Making room for baby

BY PAUL MAYNE

Room 52 in the Faculty of Law building differs little from many other campus classrooms. Most days students click away at laptops, books get cracked open, pen and paper lie strewn about. But there is something decidedly different here today.

In a quiet corner of the classroom a newborn baby is sleeping soundly in his mother’s arms while a professor continues his lecture. An infant carrier sits against the wall.

Mother and Law student Sharon Sabourin couldn’t be happier. The 29-year-old welcomed the newest addition to her family on Sept. 5 and was back in class, along with young Wyatt, just three days later.

In the days since then Sabourin and Wyatt have enjoyed an outpouring of support, not just from classmates, but from professors and Law’s administration which has converted a robing room just outside the Moot Court into a nursery, complete with rocking chair, nursing pillow, diaper pail, crib and change table.

If the story of young Wyatt’s first days in Law class seems remarkable, it is no more extraordinary than Sabourin’s own experiences in reaching this same classroom.

At age 19, Sabourin was a single mother living temporarily on social assistance. Determined to give her son, Talon, the opportunity she deserved, she completed her GED and applied to Fanshawe College, graduating with a General Arts & Science diploma.

“I was required to learn who I was at a very early age,” says Sabourin. “I knew what mattered and what didn’t – and Talon was my focus.”

From there, she came to The University of Western Ontario, where she completed her four-year honors degree in Health Sciences in just three years. “That was as long as OSAP funding would cover.”

Just shy of the cut-off for graduate school – one per cent to be exact – Sabourin was able to continue her education thanks to faculty member Jen Irwin who agreed to supervise her for the master’s program.

During this period Sabourin was keen on heading to medical school, even meeting with Dean Carol Herbert to make it happen.

“I wanted to go into medicine so much, but when I reflected on it, one of the big things was not to sacrifice any more time with my son,” says Sabourin. “As much as I wanted it, I knew the decision I had to make.”

Sabourin also met with Law Dean Ian Holloway, who said she would be well positioned to challenge some of the laws and policies surrounding single mothers and their challenges with post-secondary education.

“He told me the credibility I would have with a law degree to bring these issues to the forefront would be that much stronger,” says Sabourin. “So I thought I’d give it a try.”

So Sabourin began her first year of Law while finishing the second year of her master’s. Passionate about the discrepancies in treatment between

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Porridge Project helps feed Kenyans

BY DAWN MILNE

For Canadians Marco Di Girolamo, Jon Shell and their team of consultants from the Richard Ivey School of Business, the Republic of Kenya in east Africa was a different place to do business – pretty much a different world altogether.

It’s a place where young school children sit on a bare floor; rather than at desks, and draw pictures of people dying of AIDS instead of the happy families, puppies and rainbows that might show up in drawings of many of their Canadian counterparts.

It’s a place where slum areas are so crowded that people pile on top of each other to sleep.

It’s a place where nutritious foods are scarce and people often die of starvation.

That’s why Di Girolamo and Shell, founders of Bridge EXP, a Toronto-based organization that provides practical knowledge, tools and capital to mid-sized companies in developing companies, and their partner Ivey business consultants, strove to increase access to healthy food through helping a company bring a nutritious meal replacement product into the Kenyan retail market.

The Bridge EXP team helped Instafoods, a food products company with a factory near Nairobi, to distribute uji, a porridge-like product that is drunk for breakfast or in place of tea in the Kenyan diet, throughout Kenya.

Although Kenyans typically make homemade uji from millet or buy competitors’ products, Instafoods’ uji, previously distributed for disaster relief, is now made and marketed for workers and students in the Kenyan education system.

Instafoods did a “soft launch” during the summer to test packaging size and price with hopes to officially launch in December. Ivey will follow up by preparing a case study around Instafoods’ product launch.

“With many competitors, Instafoods need advice on how to best tap into the retail market. In partnership with CARE Canada and CARE International, Bridge EXP created a consulting team of Ivey MBA students and sought advice from branding experts from In-Synch, PepsiCo. and Procter & Gamble.”

“It’s not just a student project. We brought a lot of experience to the table. The idea behind Bridge EXP is that we go anywhere in the world to grab talent so we can meet a challenge for a company,” says Di Girolamo, Bridge EXP president and an Ivey alumnus.

The Bridge EXP team did fieldwork, including focus groups, in Kenya from May 18 to June 15, following months of assessment, planning and market analysis from Canada. Along with providing a financial model, marketing advice and distribution channels, the project includes a $1-million loan from Acumen Fund to help Instafoods with its product launch.

“Instafoods did a “soft launch” during the summer to test packaging size and price with hopes to officially launch in December. Ivey will follow up by preparing a case study around Instafoods’ product launch.”

“We’ve increased Instafoods’ chance for success by an enormous sum,” says Di Girolamo, estimating the team provided about $1-million-worth of consulting work for free.

“The advice we provided was important because the $1-million loan might seem like a lot of money but that money can disappear very quickly, by buying a piece of machinery, for instance, so it needs to be spent wisely.”

Di Girolamo credits the Ivey MBA student participants for bringing a wealth of expertise to the project.

Ryan Connolly, who worked on

Continued on page 16
FIRE DRILL SEASON
Fire drills have been slated for the first two weeks of October to test the evacuation skills of people working, living and studying in about 60 buildings on campus. The drills run from Oct. 6 until Oct. 17.

