

# Lady Eaton College History Exhibition



This exhibit was created by Shannon Featherston as part of an internship with Lady Eaton College. Extensive research took place over the course of ten months to corroborate all of the information found on the panels. This exhibit is part of an ongoing project to revitalize the College's at Trent and aims to inspire students, alumni, fellows, staff, and parents alike to learn more about the history that accompanies their surroundings.

This project could not have been possible without the guidance of Dr. Michael Eamon and support of Dr. Christine Freeman-Roth. Thanks also goes to Dana Capell and Jodi Aoki for their ongoing support and advice throughout the creation of this project.



1. Approaching the College from the North, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Lady Eaton College RG-6.
2. A glimpse into 1968, Trent Library and Archives, Lady Eaton College RG-6.
3. LEC Annual Photo Contest Submission, 2017, Sophie Milburn, "Empty Hallways."
4. Cherry blossoms framing the view of the South Wing Residence block, 2010, Trent University, Digital Assets.

# Eaton's Exterior



*"Lady Eaton College stands like a sentinel on the western edge of Trent University. Its design is a marvel of mid-twentieth-century modern architecture, an unabashedly brutalist structure with low-rising ceilings, sharp corners, and multiple concrete levels that accommodate both study and relaxation. Yet an inherent love of the past, of history and its humanizing influence, also inspired the college's forward-thinking design and continues to resonate to this day."*

-Former Principal Michael Eamon, Winter 2014, Trent Magazine 45.1



Lady Eaton College was constructed out of poured concrete and the walls were intentionally given a rough, board-marked finish. Originally, the College was to be built using the same rubble aggregate process as Champlain College, but this method proved too expensive. In total, Lady Eaton College cost \$3,917,000 to build, with this sum including all interior furnishings as well as external materials and contractor fees.

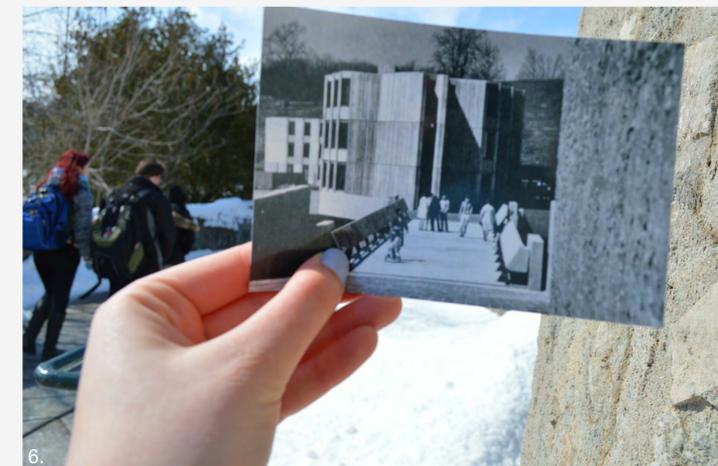


Ron Thom, as the Master Planning Architect, is commonly attributed to the design of Lady Eaton College. While he did oversee the process, Toronto architect Alastair Grant was instrumental in planning the layout and spaces within the college. Different parts of Grant's design were inspired by architect Frank Lloyd Wright's work. There are also Canadian West Coast and Japanese inspired features that can be predominantly seen in the quad.



Brutalist and modern in appearance and architecture, Lady Eaton College retains an air of warmth and dignity, being set back in the Drumlin away from the hubbub of University life. Former College Principal Doug McCalla mirrors this sentiment, saying:

*"It's a place you can become very attached to, even if you move out, or never actually live in at all. We have to thank Ron Thom – and those from Trent who worked with him – for so interesting and livable a place."*



1. View from the Drumlin of North wing during its construction, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photo Collection, Lady Eaton College Construction.

2. Sun setting on the South wing of LEC, 2019, Shannon Featherston.

3. Aerial view of Lady Eaton College and Trent University, 1964, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photo Collection, 03.003/2/2.

