ONE ACT OF GENEROSITY

- McMaster University was founded in 1887 in Toronto from a bequest of $900,000 from the estate of Senator William McMaster.
- The first three faculties were Arts, Science, and Divinity, as engraved in the stones of the Class of 1954 Oasis Garden on campus.

WHO WAS WILLIAM McMASTER?

- He emigrated to New York from Ireland in the 1830s, and came to Toronto (then called York) a year or two later.
- By the 1850s, he was one of Toronto’s leading merchants and financiers.
- He was a member of the first senate after Confederation, founding president of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and chairman of the Great Western Railway.

BEHIND THE GREAT MAN

- Susan Moulton McMaster is credited with suggesting her husband found a university. Her memory lives on in Moulton Hall.

TRUE COLOURS

- The first university colours were a combined plaid: frosh green, sophomore yellow, junior red and senior blue.
- Grey and maroon were adopted as McMaster University’s official colours in 1912.

MORE ACTS OF GENEROSITY

- 1930: McMaster University moves from Toronto to Hamilton. The lands and new buildings are secured through gifts totalling $500,000 from alumni, members of the churches of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, and citizens of Hamilton.
- 1951: Alumni Memorial Hall is built, financed with a gift of $100,000 from the University’s alumni and students as a memorial to McMaster members who gave their lives in World Wars I and II.
- 1979: Harry Lyman Hooker leaves an unprecedented bequest of $25 million to expand student aid, support the creation of the Arts & Science Program, and provide annual funds for distinguished speakers and lecturers.
- 2003: Michael G. DeGroote gives $105 million, the largest cash gift in Canadian history, to support health sciences education, research and patient care. This is only one of Mr. DeGroote’s many generous donations to McMaster University.
- 2005: Ron Joyce donates $10 million to build a new stadium. This was the largest cash gift to university athletics in Canada.

MILESTONES ACROSS THE DECADES

- 1957: Originally founded as a Baptist university, McMaster becomes a publicly funded, non-denominational institution.
- 1968-69: McMaster Divinity College continues under its existing arrangement, while the rest of McMaster University is organized into the Divisions of Arts, Science, and Health Sciences.
- 1974: The Faculties of Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences are established.
- 1981: The Arts & Science Program is established, breaking new ground in self-directed, interdisciplinary undergraduate education.
- 2001: McMaster expands to downtown Hamilton in the former Hamilton-Wentworth Court House.
- 2003: McMaster’s medical school is named the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, the first in Canada to be named after a benefactor.
- 2006: The David Braley Athletic Centre opens, and the Ron Joyce Stadium in 2008 — two of the largest athletic projects undertaken to date on a Canadian university campus.
- 2007: The Waterloo Regional Campus of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine is founded, and the Niagara Regional Campus in 2008.
- 2010: The Ron Joyce Centre opens in Burlington — home to programs in the DeGroote School of Business.
- 2012: McMaster University celebrates its 125th anniversary.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN 2015...

- The Centre for Continuing Education moves to a beautiful new downtown location at One James Street North.
- The David Braley Health Sciences Centre, located at Main and Bay in downtown Hamilton, opens in May. About 5,000 students will attend the Centre each year, and the clinic will care for more than 15,000 Hamiltonians, during 54,000 visits a year.
- L.R. Wilson Hall (a new home for the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, named in honour of Chancellor Emeritus Lynton “Red” Wilson) is scheduled to open later in the year.

April 2015