STUDY PARTICIPANTS WANTED
- Wounds in diabetics – The wound care research group at Parkwood Hospital is recruiting patients to participate in a clinical research project to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of an experimental wound dressing in treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. Diabetic patients must have an ulcer meeting the following criteria: at least 1 cm x 1 cm; located on the plantar foot surface including the toes; and present for at least four weeks, but no longer than two years. The work will be led by David Keast, medical director of the Outpatient Chronic Wound Management Clinic at Parkwood Hospital and a clinical adjunct professor of Family Medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Contact Lise Goettl, study nurse, for further assessment at 519-663-3713, ext. 44024.
- Healthy thinking – Faculty, staff and students are being sought as participants in a research study examining healthy cognitive processes. The study is being conducted through the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and London Health Sciences Centre. Individuals should be 16 to 50 years old. The time commitment is two 2.5-hour visits over one month and the work involves computer tasks, questionnaires and an interview. To participate or learn more about the study call 519-663-3713 or email bschaefe@uwo.ca

Wheels of Academia
The first day of autumn arrives Sept. 22, a reminder that a chill in the air will soon challenge even the bravest cyclists and strollers.
Dion promises $1.2B for research, students

BY HEATHER TRAVIS

F ederal Liberal party leader Stéphane Dion unveiled a $1.2-billion education package Wednesday at The University of Western Ontario, promising a major increase in research support as well as wide-ranging help for students to reduce the financial burden of their education.

Flanked by members of Western’s Young Liberals, local party candidates and Toronto Centre MP Bob Rae, Dion says if elected, the Liberal government will increase support for the indirect costs of university-based research up to $500 million per year.

“I know very well that colleges and universities are critical to Canada’s economic success,” he says. “A well-educated workforce is more important than ever because the challenge of the 21st century is building a sustainable economy … an economy based on innovation and creativity.”

Dion says a Liberal government would create an Interdisciplinary Sustainability Fund of $100 million for scientists, researchers and graduate students to undertake projects that extend beyond their disciplines and enhance support for Canada’s three granting councils.

“We will fund interdisciplinary research on global issues, such as the climate change crisis,” he says.

Dion also proposed extending tax credits for private sector research and development to give companies an incentive to invest in research.

Western President Paul Davenport says Dion’s plan would deliver significant benefits to Western and other Canadian universities.

“This is a key program to keep our universities and industries competitive in a global economy,” he says. “The increased support for student aid and the research granting councils is also crucial to Canada’s future.

“I hope that all parties will put this forward-looking initiative at the top of their agendas,” he adds.

Davenport says securing funding for the indirect costs of research is something he has been campaigning for throughout his career.

“The announcement today would provide full funding for the indirect costs, which would accelerate the rate of new ideas and discoveries which Canadian universities could bring to our knowledge-based society,” he says.

Post-secondary education should be more affordable for Canadians, says Dion.

A $500-million reform of government student loans would include measures to ensure every student is eligible for a $5,000 student loan, regardless of parental income. Under the plan, the loan repayment period would be extended from six months to two years interest-free, and the time students have to repay loans, at a lower interest rate, would be lengthened.

He also promises to provide 200,000 needs-based bursaries of up to $3,500 and 100,000 access grants of up to $4,000 to members of under-represented groups, both over four years.

The Liberals would replace a “complicated” system for education tax credits with an education grant that will be doled out four times a year, coinciding with the existing GST rebates.

“We need this plan for our students and we need it for the country as a whole,” he says.

Dion says the education strategy would directly benefit research and student recruitment at Western, and have a greater impact on Canada’s economy.

“With all this, I am very confident it will help Western to stay a top quality university in the world and this is a strong economic engine for all the region of London,” he says.

University Students’ Council president Stephen Lecce says the Liberal proposal would “monumentally” affect students at Western.

“It’s an exciting time for students to hear about policies that affect them monumentally,” he says, adding he will be carefully watching the election campaign to find out how Dion’s plan will be implemented.

Meighen gift supports Engineering, Music

T he T.R. Meighen Family Foundation has pledged more than $1 million to two projects at The University of Western Ontario.

A gift of $1 million from the foundation will support the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion – Western’s Green Building. This building is under construction and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2009.

A second gift from the Meighen Foundation, of $150,000, will support renovation of the Talbot Theatre in recognition of President Paul Davenport’s many accomplishments over the 15 years of his leadership at the university.

“The generous gift from the Meighen Family Foundation will support one of Western’s most exciting environmental projects - the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion,” says Davenport.

“I am also honoured and delighted that the foundation and its president, Kelly Meighen, are supporting a project that is very special to me – the renovation of Talbot Theatre.”

The Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion will be home to a range of teaching and research facilities in the Faculty of Engineering. The research will support environmental management and a sustainable future.

An atrium in the pavilion will be named in honour of Richard Dillon, who became the first dean of Engineering at Western in 1960 and was also the first deputy minister of energy in Ontario’s history.

Dillon, father of Kelly Meighen, passed away this spring at the age of 87. He was also a graduate of Western, receiving his honors degree in mathematics (as a gold medalist) in 1948.

Meighen is a Western alumna and member of the Board of Governors.

“My late father had a keen interest in the environment,” said Meighen. “Therefore, we are thrilled to be able to support this forward-looking initiative at Western’s Faculty of Engineering.”

The soaring atrium of the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion will eventually be named in honour of Engineering’s first dean Richard Dillon, who died earlier this year. Board of Governor’s member Kelly Meighen, Dillon’s daughter, has announced a major gift to support construction of the building as well as renovation of the Talbot Theatre.
THE WAY WE WERE: 1973

Contributed by Alan Noon (anoon@uwo.ca) London Free Press Collection/Western Archives

For the first time in its 21-year history two women were among the 124 business people taking the marketing management-training program at Western. Mary Park, left, a placement officer at Western, confers with instructor Doug Landers. At the right is Vickleen Ching, an assistant at the management centre, Port of Spain. The women agreed that the $1,000 fee was well worthwhile and said the men in class were cooperative and they had no problem getting their say in things.

VERBATIM

Fundamental changes in higher education are underway in Europe as a result of the Bologna Process – the commitment of 46 countries across the continent to create an integrated European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by 2010. ... In early 2008, members of the Standing Advisory Committee on International Relations deliberated on the latest developments related to the Bologna Process. The committee identified the following three issues as most critical for Canadian universities...

1. International student recruitment - As Bologna countries step up efforts to reform higher education in a concerted manner, by creating a strong bloc of modernized and compatible systems, they are likely to increase their international student market share at the expense of Canada.