4. LEC Annual Photo Contest Submission, 2018, Sarah Beech, "Rouge."

5. Construction of the South Wing, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photo Collection, Lady Eaton College Construction.

6. LEC Annual Photo Contest Submission, 2015, "Something Old, Something New."

# Eaton's Interior

As with all the spaces designed by Ron Thom, Lady Eaton College is designed as a piece of “total architecture,” meaning that every aspect of the college, inside and out, was carefully designed and curated to fit the vision of Trent University. Lady Eaton College includes some truly marvelous spaces - including the Pit and the Senior Common Room - that show how complete the vision was for Lady Eaton College in its entirety. In the original brief to the Master-Planning Architect, plans were made to include a junior common room; a "mixed" common room - where males could wait for their female dates, spaces for music listening, a porter's lodge, a television room, spaces for listening and practicing music, rooms for student newspapers, posters and artwork, a College library, a snack bar, and a dining hall with an adjacent private dining room.

When the College first opened in the Fall of 1968, students arrived to find that only one wing of the college was ready to be lived in, leaving one hundred and thirteen students having to bunk up for the first two weeks of the school year while construction of the North Wing was completed. One unlucky student was even assigned a broom closet as a room! All issues were resolved quickly and the first cohort of students enjoyed life immensely in LEC. Over the past 50 years, spaces in the College have changed to keep up with the times. Furniture was replaced and spaces were completely renovated to become more accessible. The student-run snack bar and the college pub are no longer functional but were originally known as Crawpaddies and the Magpie and were a huge hit among students.



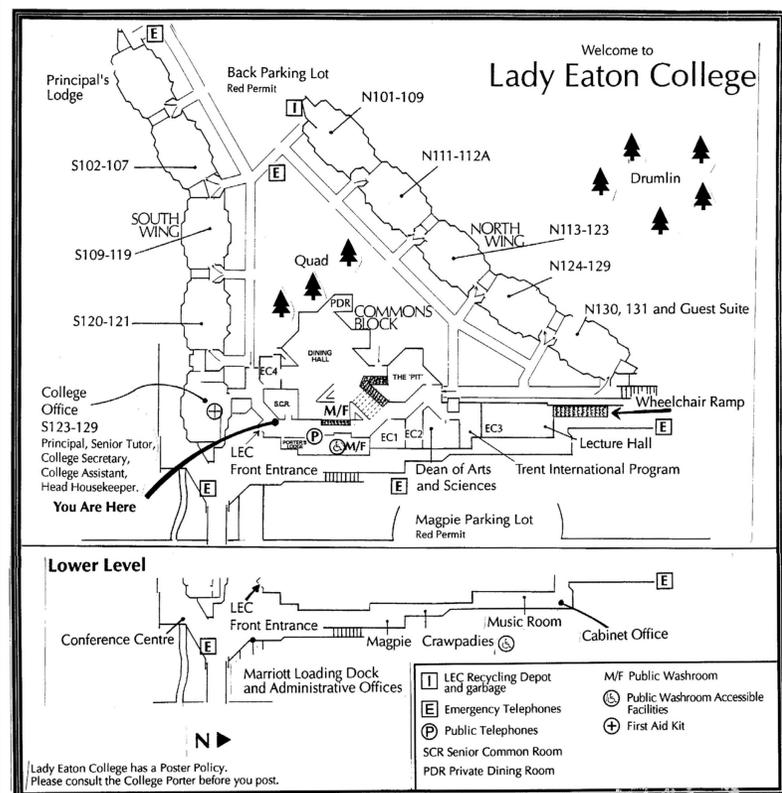
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When asked what their favourite part of LEC is, students will not hesitate to tell you how the Pit is the best place to watch movies, that the Junior Common Room is the greatest place to study, or the Dining Hall is simply the best on campus because of the atmosphere. It is hard to ignore the warmth and coziness so naturally ingrained in Lady Eaton College.

