

## This issue

*of the Marian Update shines the spotlight on an exciting development at St. Mary's University: creation of the new Heritage Centre.*

*The following pages offer a glimpse of what's to come and tell you more about how this wonderful new facility links past and future, campus and community, student and teacher to further add to our outstanding learning environment.*

*As you read, we invite you to consider helping realize the potential of the Heritage Centre by investing in a facility destined to live up to its name: reflecting our shared heritage and adding to the continuing legacy of St. Mary's.*

## Coming together at the heart of campus

### **St. Mary's new Heritage Centre will Revitalize our campus core**

It's easy to see that the St. Mary's University campus is a dynamic place of activity and learning. And no wonder! With our rapid growth in student enrolment (more than 40% in

For more than two years, the future of our campus has been a key focus. This work, undertaken with experts ranging from urban planners, design consultants and architects, to representatives from across our campus, yielded a detailed Campus Expansion and Development Plan. This important document puts forward a

comprehensive plan for St. Mary's campus. It identifies the creation of new spaces and refurbishing of existing spaces that offer the best way forward for our growing university, while simultaneously protecting its historical, natural, spiritual and academic character and identity.

The Heritage Centre is a pivotal first step on a journey that will take St. Mary's to a new level in our ongoing evolution, and sets the tone for campus development to come. As you will read in the *Marian Update*, this is a building designed to create opportunities for everyone on campus — and the wider community — to

share knowledge and experiences in new and innovative ways. It's also an opportunity for you to support the future of St. Mary's.

A new chapter in the St. Mary's University story has begun. I hope you will join us in its writing — and in enriching the heritage we all share.



Photo by Sergei Belski of Sergei Belski Photography

*St. Mary's students studying on campus*

the last three years alone) and the addition of new faculty and programs to support our rising student numbers, our campus is bursting at the seams.

St. Mary's is passionate about offering our students an environment where they can learn, grow, do and achieve more than they ever thought possible. We want our campus to be a vital, energizing and inspiring environment in which to teach and learn. At the same time, we want to respect the natural beauty and heritage that surrounds us. And, as always, we want to be careful and thoughtful in our planning.

**Gerry Turcotte, PhD**  
President

# Preserving the past, building for the future

*St. Mary's University has grown by over 40% in the last three years alone. Because of this exponential growth and success, new spaces to support student learning and activities are sorely needed.*

*We are travelling down exciting new paths — and invite you to share in the journey.*

## **Celebrating Alberta's history**

St. Mary's scenic 35-acre campus is located on land rich in history. Originally part of Blackfoot territory, it also includes designated provincial heritage buildings dating back to the time of Father Lacombe and Calgary's early settlement. St. Mary's has carefully transformed a number of its historic building interiors into classrooms and common areas that provide the best in modern amenities for our students while at the same time honouring the integrity of these unique buildings. As St. Mary's plans for future campus development, respect for the natural and historical settings for which we are custodians continues to be of paramount importance. At the heart of St. Mary's campus, our historic and iconic Water Tower landmark is becoming the centrepiece of an exciting new facility at the core of campus life: the Heritage Centre.

## **Coming together at the Heritage Centre**

The Heritage Centre is a dynamic new facility of integrated spaces, offering the flexibility and adaptability to create an exceptional learning and teaching environment. It brings together a number of important programs that are currently scattered disparately across campus while also creating a place where new programs and initiatives can flourish. The new Heritage Centre comprises a Main Gallery, Lobby, Side Gallery and Link space, and shines the spotlight on the restoration and interior renovation of the Water Tower.

## **Innovative design holds true to our history**

Our deep-rooted connection to the land and its history is reflected in the actual design principles of this new building. Overall, the Heritage Centre draws its inspiration from the timber frame structure of the historic Water Tower. A simple, exposed-timber truss and post-and-beam construction gives this new space a contemporary, yet historic feel. Inside, state-of-the-art technology and equipment supports its myriad uses.

## **Forging connections**

St. Mary's new Heritage Centre offers large gathering spaces on campus, making the new facility truly transformative. This is a place of inquiry and a vibrant hub of creativity and culture, contemplation and connection. It brings people — students, faculty and community — together through the performing arts, and the written and spoken word, becoming the beating heart of our campus community.