2. Graduate admissions and credential evaluation - A related concern is whether the increasing number of three-year degrees from Bologna countries will be accepted as sufficient for admission to graduate programs at Canadian universities. If they are accepted, what does this mean for the quality of Canadian graduate programs, and will Canadians still generally be required to have a four-year degree for admission into graduate study?

3. Student mobility - The third key issue is student mobility as it relates to short-term exchanges and study-abroad opportunities for Canadian students.


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER VICTIMS?

Last week a notice was posted on the university’s homepage that the flag on University College would be at half-mast on Sept. 11 in memory of the close to 3,000 individuals who lost their lives in terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania back in 2001.

Can we not also mention the some 95,000 civilians, women and children, who we as accomplices have since killed in Iraq? 9/11 was terrible, but our response has been problematic, too. If even a tiny fraction of the children killed in Iraq and Afghanistan had been North American, our reactions would begin with white hot rage, and ramp up from there. Instead, the innocent civilian dead in these two countries don’t even rate a mention. It seems that a death in the middle east is not equal to a North American death.

I imagine people may object that it isn’t appropriate to mention civilians murdered in Iraq or Afghanistan on a day reserved for the victims of 9/11. But victims are victims, and civilian victims in Iraq are equally blameless; that’s the definition of innocence.

No child (or any innocent, and there are tens of thousands of them, since we have long since established that there were no ties between Iraq and 9/11 or weapons of mass destruction) planned an attack on a foreign country. If 9/11 is reserved for victims of terror, then surely the dead and wounded civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan deserve our respect and memorializing as much as ‘one of us.’ I can’t think of a more appropriate time to pay our respects to the massive number of people killed in the two wars that came out of 9/11. Should people still protest, then let us choose a day on which to mark these dreadful events, but let us assume responsibility for what we have done and will do. And then let us ask Western to lower its flag to half-mast on that day.

This letter is not an attack on any soldier who was or is in the field. It is not an attack at all. It is a specific request that we pay attention to the consequences of policies we as Canadians have either consented to by silence (which is why I say ‘we’ above, for we are complicit in the Iraq war, regularly participated in renditions, and have returned United States’ soldiers who have asked us for asylum), or pursued actively on the ground. Should someone doubt my numbers, they might wish to consult www伊拉克bodycount.org where the methodology for arriving at the number of dead is explained.

Tim Blackmore
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

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Science labs taken ‘to next level’

$15-million Materials Science Addition set to open

**BY HEATHER TRAVIS**

The Faculty of Science at The University of Western Ontario is making chemistry and physics labs more transparent to the public. The first-year teaching laboratories in the new 45,000-square-foot Materials Science Addition have clear glass walls to showcase the experiments inside to passersby. The approximately $15-million facility, between Chemistry and the Biotron, is nearing completion and the first chemistry labs start this week.

The facility is expected to be largely completed in October. “The new addition provides modern facilities that will help to further integrate the teaching and research activities of a number of Science departments,” says Fred Longstaffe, Vice-President (Academic).

“It will bring together students, staff and faculty across these disciplines, and facilitate both formal and informal interactions through common meeting spaces that the new facility provides.”

Whether standing outside the laboratory or conducting the experiments inside, students and visitors get the sense they are integrated into the classroom.

“Students can see in and see what an incredible setup it is. It’s a big draw,” says David Wardlaw, dean of the Faculty of Science.

As the chemistry and physics departments continue to grow, Wardlaw says lab and research space needs to modernize and expand.

The original chemistry labs were built in the 1960s and physics labs date from the 1920s.

“It offers modern labs for materials sciences, which attracts new faculty,” he adds.

The first-year chemistry lab contains 48 stations in four zones, accommodating 96 students. One of the more recognizable differences is computers with the MicroLab data acquisition system installed at each lab station. The system allows students to electronically record and analyze experiment data, as well as measure temperatures and graph results.

Western is one of the first universities in Canada to use this system.

Students will also have direct access to teaching assistants and lab co-ordinators, which have a ‘fishbowl-like’ office in the centre of the room.

The open-concept foyer incorporates natural lighting into the communal space, designed to encourage connections between the two departments.

With many interdisciplinary crossovers between Chemistry and Physics, John de Bruyn, chair of Physics & Astronomy is pleased the new facility has a combined resource centre and lounge space where students can interact.

“It’s partly to build a sense of community,” says de Bruyn. “It allows the two departments to see each other and talk to each other.”

The new facility will also be home to several research labs.

“Materials science and biomaterials sciences have always been a strength of the chemistry department,” says Chemistry chair Kim Baines. “We have been cramped in the old building. This was an answer.”

As safety standards continue to evolve, Baines says Materials Science research labs need to change with it.

“We were running out of space because of the changes in safety standards,” she says.

Once the addition is complete, renovations of the former chemistry labs will get underway to convert them into modern research labs.

“We are trying to feed into Canada’s Science and Technology Strategy, calling for more scientists,” she says. “We have to make it more attractive for students to become scientists.”

The office for the Chemistry Club for undergraduate students is located in the new facility.

The first physics lab in the addition will be held on Sept. 29.

“This is very much our lab because we designed it,” says Kanthi Kaluarachchi, first-year lab supervisor and assistant professor in Physics & Astronomy. “It’s a better facility for teaching.”

Kaluarachchi says the department has upgraded from chalkboards to an audio-visual system that allows instructors to run PowerPoint presentations. The four new physics labs are using computer-based technology for collaboration and data analysis.

Within the new lab space will be a one-of-a-kind physics Discovery Lab. Students are given a choice of 24 experiments and will use the latest technology. This means the department can purchase modern lab equipment without having to outfit an entire lab.

“This lab room will bring the first-year labs to the next level,” says Kaluarachchi.

“Over the past few years we did so much work (to update the labs), but it didn’t really show because of the older labs,” she adds. “We improved labs to make them up to date with other universities.”