The College was purposely designed to suit the needs of women, as it functioned as an all-female college for its first four years. In the original “Brief to the Master Planning Architect”, the planning committee at Trent stated that: “the planning of Lady Eaton College offers a unique opportunity, firstly, because of the possibilities that arise from applying the philosophy of residential college life to the needs of university women, and secondly, because of the opportunity to create a College which will break new ground by affirming a positive ideal of the place of women in university life.”

1. An early map of the college, Trent Digital Assets, 20100726-9.
2. The Senior Common Room: a place frozen in time, n.d., Trent Digital Assets.
3. The TV room, located in the Junior Common Room area, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Lady Eaton College RG-6.
4. The SCR: a perfect example of the total architectural vision Ron Thom had for the University, 2019, Caleb Hunt.

# Lady Flora Eaton

Sarah Evelyn Florence McCrae was born on November 26th, 1879. Her parents, John McCrae and Jane McNeely, lived a modest life in Omeme, Ontario where they raised their eight children. At the age of eighteen, Flora, as she called herself, moved to Toronto to train as a nurse. While working at Rotherham House in 1900, Flora met John Craig Eaton during his time as a patient there. Flora and John Eaton were married in May 1901 in Flora's hometown. Flora's father initially opposed the marriage, worrying that the Eaton's wealth would spoil Flora. Thankfully, those concerns were for naught.

In 1907, John Eaton inherited the Timothy Eaton Company after his father passed away. The name was then changed to the Eaton Company, and traces of the Eaton family empire can still be found throughout Canada to this day. The Eaton Centre in Toronto is named after the Eaton family who found success in the commercial world and The Eaton Company was one of the first in Canada to market their products at a set price, which made shopping more convenient for rural families. The Eaton Co. also sent out catalogues marketing their home goods, like washing machines and vacuums, which helped bring women into the stores.

Between the years of 1903 and 1919, Flora and John's five children - Timothy, John David, Edgar Allison, Gilbert, and Florence - were born, and they adopted their daughter, Evlyn. They also built the Ardworld Mansion in 1911; the mansion was designed by architect A. Frank Wickson and was a Georgian style estate with 50 rooms and 14 bathrooms. The house also had an elevator, private hospital area, nursery suite, and underground pathway to the conservatory and indoor swimming pool. The Eatons lived in Ardworld Mansion until 1936 when they sold the house. Ardworld Mansion was used as a site to host fundraising galas during the First World War and housed members of the Royal Canadian Army during that time. In 1915, John Eaton was made Knight Bachelor because of the Eaton family's war efforts; this designation gave them the titles Sir John and Lady Eaton.

Unfortunately, Sir John Eaton passed away in 1922 at the age of 46. It was then that Flora became the Vice-President of the Eaton Co., a position she would hold until 1942 when her son David became President. Lady Eaton worked with the Eaton Co. for twenty-one years and was a driving force in bringing women into the workplace. During World War II, she was the honorary president of the Eaton Girls' War Auxiliary. During this time, her family lived at the newly built Eaton Hall. Like many of the things in Lady Eaton's life, Eaton Hall was of the highest quality and standard.

Throughout her life, Lady Eaton was interested in many things, including but not limited to travelling and gardening – she had her own award-winning rose garden. She also had a passion for the arts as she sat on the board at the Royal Ontario Museum for some time. She was also a talented musician and a dedicated philanthropist – she donated so much time and effort during the World Wars, and throughout her life.



