

## 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 the two world wars.
- **1979:** Harry Lyman Hooker leaves a bequest of \$25 million to expand student aid, support the creation of the Arts & Science Program, and provide annual funds for speakers and lecturers.
- **2003:** Michael G. DeGroot 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. DeGroot'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.
- **1981:** The Arts & Science Program is established, breaking new ground in self-directed, interdisciplinary undergraduate education.
- **1992:** The Faculty of Business is renamed the DeGroot School of Business.
- **2003:** McMaster's medical school is named the Michael G. DeGroot 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 that date on a Canadian university campus.
- **2010:** The Ron Joyce Centre opens in Burlington, a second home to the DeGroot School of Business.
- **2012:** McMaster University celebrates its 125th anniversary.
- **2015:** The Centre for Continuing Education moves to a new location in downtown Hamilton at One James Street North.
- **2015:** The David Braley Health Sciences Centre, a collaboration between McMaster's Department of Family Medicine and the City of Hamilton's Public Health Service, is opened in May.
- **2016:** L.R. Wilson Hall opens, a state-of-the-art home for the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- **2016:** A new outdoor Indigenous Circle for teaching and gathering is unveiled to honour Indigenous knowledge and affirm that teaching and learning can also take place outdoors.
- **2017:** The Gerald Hatch Centre for Engineering Experiential Learning is officially opened.
- **2018:** The Bertrand Russell Archives and Research Centre is now located at 88 Forsyth Avenue North, across from the Sterling Street entrance.
- **2019:** The Peter George Centre for Living and Learning is slated to open. It will be home to a 500-bed student residence, new teaching space, student meeting and activity space, and the McMaster Childcare Centre.