The main goal of bringing the two departments under one roof is to encourage closeness and exchange between faculty and students, says Baines.

Rather than operate as two separate departments, “it gives the feeling you belong to the Faculty of Science,” she says.
3M TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS
Call for 2009 Nominations

The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) and 3M Canada invite nominations for the 2009 3M Teaching Fellowships. Up to 10 awards, presented annually at the STLHE conference in June, recognize exemplary contributions to educational and teaching excellence in Canadian universities.

Awards are open to all individuals currently teaching at a Canadian university, regardless of discipline, level, or term of appointment. The selection committee looks for independent evidence of excellence in teaching over a number of years, principally (but not exclusively) at the undergraduate level, as well as commitment to the improvement of university teaching with emphasis on contributions beyond the nominee’s discipline or profession to as broad an audience as possible.

A letter of support from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) must accompany the nomination documentation. Please submit nominations to the Provost’s Office by:

DEADLINE DATE • Friday, October 31, 2008

Nomination information is available at: http://www.mcmaster.ca/3mteachingfellowships

The Teaching Support Centre will host a workshop on “Preparing a Nomination for a 3M Teaching Fellowship” on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 2:30 p.m. in Room 122, Weldon Library. RSVP by e-mail: tsc@uwo.ca

NEW: Western Medical Accommodation Policy (Medical Notes)

In May, 2008, The University of Western Ontario’s Senate approved a new medical note policy, which affects all students. The following is an outline of that policy. For more detailed information and forms, please visit https://studentervices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm, and for further information please visit http://www.uwo.ca/univis/handbook/appendices/accommodation_medical.pdf

Documentation from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics

A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC)* is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC* can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: https://studentervices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm. Hard copies are available from the student’s home Faculty Academic Counselling Service.

Documentation from Student Health Services

Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a “release of information.” This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student’s home Faculty. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student's home Faculty Academic Counselling Service.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC* be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC* completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that his/her ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

*To print or see an example of the Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) please visit https://studentervices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm and click on ‘Student Medical Certificate.pdf’.

Letters to the Editor

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FILM PROJECT WORK OF MORE THAN 500 PERSONS

Those of us involved in the making of the film documenting the challenges faced by a diverse population on campus commend Heather Travis for her coverage of this project in Western News of Sept. 4 ("Minority film report: room for respect").

We are all excited about its upcoming release in October, and expect that it will be as important an agent for change as has been "The Chilly Climate."

I wish to supplement the information provided by this article with two pieces of information. The first piece clarifies the actual number of people involved in the film’s production, and the facilitators’ manual that will accompany it. This totals over 500 individuals, including on-and off-camera interviews and many other participants who contributed their stories. It represents faculty, students, administrators and staff, at Western and beyond.

The second point I want to make is that this has been a joint venture of the Women’s Caucus and the committee that began its history on campus as “Respect Western,” a fruitful collaboration.

Bonnie MacLachlan

Universities enter election campaign

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada has appealed to federal party leaders to place issues of post-secondary education, research and expansion of a knowledge economy on the front-burner for the Oct. 14 national election.

The AUCC has asked the five major party leaders to respond to 12 questions outlining their parties’ commitment to higher education and research.

Among the questions is “If your party forms the next government, will you commit to maintaining Canada’s G-7 leadership in public sector research investment?”

Noting that Canada is entering “uncertain economic times,” AUCC—which represents 92 institutions across the country—says the federal government has the potential to have a major impact on the well-being of citizens with strategic investments.

“Our university participation is only middle of the pack compared to other developed countries,” says Claire Morris, President and CEO of AUCC. “This is not good enough.”

“As a country, we need to ensure that every person, regardless of their social or economic status, has an opportunity to obtain a quality post-secondary education,” said Tom Trayes, AUCC Board chair and president of Dalhousie University.

AUCC has created an election website to promote higher education and research as an election issue for all Canadians at www.universitiesmatter.ca.

Answers from the federal parties will be posted Oct. 3.

Questions to federal parties

If your party forms the next government...

- Will you commit to maintaining Canada’s G-7 leadership in public sector research investments?
- Will you commit to support more research in a broad range of disciplines, including the social sciences, humanities and fine arts?
- Will you fund institutional costs of supporting research excellence at internationally competitive levels?
- Will you undertake the necessary investments to close the gap between Canada and the U.S. in the number of masters and PhD graduates produced, by supporting more students to pursue graduate studies and ensuring that universities have the faculty and infrastructure necessary to educate more graduate students?
- What will you do to ensure the long term sustainability of Canada’s university research infrastructure, including its major research facilities, and research network?
- How will you work with the provinces to address the per-student funding gap in post-secondary education?
- What will you do to ensure that money invested in student financial aid is going to those students most in need and that it is sufficient to meet the need?
- What measures will you take to ensure that more Aboriginal Canadians are academically qualified for university, that they have the necessary financial aid and that universities can provide outreach and support services required to increase graduation rates among Aboriginal Canadians?
- Will you commit to investing in green and smart campus infrastructure to enhance quality and sustainability?
- Will you invest in international research collaboration to increase Canadian researchers’ opportunities to work with their global peers?
- Will you expand Canada’s international marketing effort to attract more of the best foreign students to study in Canada?
- Will you take the necessary measures to increase opportunities for Canadian students to pursue an international education experience as part of their university education?
Marchers reminded of victims near home

By Heather Travis

Verónica Schild says London residents don’t have to look any farther than their front door to see female victims of violence.

Schild, an associate professor and director of the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism at The University of Western Ontario, is the guest speaker at the Take Back the Night rally and march today, beginning at the Peace Gardens at York and Thames Streets at 6:45 p.m.

The event is a demonstration against violence against women and children and is locally organized by the Women’s Events Committee.

“The Take Back the Night is merely a reminder the issue has not disappeared and we need to continue organizing around it,” she says.

However, Schild says too often people reflect on violence against women in foreign countries instead of looking at instances occurring closer to home. She says news reports of local women and children killed by their partners or sexual assaults do not always garner the same response.