## **Inviting you to help transform our campus**

This fall, St. Mary's is launching the Heritage Centre Campaign — a \$2.5-million campaign to raise the funds needed to build this dynamic new facility. Two visionary gifts from close friends of St. Mary's (see their stories on page 7) confirm the importance of the Heritage Centre and are testament to the timeliness of this exciting project. Together, these lead gifts have set the pace and take us half-way toward our goal. Our priority now is to secure the remaining funding by the end of this year, so St. Mary's will be able to begin construction on this new project in early 2016. Gifts of every size matter and are critical to ensuring we reach our goal. We hope you will be inspired to lend your support to enhancing our campus with this exciting and urgently needed centre for our growing University.

The *Marian Update* is published by St. Mary's University and distributed to alumni, friends and supporters to celebrate University accomplishments and share news and information throughout the St. Mary's community.

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# Inspiring new ways to connect

The multi-functional capabilities of the new Heritage Centre offer countless new ways to teach, learn, create and share at St. Mary's University.

"Our new Heritage Centre brings people to a place of inquiry," says Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell, Vice-President, Academic. "It offers infinite possibilities for innovative teaching and learning and, as an ideal venue for drama and choir rehearsals and performances, will be a connection point for arts and culture. In every way, the Heritage Centre will be a vital place for developing the whole person — mind, body and spirit."

On the arts side, a portable stage, risers and theatre seating offer unlimited creative potential and an inviting, comfortable environment for audiences. New equipment will support media students and facilitate screenings, so St. Mary's can offer more opportunities like the viewing of *The Making of Treaty 7* earlier this year.

Students in programs like Humanities 101 and our best-practice Bachelor of Education (Elementary) program also will benefit greatly from this dynamic environment.

Humanities 101 provides free university courses to low-income adult learners over the age of 18 and helps people overcome barriers to success such as interrupted education, homelessness, violence or substance abuse. An important component of this program is to build social and community connections, and the Heritage Centre augments those opportunities. In addition to field trips to the Glenbow Museum, Theatre Calgary and other community-based institutions, for example, the Centre enables us to invite the community to our campus, share in activities and interact with Humanities 101 students. Doing so will support this important program and enrich the civic life of students by adding another dimension to this powerful educational opportunity.

The Heritage Centre also creates myriad avenues for hosting presentations by speakers and community leaders in the field of education. An example of the kind of activities the Centre facilitates is the recent visit by Rob Lennard, Historian and Director

of Education and Outreach at the historic Bow Valley Ranch in Fish Creek Park, who performed stories of Alberta's history through song for St. Mary's students. His performance not only showed how St. Mary's students can benefit from different ways of learning, he also inspired the next generation of teachers — students in our BEd program — to look for innovative ways to engage their students in the future.

The Heritage Centre's presentation space will also be home to St. Mary's new Liberal Arts Roundtable, a lecture series — conducted in a true circular format — which invites the community to engage with our faculty while discussing topics relevant to society. The significance and symbolism of the circle will also open the doors to teaching and learning that respects the traditions of other cultures, including the First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Partnership at St. Mary's University.



*St. Mary's remarkable choir, directed by Malcolm Edwards, performing at the 2015 President's Dinner*

The Heritage Centre creates exciting opportunities to present lectures, offer presentations and host major conferences — not only for St. Mary's students and faculty, but also for the wider education community and the general public.

Having a venue that makes it possible to welcome inspiring speakers and guests, to share knowledge and cultural experiences, and to open the doors to innovation in teaching and learning offers immeasurable value to our faculty, staff, stakeholders and students, as well as the Calgary community.

## Elevating performance with new technology

Technology and equipment throughout the new Heritage Centre also creates new learning experiences for St. Mary's students.

For our growing Drama and Choral programs, the ability to reconfigure a space with a portable stage, risers, seats or theatre seating creates unlimited performance potential. Students studying the production aspects of these art forms will also have new tools to enhance their learning.

New equipment will also open the doors to innovation for media studies and will facilitate enhanced opportunities for St. Mary's students to participate in interactive events like the University's past participation in the filming of *Making Treaty 7*.