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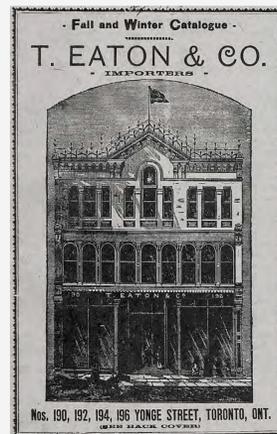
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1. The Namesake of the College, 1956, Randolph Macdonald, "Lady Eaton at work in the library of Eaton Hall."
2. Ardworld Mansion, The Eatons' home from 1911-1936, 1910, City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 316.
3. A newspaper clipping depicting Rotherham House, the meeting place of John Eaton and Flora McCrae, n.d., Vintage Toronto - Rotherham House, "Physician and Surgeon: A Professional Medical Journal", Volume 14, 1892.
4. An early topographical map of Omeme, n.d., Map of Charles Cooper's Railway – Victoria and Haliburton Counties.
5. Lady Eaton and her son exiting their town car, 1930.
6. The cover of Eaton's Catalogue, depicting the Toronto store front, 1884.
7. A view of Eaton Hall from its sweeping grounds, n.d.

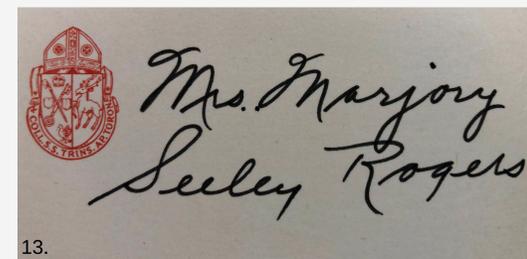
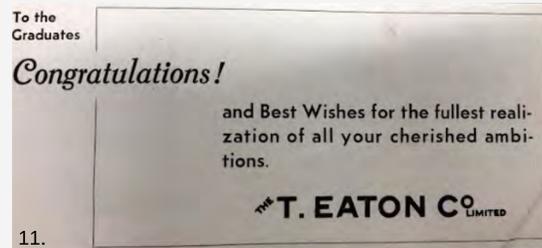
# The Supermom of LEC

Marjory Gertrude Irene Peters was born in 1921 to Alexander and Katherine Peters in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She attended Machray Elementary School and then went to high school At St. John's in Winnipeg. In 1942, Marjory Peters attended St. John's College, University of Manitoba for her B.A. She went on to complete a Diploma of Social Work in 1944, and - four years later - earned her Master's of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, where she later became an Assistant Professor. In 1955, she married Reverend Reginald S.K. Seeley, the Provost of Trinity College. Unfortunately, Rev. Reginald passed away in 1957 after being badly injured in a car accident.



Marjory continued her academic career at the University of Toronto as part of the graduate studies faculty. She traveled extensively as part of her work in social services and visited many countries, including Denmark, France, England, Scotland, Trinidad, Haiti, and Brazil. She attended and participated in many conferences on social work practice and education, public welfare, children, and disability in the United States, Canada, and South America. She was a member of the Canadian Association of Social Workers, the Council on Social Work Education, and the Canadian Association of University Teachers. In 1974, she was awarded an honorary degree from St. John's College, and in 1989, she was awarded another honorary degree from Trinity College.

In 1968, Marjory became the first Principal of Lady Eaton College and shaped the College into the place we know today. She made an enormous contribution to the College in the form of time, energy, imagination, and dedication to the well-being of her students. During her time at LEC, she was known for her love of hockey and golf, her trusting and generous nature, and her two cats, Simon and James. Marjory was Principal for eight years; she left the University in 1976 when she married William Rogers and passed away in 1998.