“I’m struck how easy it is for us to feel sympathy and the need to help when we hear about the treatment of women in Africa and the Middle East,” she says. “How easy that urge to help comes to us, and yet, we have astounding problems in our midst.”

Increasing economic disparities and job losses in Canada have created a situation that makes women vulnerable to violence, she says. Canadians cannot get too comfortable with the violence they see around them, believing the local situation is better than what is happening overseas, she adds.

In addition to developing preventive programs and supports, Schild says structural issues, such as economic and racial issues, need to be addressed in order to improve the situation for women. Violence against women is not just a Canadian or North American problem, but it continues to be a problem, she notes.

“The Take Back the Night event is a good time for taking stock of what we have achieved, but it is also an important time to express solidarity because there are some dimensions of violence that affect women equally and there are some dimensions that affect women differently,” she says.

“The need to keep the issue, in its complexity, on the agenda is important,” she adds.

Referencing the student Gazette Spoof Issue in April 2007 which mocked the Take Back the Night march, Schild says women and men of all ages need to continue to mobilize around the issue of violence against women so that it is not forgotten or considered passé.

“The event on its own cannot carry all of this weight, but the university and the community at large take that on,” she says, adding the mission to stop violence against women is not just limited to the day of the march – it is an ongoing challenge.

Following the march, participants are invited to attend the after-party, held at The Alex P. Keaton bar at the corner of Talbot and Albert streets. Guests will be entertained by singers Allison Moe and friends.
Western Serves volunteers help local agencies

By Heather Travis

Faculty, students and staff will show their commitment to social engagement in the community on Saturday, Sept. 20 by volunteering in large numbers for Western Services.

Western Serves is a service-learning program designed to increase social awareness and bring faculty and students together in a non-academic environment. Participants are connected with London community agencies, such as ReForest London or the London Food Bank, in an educational experience that addresses various social, economical, environmental, and health issues.

"It’s a campus-wide program – bringing all corners of the university together to serve the greater London community," says Leah Getchell, Western Serves co-ordinator. "It’s showing London Western’s here and Western cares."

This year, 34 agencies are participating in the program, providing up to 511 available volunteer spots. The partner organizations include seniors’ communities, environmental organizations, social service groups and youth centres.

Building on the success of the inaugural event last year, Getchell hopes to have a good turnout. Participants can select the agency they want to work with when they sign up.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. in the Social Science Centre, followed by an introduction to Western Serves in Room 2050. Buses will depart from Alumni Hall at 12:30 p.m. take participants to the project sites.

Upon returning to campus, volunteers will enjoy a celebratory meal and engage in a small group, guided reflection about their experiences during the day.

"It’s about making that conscious connection between what you did in the community and how it relates back to your academic goals," says Getchell.

There is a $5 minimum donation to participate in Western Serves to cover the cost of transportation, food and a T-shirt. Snacks will also be provided to participants.

Student co-ordinator Ricky Ezekiel says the program builds strong relationships between students and faculty.

"It really puts a face on professors," he says. "They say the program encourages students to go outside of campus and contribute to the greater London community.

"It allows first-year students to make valuable connections early on with London agencies," he says. "It’s a great program and a great way to get that service-learning experience … without a huge time commitment."

Visit the Western Serves website at westernserves.uwo.ca or e-mail western.serves@uwo.ca for more information about the program.

United Way sets target

As The University of Western Ontario prepares to announce its United Way campaign goal Oct. 4 during Homecoming Weekend, United Way of London & Middlesex has unveiled a 2008 fundraising target of $7.3 million.

"If surpassed, it will be the eighth year in a row United Way has exceeded its annual target. Last year $7,240,135 was raised across the city and county. Every year we start back at square one – we can never take it for granted what we accomplished in the past," says Bob Adams, CEO of United Way of London & Middlesex.

"We know this will be a challenging campaign given the uncertainty in the economy. Thankfully we have an extremely dedicated army of volunteers and a community that is incredibly generous year after year."

Western co-chairs Malcolm Ruddock, Director of Employee and Advancement Communications, and Julie McMullin, Associate Dean (Social Science) will lead this year’s campaign as it looks to exceed yet another unprecedented fundraising effort with a record $516,819 raised - the largest single donation in United Way of London & Middlesex history.

To assist the United Way this year, Western employee Rob Atkinson (ITS) will serve as a sponsored employee for the four months of the campaign.

For more information visit http://unitedway.uwo.ca.
Dramatic Lesson

While the drinking and driving scenario was staged, the jaws of life crunching through steel brought an eerie realism to a presentation on Concrete Beach Tuesday about the tragic consequences surrounding drinking and driving. Here, Huron University College President Dan Moulton is wheeled away under the watchful eye of SERT member Morgan Hillier after being extricated from a vehicle. Many groups were involved in the demonstration including the Campus Community Police Service, London Police Service, the London Fire Department, MADD, the University Students’ Council, the Student Emergency Response Team, Middlesex London EMS, Western Health Services, Walt’s Towing and the Physical Plant.

Eligible to vote in U.S.?

A local group is working to boost voter registration for the U.S. presidential election and generate more buzz, beginning Sept. 26 with a Grad Club gathering to watch the first of several televised presidential and vice-presidential debates.

The London chapter of Democrats Abroad Canada (DAC) says 700,000 U.S. citizens living in Canada are eligible to vote but the registration cutoff is as early as Oct. 4, depending on the state. Only 10 per cent voted in the last election.

To make things exciting, DAC has organized a number of gatherings at area watering holes to watch the debate.

They include:  ■ Sept. 26, Grad Club, Middlesex College, 9 p.m. – presidential debate, focus on domestic issues
  ■ Oct. 2, Joe Kool’s, 567 Richmond Street, 9 p.m. – vice presidents, foreign and domestic topics
  ■ Oct. 7, Joe Kool’s, 9 p.m. – presidential, town-hall format with questions from undecided voters
  ■ Oct. 15, Joe Kool’s, 9 p.m. – presidential, foreign policy

According to DAC, if you are an U.S. citizen, dual-citizen, or were born overseas to American parents, you are eligible to vote in the upcoming U.S. presidential election. An online guide to voter registration for an absentee ballot is available at www.votefromabroad.org.