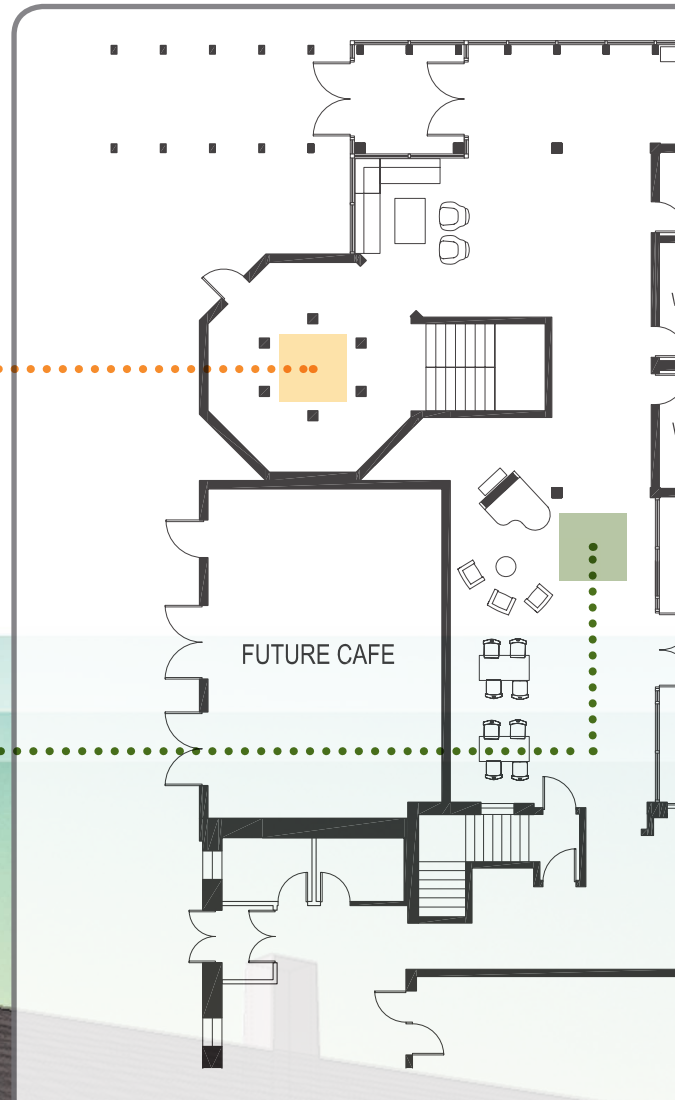
# A closer look at the Heritage Centre — the heart of campus life

## *Creativity flows in Water Tower Gallery*

The interior of St. Mary's historic Water Tower is transformed into a distinctive gallery space unlike anything in Calgary. Following restoration of the exterior, the character of this historical landmark is preserved and given new life as a space that now can be experienced from within. This is where community and campus intersect: where both students and local community artists and groups showcase their work in a prime exhibit venue.

## *Coming together in communal areas*

The Main Lobby, Side Gallery and new link to the Le Fort Centre are a hub of activity and a pivotal student gathering space, and centralize the campus' student services and food services functions. During events and performances in the Main Gallery, these spaces transform into reception areas, accommodating pre- and post-function and intermission needs.



## Multi-purpose Main Gallery

The Main Gallery's 1,800 sq. ft. features retractable theatre seating for approximately 120 people, making this spacious area the perfect environment for campus and community dramatic and musical performances, as well as large educational and cultural gatherings. With easy storage of and access to a portable stage, props and choir risers — and equipped with state-of-the-art IT and AV equipment — the Main Gallery meets the teaching and rehearsal needs of St. Mary's Drama and Choral programs. When seating is retracted, the open space can host art exhibitions and receptions, be used by our best-practice Bachelor of Education program and be configured for multiple teaching scenarios, including flexible seminar-style teaching.

## Supporting First Nations, Métis and Inuit initiatives

Ceremonial and celebratory events for the First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Partnership at St. Mary's have a new home in the Main Gallery. Smudging and other ceremonial practices are facilitated by an HVAC system that provides necessary air circulation. Large sliding "barn-style" doors open to a side gallery space and, in the summer months, provide access to outside gathering spaces in the surrounding courtyard.



