindon Hall was named in

honor of the president of the University from 1964 to 1984; Guindon had been an avid supporter of the project. The building housed the Medicine and Nursing programs. Built at a cost of \$35.5 million, it connected to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, the General Hospital, and the Royal Ottawa Rehabilitation Centre. Although the project divided our campus into two locations, it allowed the student population from these disciplines to be in the heart of the medical world.

The final construction projects of the 1980s were the Brooks residential complex and the music hall. Completed in 1987, the residential complex was named after Hubert Brooks, the first director of Housing Services. Built at a cost of \$32 million, the complex included housing for 750 people, a daycare, offices and an underground parking lot. Finally, the campus' last construction project was completed in 1988. This was Pérez Hall.

Since it was founded, the Department of Music had dreamed of a building made specifically for teaching and playing music. Their wish came true in 1986, when construction began on a new building at a cost of \$7 million, \$1.5 million of which had come from a fundraising campaign. The building was named Perez in honor of a successful local real estate investor and benefactor of the Department who donated \$500,000 during the fundraising campaign.

As the University of Ottawa continued growing constantly, new projects would come about in the 1990s. In 1988, the Ontario government announced a \$14.4-million grant to build a new facility for the faculties of Science and Engineering, and to renovate Marion Hall. The new building, scheduled for completion in 1992, would be connected to the other science buildings³.

Over the next decade, there would also be a focus on building a new hall for Arts, a faculty spread across 32 buildings and old houses. The next goal would be a building for the Faculty of Social Sciences. To fund these new buildings, the University undertook a fundraising campaign within the community, with the goal of raising \$32 million. Campus development remained a high priority for Marcel Hamelin, the University's next president.

³ The *Gazette*, April 14, 1988, page 1