DAC organizers can be reached at otm@rogers.com or goehring@start.ca

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Lecturer: Dr. Paul Davenport President & Vice-Chancellor The University of Western Ontario Date: September 23, 7:30 p.m. Location: The ARTS Project, 203 Dundas St.

To RSVP or learn more: programs@uwo.ca  519-661-2111 ext. 85739  classeswithoutquizzes.uwo.ca
Inside the Biotron

A floor-by-floor look at the world’s most advanced facility for environmental change research

LOWER GROUND – EARTH SCIENCES MODULE

The Earth Sciences module, which strengthens its collaboration with internationally-recognized climate research and environmental programs housed at the Arctic Institute of North America and the University of Western Ontario, is one of the most recognizable features of the Biotron. This module is devoted to research on the origins of human species and will provide the infrastructure to explore the role of climate change in the evolution of human species. It will provide the opportunity to study the interactions between climate and microbial ecosystems, and the potential for bioenergy production from algae.

GROUND FLOOR – MICROBIOLOGY

This area will enable the development of new tools for the study of the origins of human species. It will contain a high-throughput imaging center featuring state-of-the-art imaging devices that will be used to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying the development of cancer. This initiative will enable researchers to study the role of microbial ecosystems in human health and disease.

GROUNDFLOOR – TRANSGENIC PLANTS & LEGUMS CONFINEMENT LABORATORY

This area will enable the development of new tools for the study of the origins of human species. It will contain high-throughput imaging center featuring state-of-the-art imaging devices that will be used to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying the development of cancer. This initiative will enable researchers to study the role of microbial ecosystems in human health and disease.

GROUNDFLOOR – INSECT MODULE

This area will allow research into new tools for the study of the origins of human species. It will contain high-throughput imaging center featuring state-of-the-art imaging devices that will be used to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying the development of cancer. This initiative will enable researchers to study the role of microbial ecosystems in human health and disease.

SECOND FLOOR – MACHINERY

This area will be used for the development of new tools for the study of the origins of human species. It will contain high-throughput imaging center featuring state-of-the-art imaging devices that will be used to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying the development of cancer. This initiative will enable researchers to study the role of microbial ecosystems in human health and disease.

THIRD FLOOR – ROOF BIOREACTORS

A major innovation in the Biotron is the development of high-throughput imaging center featuring state-of-the-art imaging devices that will be used to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying the development of cancer. This initiative will enable researchers to study the role of microbial ecosystems in human health and disease.

Biotron is a facility at the University of Western Ontario that is designed to investigate the impact of climate change on the environment. It is equipped with state-of-the-art research facilities, including high-throughput imaging centers, growth chambers, and plant and animal growth environments. The Biotron is home to a diverse range of researchers from multiple disciplines, including biology, chemistry, engineering, and physics. The Biotron is open to researchers from around the world, and it is expected to significantly advance our understanding of the impacts of climate change on the environment.
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Research talks highlight Schulich strengths

By Heather Travis

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry has young undergraduate students at The University of Western Ontario wondering about arthritis.

Yesterday marked the start of the six-part Schulich Research Lecture Series, aimed at prospective graduate students and to showcase research at Western.

Coinciding with the recent publication of a landmark study questioning the effectiveness of a popular knee surgery used to treat osteoarthritis, Associate Vice-Provost, School of Graduate and Postdoctoral-Studies Stephen Sims, program director of Rheumatology at St. Joseph’s Health Care and faculty member Janet Pope, and graduate student David McErlain were to kick off the series Sept. 17 with talks on arthritis research.

Sims, a faculty member of the CIHR Group in Skeletal Development and Remodeling and a professor in the Department of Medicine & Dentistry has young graduate students and to "reach out to students at other universities" and recruit them to Western as well.

Ellis says the lectures are directed at all undergraduate students, including those who may not have a background in medicine. “We are just looking to get more graduate students interested in research.”

Videos from the lecture will be made available on the Schulich website. Ellis says the intent is "to reach out to students at other universities" and recruit them to Western as well.

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, says students interested in careers in medicine want to make an impact on diseases such as cancer, but don’t always think about becoming a researcher.

“Getting training in research, you can have a direct impact on understanding cancer,” he says. “All sorts of different backgrounds could lead to doing research in cancer and through different graduate programs.”

In the past, Schulich’s recruitment strategies mainly focused on individual graduate programs, but Ellis says students are more interested in careers and specific areas of research. Schulich is now taking the approach of finding out what areas of research appeal to students first, and then connecting them with the appropriate graduate programs.

Ellis says the lectures are directed at all undergraduate students, including those who may not have a background in medicine. “We are just looking to get more graduate students interested in research.”

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Longtime staff member modest, supportive

By Charles May

(HBA’76)

My aunt, Margaret May, died August 14 at Chelsey Park Retirement Community in London.

Margaret was a University of Western Ontario graduate in Arts (class of 1938) and on graduation was awarded the Governor General Award for proficiency in History.

Margaret was on staff at Western for 34 years and during that time touched the lives of many Western students as Associate Registrar. She was modest when it came to her own accomplishments, choosing instead to focus her attention on others. She retired from the university in 1980.

The Miss May conference room at TD Waterhouse stadium is named for Margaret, who while working in the registrar’s office once helped a young Lionel Conacher out of a jam while the future CFL great was still attending the university.

Conacher paid for the naming rights at the Kirkley Centre in honour of the woman he says saved his neck, and his academic life, while at Western.

She is buried in Pine Orchard Friends Burial Ground, Pine Orchard, Ont. near Newmarket.

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Have you been stumped by Will?

By Paul Mayne

While most hobbies eat a hole in the wallet, Will Nediger is finding a way for his to pay some of his education costs.