ST MARY'S  
UNIVERSITY



# A centre that welcomes all cultures

St. Mary's University is surrounded by urban energy! As you climb the hill to the campus, you are acutely aware of the distant sounds of traffic on Macleod Trail, the nearby shops and amenities and the instant access to the many things this city has to offer. When you arrive, you find an academic hub for our future leaders and an area with a different kind of energy.

In recent years, however, exponential growth has challenged our ability to provide adequate spaces for meetings and ceremonial practices that support this partnership. The solution resides in our plans to build a new \$2.5-million Heritage Centre that will reflect our shared history and community — and our commitment to this important program.



Our FNMI partnership is built on four pillars of success. By inviting Indigenous Scholars and Knowledge Keepers to share their wisdom, engaging First Nation Elders for ceremony, establishing a skilled advisory council for decision making and hiring a full-time Liaison Specialist at St. Mary's University, we are "building the home fires and visiting them regularly," says Michelle Scott, FNMI Liaison Specialist.

There will be meeting space in our new Heritage Centre to

Our campus exemplifies a place of strong community, rich history and an inherent appreciation for the people who once occupied this place.

St. Mary's campus sits on traditional Blackfoot territory, and now supports a committed and collaborative partnership among St. Mary's University and First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) communities.

support this partnership and an HVAC system for ceremonial practices like smudging — a very important part of First Nations culture. With retractable seating and a theatre style Main Gallery, this is an ideal centre for public engagement.

The Heritage Centre will be a place to honour, celebrate, teach and share FNMI culture with St. Mary's faculty and students and with the Calgary community.

## Coming Events *You're invited to join us this fall!*

### **Saturday, November 14 – Diamonds and Degrees – 7 pm Fr. Michael J. McGivney Hall**

Join us for a glamorous evening of sparkles and spirits — our third annual wine, Scotch and beer tasting supporting the Humanities 101 program. Tickets are available online.

### **Wednesday, December 2 – Patron Day Liturgy – 11:30 am Fr. Michael J. McGivney Hall**

Share in this annual celebration honouring the University's Patron, Mary, Mother of Jesus.

### **Wednesday, December 9 – Winter Choir Concert – 7:30 pm Fr. Michael J. McGivney Hall**

Mark your calendar for our popular Winter Choir Concert. Malcolm Edwards and the St. Mary's University Choir return in a concert event you do not want to miss. This annual event is free and open to all. It is a wonderful showcase of student and community talent.

*For the latest information and details on events at St. Mary's University, visit [stmu.ca/news-and-events](http://stmu.ca/news-and-events).*

# Ghosts, LEDs add to campus spirit

On Friday, September 18, 2015, close to 400 people came to the St. Mary's campus to enjoy our fifth annual Ghost Tour and Birthday Celebration. Guests of this sold-out event toured the "haunted" halls and grounds of St. Mary's University, and heard chilling ghost stories performed by drama students and community members. Playwright-in-Residence Eugene Stickland collaborated with St. Mary's professors, students and staff to write the original script, which combined historically accurate facts with ghostly fiction.

Under the guidance of our new co-directors, alumni Heather Young and Lindsay Tingley, Ghost Tour actors — many who return year after year to take part in this popular annual event — embraced the spooky tales about our campus. Highlights this year included a ghostly encounter with the famous Bing Crosby, a lost love trapped in the Water Tower and a glimpse into our underground tunnels.

After watching the haunting re-enactments, guests gathered at the Water Tower to celebrate St. Mary's 29th birthday with cake and fireworks — and the lighting of our historic Water Tower. Long-time friends of the University Frank and Jeanne Vetsch celebrated their legacy of support by joining President Gerry Turcotte to flip the switch turning on the tower's new LED display. The St. Mary's Water Tower has been illuminated previously for many other festivities and celebrations, and is a glowing landmark for our campus and historic site.

Photo by Sergei Betski of Sergei Betski Photography



Jeanne and Frank Vetsch "flip the switch" on the Water Tower's new lights

## *\$1-million gift kicks off Heritage Centre Campaign*

As we celebrate the launch of our Heritage Centre campaign, we wish to recognize the ground breaking contribution of an anonymous donor. This gift of \$1 million will help make this facility — the new heart of our campus — a reality in the very near future. The continued support to the University from this donor has enabled our growth over the years, and this most recent gift to the Heritage Centre will only help to continue this legacy.