1. Marjory Seeley touring the dining hall of LEC during its construction, 1968, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
2. Marjory Seeley, Lady Eaton's daughter Florence, and Professor Tom Symons at the unveiling of the cornerstone, 1968, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
3. Marjory Seeley, her two sisters and her husband Bill enjoying a lighthearted conversation, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
4. Portrait of Marjory Seeley, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
5. Photo from the newspaper clipping of article "Lady Eaton's Supermom," October 16th, 1968, The Telegram, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
6. Marjory Seeley and gathering of students enjoying a conversation over brandy in the Principals quarters at LEC, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
7. Newspaper clipping featuring Professor Tom Symons, Cabinet President Ann Grey, and Marjory Seeley as they receive the portrait of Lady Eaton, January 18th, 1969, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley, 03-003/2/2.
8. Marjory's college during her undergraduate degree, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
9. Marjory Seeley alongside teammates, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
10. Marjory played hockey throughout her academic career, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
11. An ad from the Eaton Company in Marjory's yearbook, 1944, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
12. A newspaper clipping sent to Marjory, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.
13. Marjory's nametag from the reception of her Honourary degree, 1989, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Rogers, Marjory Seeley.

# Lady Eaton College & the Arts

From its earliest days, Lady Eaton College was intended to be a place to support and create art. Lady Eaton herself was a huge proponent of the arts and loved to sing and play piano, so it was decided that the College should live up to its namesake.

As you walk around the College, you can view numerous wonderful pieces of art on display. From student art - winners of the annual photo contest, as well as a painting gifted to the College from Lester B. Pearson and his wife - to the lovely sounds of the grand piano wafting through the halls, Lady Eaton College has always been a champion of the arts.

It is hard to imagine the College without the "Chicken Bobber" which has been a focal point of the Quad for over 50 years. In 1969, Andreas Drenters visited and engaged students in the process of sculpture making. Drenters then gifted the College the sculpture 'Pippy' and Marjory Seeley purchased our beloved Chicken Bobber during the visit. 'Pippy' is the Chicken Bobber's lesser known cousin!



The College was designed to house Lady Eaton's collection of Inuit art. "One of the chief ornaments of the College will be the Lady Eaton Collection of Inuit Art. Since the College will become the permanent home to this fine Collection, special attention will be needed to assure that it is accommodated and displayed so as to enhance the College in an appropriate and dignified way." -Brief to the Master-Planning Architect, February 1966.



1. The Hunter, part of the Lady Eaton Inuit Art Collection, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, 2000.145.1.

2. Maliks, part of the Lady Eaton Inuit Art Collection, 2018, Shannon Featherston.

3. Polar Bear, part of the Lady Eaton Inuit Art Collection, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, 2000.145.1.

4. Pippy, the Chicken Bobber's lesser known cousin, 2010, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, 2000.161.1.

5. The College's beloved unofficial mascot, the Chicken Bobber, 2018, Christine Freeman-Roth.

6. Students creating sculptures during Andreas Drenters visit to the College, 1971, Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Lady Eaton College.

7. Jack Bush prints as photographed by Caleb Hunt, 2019.

# Coat of Arms



The Lady Eaton College Coat of Arms was designed by a group of students, faculty, alumni, and staff to represent the College's history, scholarship, spirit, and uniqueness, as well as its ties to the university. The drive to create a Coat of Arms for the College coincided with the 20th anniversary of Lady Eaton College. The team worked with the Chief Herald of Canada to create the Coat of Arms.



Featured above and below is the evolution of the Coat of Arms over time - note the differences in colour and shading. One of the main difficulties that lies within reproducing a digital copy of the Coat of Arms is that the original was hand-painted and the unique shading is difficult to replicate.



Lady Eaton College  
**50 years**

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The blue is the main colour of the coat of arms of the McCrea family and the gold is that of the arms of Sir John Eaton, Lady Eaton's husband.

The barrulet at the top of the shield represents the drumlin and echoes the water shown on the University's logo.

Champlain's sword rising from the river and resting at the base of the drumlin represents the College's ties to the University.

The two books in the crest represent the College's academic mission: the gaining and application of knowledge.

The Tudor rose at the center of the sword signifies the College's relationship to Flora McCrea-Eaton and the Eaton family.

The sumac branches reflect the spirit of the College and its members' ecological awareness.



## 5. Lady Eaton College

The College motto, "Sapientia et Humanitas," translates to Wisdom and Humanity.