The second-year Arts and Humanities student has taken up creating crosswords and his puzzles are garnering high praise – from the New York Times, no less.

Nediger recently sold his sixth crossword, and third this year, to the largest metropolitan newspaper in the United States. The Times has a daily circulation of more than one million subscribers.

“I’ve always been one to solve word puzzles, so it’s some sort of natural progression, I guess,” says the 18-year-old, who creates a couple of puzzles each month.

While he also had a puzzle published in the New York Sun (circulated in New York only) prior to the Times, the latter is the Holy Grail for most crossword constructors. Nediger is the fifth-youngest puzzle creator published by the Times. He was just 16 when his first hit newsstands.

“I still have the email that was sent to me telling me my puzzle would be published,” smiles Nediger. “I even save the emails that tell you ‘no’, because they can offer you some valuable advice as to where you can improve the puzzle.”

While four of the six puzzles were published mid-week (at $200 each), two made the coveted Sunday slot, described as ‘an icon in American culture’. For these he received $1,000 each.

With a Sunday Times circulation exceeding 1.6 million, not to mention another 30 newspapers in which the puzzle is syndicated – including Los Angeles, Chicago, Vancouver and Montreal – it is likely a few millions puzzlers were scratching their heads over Nediger’s creative ability.

“It’s great thinking all these people are working on a puzzle you created,” he says. “You want to make it a challenging but not so much that they’ll get frustrated and give up.”

Depending on the size of the puzzle - 15x15 or 21x21 - Nediger says it can take anywhere from five days, off and on, to complete.

While he will continue to submit crosswords for publication, he has numerous ones that have not been seen.

Perhaps a book of crossword puzzles down the road?

“It’s a thought,” says Nediger. “I’m just having fun creating them for now.”

Arts and Humanities student Will Nediger creates crossword puzzles for the New York Times.

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Making more room for Student Central

By Heather Travis

Each year thousands of students visit the Office of the Registrar’s Student Information Services – the notorious Room 190 – in the Stevenson-Lawson Building.

Next year, students will be lining up outside a different door after the office moves to the new Student Services Building.

The campus landmark serves approximately 55,000 drop-ins, 124,000 phone calls and 18,000 e-mails each year, says Krys Chelchowski, Director, Student Information Services and Administration (Office of the Registrar).

In the summer of 2009, the mecca of student services will take up quarters in a new building, now under construction and attached to the southwest portion of the University Community Centre.

The $21-million facility will accommodate the Registrar’s Office, Indigenous Services, Student Development Centre, Centre for New Students and other student-focused services included under Vice-Provost (Academic Programs & Students) [Registrar] John Doerksen’s portfolio.

“Overall, the idea of having one-stop shopping will make it easier for students,” says Doerksen. “I feel this new facility will really take us forward and allow us to provide the best student experience.”

“I am enthusiastic about the move. It will really be an improvement,” he adds.

“The goal is to have all student services under one roof.”

“We’ve outgrown the space (in the Stevenson-Lawson Building) a number of years ago and to provide good service, you need the space,” she says.

Even before the move, Room 190 has begun taking on a new identity that will be used in the Student Services Building – the name has been changed to ‘Student Central.’

“We are the face of the student services that are under the portfolio of the Office of the Registrar,” she says.

Although Student Central will continue to provide services to a large number of students, the new facility has created a solution to make the long line-up typically seen at the start of each semester more comfortable.

The new facility is double the size of its current SLB location, with a considerable expansion to the student reception area, says Chelchowski.

“We found what was there really wasn’t a space to wait,” she says. “Because it’ll be a larger space, it’ll be better for students to feel comfortable waiting.

The organization of Student Central will also provide easier access and help streamline services.

“We did look at convenience and comfort of the students and some privacy at the counters,” she adds.

The Student Services Building will follow the example set by the Support Services move to transition the multiple departments.

“I’m sure we will learn from the Support Services Building move,” she says. “We will always try to make the transition as smooth for the students, first.”

About 150 staff members will be affected by the move.

Citizens of London will have an opportunity to meet with members of the City of London’s Governance Task Force by attending one of four PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETINGS.

Londoners are asked to provide input on the Task Force’s findings and recommendations during these important civic meetings being held at:

- **Public Open Houses**
  - **September 16**
    - Open House: 6:30 pm
    - Public Participation Meeting: 7:00 pm
  - **Earl Nichols Arena**
    - September 23
    - Open House: 6:30 pm
    - Public Participation Meeting: 7:00 pm
  - **East London**
    - September 30
    - Open House: 6:30 pm
    - Public Participation Meeting: 7:00 pm
  - **City Hall, 2nd Floor, Chambers Room 1 & 2**
    - October 2nd
    - Public Participation Meeting: 7:00 pm

Your City. Your Say.

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For more information and to submit input or questions directly to the Governance Task Force, visit: www.london.ca/speakup, e-mail: gt/f_info@london.ca or mail to: City of London, Governance Task Force, PO Box 5035, London, ON N6A 4L9

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New Fall Sessions available for post-secondary single/sole support mothers and...
Justices explore relationship with politicians

By Heather Travis

Students at The University of Western Ontario and local residents will get a chance to meet the Supremes this week – that is, two Supreme Court of Canada justices who will be visiting the Faculty of Law and Museum London.

The Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership has partnered with the Department of Philosophy to present two events – a public lecture and a roundtable discussion – involving Justice Ian Binne and former Justice John C. Major, in a discussion about the relationship between the judiciary and the elected branches of government. Both Chumir Foundation events are open to the public.

Binnie will participate in a public lecture, titled ‘Courting Democracy: The Problem of Politics and Judicial Review,’ on Sept. 18 at The Lorraine Ivey Shuttleworth Community Gallery at Museum London at 7:30 p.m.

On Sept. 19, Major will be joined by McGill University Faculty of Law professor Evan Fox-Decent, Allan Hutchinson, professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and Michael Milde, Department of Philosophy professor at Western, in a roundtable discussion about politics and judicial review. The event will be held in Room 38 of the Josephine Spencer Niblett Building at 3:30 p.m.

