



Grand Opening Darryl J. King Student Life Centre: Historic step for King's as it celebrates its 60th year.

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London, On – King's students, faculty, staff, donors and the wider community will have a first look at the Darryl J. King Student Life Centre when the doors open to the public at noon, Wednesday January 8, 2014, weather permitting. **Please note the date change due to extreme weather conditions predicted for Tuesday January 7th.**

The King's community and guests will gather inside the building, 266 Epworth Ave, for a countdown and ribbon cutting by King's University College Students' Council President Jen Carter. "The opening of this state-of the art social and academic hub will greatly enhance the student experience at King's and kick off a year of celebrations marking King's 60th anniversary," says Principal, Dr. David Sylvester.

"After six years of planning and fundraising, our new Student Life Centre is good to go. This has been a true community effort, and we can't wait to put to good use this remarkable building." The King Centre boasts many much needed and unique amenities, including a fully-serviced Learning Commons and Writing Centre, a 490-seat theatre, classrooms, seminar rooms, a fitness centre, as well as a two story fireplace. "This facility will be a 24/7 gathering place for our community. We are very grateful to all who have supported this dream through their generosity and to those who worked to build it."

The King Centre is named in recognition of a generous donation from Darryl J. King '97. Darryl credits his experience at King's for not only much of his professional success but for developing his philanthropic outlook and belief in giving back to the community. After earning a history degree at King's, Darryl went on to start his own transportation company. He has an inspiring story of how King's is unique and looks beyond the grades to consider the person and circumstance.

Designed by Perkins & Will in partnership with Cornerstone Architecture and built by K & L Construction, the King Centre is a 3,539 m², three-level multi-purpose student centre. It is designed to reflect aspects of the much-loved Dante Lenardon "Mansion" using similar limestone, copper and wood materials. It is fully OAD compliant. Native trees on the site were preserved during construction. The building incorporates much-needed gathering space for the community, as well as purpose-built rooms for academic, cultural and social events. Designed to Silver LEED standard (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design), the King Centre has many sustainable features to promote water conservation and efficiency, energy conservation and efficiency, the reduction of urban heat-island effect, accessibility and sustainable transportation,

campus-wide recycling, green cleaning, and was built using low-emitting products and materials. It also has a green roof, direct natural lighting, and a water treatment system that recovers drainage and cleans, on site, all water except that which is used for drinking.

“The Darryl J. King Centre has been a collaborative project with students out in the lead from the start. Our alumni, faculty, staff, friends and students stepped up to support the project when it was still just a dream and allowed us to create this beautiful and functional building for current and future King students. We have raised \$7.8 million towards the building and intend to raise another \$1.2 in the next year. We also directed an additional \$1.5 million to student awards,” says Erin Lawson, King’s University College, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Affairs. The balance of the funding came from King’s University College. Full details can be found at www.kings.uwo.ca/grandopening. Total cost of the project was \$14.7 million dollars. Mary Carol Watters, Dean of Students, says the King Centre “offers a continuum of spaces and places to study collaboratively and individually, stretch the mind and body, engage socially and recreationally, participate in activities and services and-- very importantly--relax and have fun. Many aspects of student life merge in this informal and comfortable space reminding students that being a healthy, engaged member of the King's community means living a balance of academic, social, recreational, aesthetic and spiritual experience. The Centre is the result of continuous collaboration with five years of student leaders and stakeholders to design a building that embodies important components of student life at King's.”

King’s is expecting hundreds of students, faculty, staff, along with more than 100 community partners and guests to attend the Grand Opening. Media are welcome and should plan to arrive prior to the noon countdown for the ribbon cutting/photo opportunity. The festivities will include a live performance by London band Texas King, as well as lunch and tours of the building provided by a team of Student Ambassadors.

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