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1. An early design concept of the Coat of Arms, n.d., Brenda Copples, Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Lady Eaton College.  
 2. One of the many student designs submitted for consideration to be included in the Coat of Arms, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Lady Eaton College.  
 3. Digital file of the Coat of Arms used around 2014/15.  
 4. Early, Black and White version of the Coat of Arms, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Lady Eaton College.  
 5. 2020 version of the Coat of Arms.  
 6. Digital file of the Coat of Arms used during the 50th year anniversary of the college.

# College Life



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Lady Eaton College is brimming with 50 years of traditions. Some have survived the test of time, and others have come in and out of fashion over the years. Former Principal Dale Standen used to run a College event called "Sugaring Off." During this event, students had the opportunity to tap trees in the Drumlin and make maple syrup! The event ran for several years between 1972 to 1978. The LEC Winter College Weekend was once called Bru-Ha-Ha. As you can imagine, LEC-ers got up to lots of shenanigans including constructing their own hot tub in the quad! The weekend also used to include a broomball tournament, which took place on LEC South Field.

Lady Eaton College has hosted many important guests, from politicians to authors. Visitors have included Former Prime Minister Lester Pearson and his wife, Marion, John Holmes - a former Canadian diplomat, Harry Boyle - member of the Canadian Radio and Television Commission, and Rose Marie Brown -an N.D.P. member, who spoke at a special event held for International Women's Year. Judy LaMarsh, well known Canadian author Margaret Laurence, mime Paul Gaulin and his company, as well as the Canadian writer W.O. Mitchell have also visited the College. Lady Eaton College has also played host to Canadian authors Adele Wiseman and Linwood Barclay, member of British monarchy Princess Alexandra, the Honourable Lady Ogilvie, filmmaker Allan King, sculptor Andreas Drenters, and politicians Dalton McGuinty and Justin Trudeau.

Other guests visited as part of the Ashley Fellowship program. Ashley fellows are resident guests of the respective College that is hosting them.. The following is a list of Scholars who have stayed in Lady Eaton College: 1978-79 Chemist, Donald LeRoy, 1980-81 Journalist Rene deVilliers, 1989-90 Historian of Religion, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, 1994-95 Woman's Historian, Jill Kerr Conway, 1998-99 Emeritus Professor of Economics and Political Science, Mel Watkins, 2005-06 EC Musicologist, Dr. Timothy McGee, 2008-09 Curator of Indigenous Culture, Dr. Laura Peers, and in 2016-17 Feminism Professor, Dr. Stevi Jackson.



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Perhaps one of the oldest traditions at Lady Eaton College is the secretive spring event involving the Toad. It has stood the test of time by evolving slightly with each new generation of Lady Eaton students. This event has run nearly every year for 50 years and is part of the reason why Lady Eaton students covet the Toad.



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Orientation Week - formerly known as Introductory Seminar Week - helps teach the incoming students all of the great traditions at LEC! In the past, Lady Eaton students used to lose the Great Race event on purpose so that they could chant: "We're number 5!" Nowadays, a popular Orientation week cheer among students is "We don't need to win, we're all best friends!"

1. Former Principal Dale Standen participating in "Sugaring Off" event, 1972.
2. Students gathered around a fire while making maple syrup during "Sugaring Off" event, 1972.
3. Students playing broomball on LEC South Field, 2013.
4. Early Edition of the College newsletter, advertising the secretive spring event, March 1985, Library and Archives, Lady Eaton College, RG-6.
5. A group of students from the 80's posing for a photo before partaking in the secretive spring event, 1985.
6. Former College Head, Lindsay Morris, and student Jessica Waltner, posing as The Toad and Flora Eaton before an Orientation week event, 2014.
7. Students equipped with toad visors cheering on fellow LEC-ers during the Great Race, 2020, Trent Central Student Association.
8. LEC students during an Introductory Seminar Week paint up with the #5 painted on their arms, n.d.
9. Marion and Lester B. Pearson during their visit to Lady Eaton College, 1971, Library and Archives, Lady Eaton College, RG-6.