Andrew Botterell, assistant professor (Philosophy and Law), says Major is well-known for a dissenting decision in the 1998 case Vriend v. Alberta. In this Supreme Court of Canada case, an employee at an Alberta college disclosed to his employer that he was homosexual and was fired from the college shortly thereafter. At the time, the Alberta Human Rights Commission did not include sexual orientation under the Individual’s Rights Protection Act.

Botterell says although Major agreed the man’s rights had been infringed, he thought it should be put in the hands of the Alberta legislature to change the Individual’s Rights Protection Act to include sexual orientation, rather than the Supreme Court of Canada.

“What’s a court to do when it’s faced with a legislature decision it doesn’t like?” he asks. “Some people think that is anti-democratic because they have unelected people making the law.”

Major is also the commissioner of the Air India Inquiry.

Meanwhile, as a serving judge, Binnie is the most senior Supreme Court Justice, next to the Chief Justice, and is a friend of the law school, having made past appearances.

Botterell says the topic of judicial review and its overlap with politics will be explored by both judges.

In addition, Binnie and Major will take part in a question and answer session on Sept. 19 with Western law students from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Josephine Spencer Niblett Building. Grant Huscroft, a Western law professor and constitutional expert, will facilitate the session.

“It is a rare opportunity to question people who are involved in the development of the law in Canada,” says Huscroft.

He expects issues such as the role of the court, how judges decide cases and what happens after the court hears a case, the appointment process for judges, etc. will be raised during the discussion. Overall, Huscroft says their presence will help to shed light on the person behind the judgments.

“The court operates in a formalistic fashion… but, here they are as real people.”

Similarly, Botterell says it’s not every day that students get face-time with a justice of the court.

He says the visiting justices will give students the chance to ask pressing questions about issues they have discussed in class and will hopefully demystify the roles of the Supreme Court Justices.

“You read these cases and the names of these people and all of a sudden they are right in front of you,” he says. “I hope students will take this opportunity to ask probing questions and think hard about the issues being discussed.”

The event also allows faculty members to direct specific questions to the judges, he adds.

Botterell hopes philosophy graduate students, Faculty of Law students and anyone else interested in these subjects will attend the events.

Western opens its doors

By Heather Travis

Five sites at The University of Western Ontario are opening their doors to the public this weekend for Doors Open London. Gables University College, Gibbons Lodge, Huron University College, the McIntosh Gallery and the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory will be greeting residents and visitors on Sept. 20-21. These sites are among the 51 Doors Open locations in London.

Among the noteworthy Western sites, participants can catch a glimpse into the home of Western President Paul Davenport and previous presidents by taking a stroll through Gibbons Lodge. The official residence of the president was built in the 1930s and was donated to the university by the family of Helen Beresford Gibbons.

Affiliated colleges Brescia University College and Huron University College welcome visitors to tour the grounds on Sat., Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The McIntosh Gallery will be featuring a special exhibition, ‘Hinterlands,’ which features work by Canadian artists like Andrew Wyeth, Susan Globoch, Diana Thorneycroft and Colette Urban, during Doors Open London.

From 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day, the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel will showcase scaled models of selected projects tested at the laboratory. The facility was established in 1965 and has been used to test the impact of wind speeds on structures. The original tunnel, which is still used, can operate at wind speeds up to 50 km/hr. However, children must be 12 years old to visit the site.

All of the sites are open to the public, free of charge during the two-day event. For more information about Doors Open London visit www.doorsopenlondon.ca.
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Volunteers Wanted
Canadian Association for Girls in Science (CAGIS) is looking for volunteers who are interested in writing short science-related articles for the CAGIS website: www.cagis.ca. Contact us at cagis@uwo.ca.

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Validation Cards
Validation Cards are no longer issued. If you require a document to show your current registration, print off a copy of your Statement of Account or visit Student Central, Stevenson-Lawson Building, Room 190 to order a Statement Letter.

Autumn Convocation Packages
Convocation packages will be mailed to all students who applied to graduate for the Autumn Convocation. Mailings will begin at the end of September.
Visit studentservices.uwo.ca


For Sale
Masonville area for sale by owner. Superb 3-storey, 4 bedrooms+den, 3.5 baths. Near schools & Western. Inground pool. $80,000 in upgrades. Finished basement. Large backyard. Open Sat-Sun 2-4 or by app. 519-438-7954. 103 Robinson Lane. A must see! Asking $369,900.

Short-Term Rental

For Classifieds, call 519-661-2045 or send email to advertise@uwo.ca. Rates: faculty, staff and students - $50, others and services/commercial ads - $20. Beyond 35 words, please add 50 cents per word. Payment must accompany ads. Submit by 9 a.m., Thursdays to Western News, Suite 360, Westminster College. No refunds. Visit Classifieds Online at http://communications.uwo.ca/com/classifieds_menu.

GREAT FOR YOUR RESUME

“Welcome Back” Hours
Room 190, Student Central
Until Sept. 26
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays - 9 am to 4 pm
Telephone Helpline: 519-661-2100
Regular hours - 9 am to 4 pm

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Fab10, for the ultimate socializer.

Talk and text all you want to 10 friends with Fab 10 student plans. Visit a Bell store, bell.ca/socializer or call 1 888 4-MOBILE for details.

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- Unlimited local talking and text messaging to and from any 10 numbers
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- Features included: Call Waiting and Conference Calling

PLUS: Get more minutes, unlimited long distance and 500 picture/video messages for just $10/mo.

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Available at the following Bell stores:

CHATHAM
853 St.Clair St.
Downtown Chatham Centre

CLIFFORD
100 Elora St. N

LONDON
55 York St.
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Masonville Place
Westmount Mall
Shawinigan Mall
55 Murphy Rd
Labrinth Mall
ST THOMAS
803 Talbot St
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BlackBerry® Pearl™
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