The Heritage Centre will create new and innovative ways for our campus and the community to connect and engage in experiences that support St. Mary's core vision to develop the whole person — mind, body and spirit. Of his support, the anonymous donor said, "I'm very pleased to donate to St. Mary's. This is where my heart is." It's a perfect reason to make a gift that supports the Heritage Centre: the new heart of the St. Mary's campus.

# Towers of support

## **Heritage Centre receives \$250,000 gift from Ed and Agnes Rewucki**

Giving back to the community and investing in education and innovation are central themes in the gifts Ed and Agnes Rewucki make. Their donation of \$250,000 toward the new Heritage Centre is the latest example of their giving spirit at work at St. Mary's. Ed was President of Calgary's Tower Chrysler Plymouth Ltd. (named for its proximity to the Calgary Tower) for more than 40 years. His successful career focused on meeting and exceeding the needs of his customers and developing new standards in the industry.



Agnes and Ed Rewucki joined us at the annual President's Dinner

For more than a decade, the Rewuckis have applied this same philosophy to their giving to St. Mary's by donating computers to St. Mary's Library. Their support not only enables St. Mary's to be on the cutting edge of technology, it also helps our University meet and exceed the needs of our students. Together with their son, Daniel, their generous support has been instrumental in bringing St. Mary's student-computer ratio to 6:1.

With their latest gift for the new Heritage Centre, the Rewuckis' investment in education and innovation adds another "tower" to their history. Their generous contribution will connect St. Mary's historic Water Tower with state-of-the-art new spaces, creating a dynamic new hub of campus and community activity at the heart of the campus.

# Answers to frequently asked questions

## **Q** *How much new space will the Heritage Centre add to St. Mary's?*

The new Centre will add almost 5,000 sq. ft. of multi-functional space. This includes the interior renovation of the Water Tower from a currently unusable space into a functional gallery. It will also free up almost double that amount of classroom space currently used for other purposes.

## **Q** *What will the Heritage Centre cost?*

The projected cost of construction is \$2.5 million.

## **Q** *When will construction begin?*

St. Mary's hopes to have funding in place in order to begin construction by early 2016.

## **Q** *When will the Heritage Centre open?*

The current timeline is for the Centre to open in late 2016/early 2017. The completion date is based on when funds are secured and when construction begins.

## **Q** *Is this the final design?*

This is not the final design; rather, it is a very strong conceptual plan. Input from across the University led to the creation of CADET (Campus Design Execution Taskforce) with members representing the Executive, Finance, Student Services, Athletics, Faculty and the Board, working under the guidance of the project manager, Pivotal Projects. GEC Architecture is the project architect.

## **Q** *Is 'Heritage Centre' going to be the official name?*

Although this project has been identified in different ways during planning, "Heritage Centre" has resonated most strongly. It pays homage to what was here before this was St. Mary's and affirms the value we place on being the custodian of this site today. Additional naming opportunities may be explored to recognize donors or commemorate key individuals in our history.

## **Q** *Is this the only new construction planned for the campus?*

Two years of consultation and deliberation have resulted in development plans that will enable us to address, in a thoughtful and purposeful way, needs arising from our record-breaking student growth. The Heritage Centre is the first step in creating urgently needed space on campus. The next will be a major expansion that will double St. Mary's campus footprint, creating residences, a gymnasium and health centre, additional classrooms and administration spaces. More information will be provided in coming months.

## **Q** *Does the University receive government funding for projects like this?*

Independent academic institutions like St. Mary's — even though we are a not-for-profit — do not receive Government of Alberta funding for facility development. This means St. Mary's must depend on its ability to raise funds from donors to fully fund capital projects. St. Mary's has been fortunate to receive generous donor support since its founding. We hope both long-time supporters and new contributors will come together to support the Heritage Centre project.

*Here is my gift to support St. Mary's University.*

This is a one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** My chosen monthly amount of  \$20  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque (payable to St. Mary's University) **OR**  Charge my donation to my:  VISA  MasterCard  AMEX

I would like to direct my gift to:  Where most needed  Heritage Centre

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate securities. Please contact me.

Please contact me about leaving a gift in my will to St. Mary's University.  Check here if you want to be removed from our mailing list.

Yes, I would like to receive email updates from St. Mary's University on upcoming news and events.

### **St. Mary's Advancement Office**

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