# College Trivia

## Quick Facts:

- The first mugs printed with the College Coat of Arms had it printed upside down!
- Students used to wear robes to dinner (very Hogwarts-esque)
- The wooden part of the chairs in the dining hall used to be lime green
- At one point the drumlin was so barren it was called 'Cavalry Hill'
- Champlain used to crash our festive winter dinner annually and would make attempts to steal our Christmas tree (they usually got caught in the act)
- Our first College Principal, Marjory Seeley-Rogers, used to blow off steam by riding around campus on a skidoo
- Lady Eaton was originally going to be made Vice-Principal of LEC, instead she was made an honorary fellow
- There used to be an LEC program on Trent Radio called "Toadily LEC"
- The collection of Inuit art donated by Lady Eaton consisted of 10 crates and was displayed in the Royal Ontario Museum before becoming a permanent display in Lady Eaton College
- There used to be a student publication called "Eaton's Catalogue"
- Bigfoot was rumored to have been seen in the drumlin in 1986
- Lady Eaton never actually visited the College
- Gemutlich, which is the German word meaning "A place where you can feel comfortably at home; an inviting, warm, relaxed and friendly environment where you are surrounded by friends," is the word used to sum up the atmosphere of the College



GUESTS		
DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
29-11-68	N.D. Rogers.	Toad Hall, PBO
29-11-68	W. L. M. E. W. S. T.	Toad Hall
1-2-69	S. A. S. J. d. W. J. J.	102 Nicholson Ave Trenton
21-12-68	Daniel C. J. B. M. D. J.	Pavis, Ont.
20-12-68	Fraser Perry	Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School (staff) Mississauga, Ont. and of Strickville. (alumnus)
17-1-69	MAO TSEU TOUNG.	III
17-1-69	Charles Le Grand-	Europe
18-1-69	Francis B. J. S. M. L. K.	Peterborough
18-1-69	Jan. M. J. C. M. J. K.	Peterborough
23-1-69	H. J. K.	Edmonton

## Toad Tidbits:

- The Toad has played a unique role in the history of Lady Eaton College. As Former College Principal Michael Eamon explains, "The origins of the Toad can be traced to the official opening of the College in January 1969 where dons (who had been living in College since September) signed their address in the guest book as "Toad Hall." Of course, this tongue-in-cheek reference is to the stately manor, and its resident curmudgeon, of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*."
- The Toad is also the official badge for the College and part of the LEC Cabinet's logo
- The Toad did not become the official mascot of the College until 1993 at the 25th anniversary of the College
- There have been 3 different versions of the toad costume

1. Students walking to class from Lady Eaton College, n.d., Trent Library and Archives, Trent University Photograph Collection, Lady Eaton College.

2. Students posing with parking spot they painted as part of the "Paint the Parking Lot" fundraiser for the Trent Student Centre (parking lot is now the location of the Student Centre), 2016.

3. The College Badge, a companion to the Coat of Arms, 1989.

4. The Lady Eaton College Cabinet logo, a variation of the badge, 2019.

5. The Toad as it appears on the College letterhead, n.d.

6. The first variation of the Toad costume, worn by former principal Arndt Kruger, 2001.

7. The second variation of the Toad costume as worn by former Principal Carolyn Kay, 2008.

8. The second variation of the Toad costume as worn by former Principal Michael Eamon, 2013.

9. The second variation of the Toad costume as worn by former College Head Lindsay Morris, 2016.

10. The third variation of the Toad costume as worn by student Myanna Hansen, 2019.

11. Early photo of the College as seen from the Drumlin, 1983.

12. Image of the guestbook from the founding dinner of the College with the location signed as Toad Hall by some of the dons, 1969.