



TRENT UNIVERSITY

# ARCHIVES NEWS

Number 43, October 2012

## PORTAL

On a cold and windy afternoon in late December of 2011, an 8000 pound granite sculpture named *Portal* was installed at Trent University. This work and a smaller accompanying piece were created by artist and alumnus David James and donated by James and Lili de Grandpre. The larger work is comprised of Belfast black granite from Zimbabwe and is approximately six feet tall and seven feet wide. Located on the slope between Peter Gzowski College and the Chemical Sciences Building, the work overlooks the nearby Warren Garden and is visible to passersby on the River Road and from the Faryon Bridge which crosses over the Otonabee River. Designated cultural property by Canadian Heritage, the massive piece is a cherished new acquisition.

The smaller piece, comprised of kiln cast crystal, has the same name, *Portal*, and is also culturally designated. Visually striking in its red hues and augmented by natural light in its new location, this work has become a central feature in Bata Library.

The sculptures were unveiled in an event held on September 29th, 2012 during the Head of the Trent weekend. David James is internationally recognized and is an award-winning artist whose studio is located in Sutton, Quebec.

To see a PowerPoint slide show about the creation, delivery, installation, and the unveiling of *Portal*, click on the October 1 news item of the Art Collection web site: <http://www.trentu.ca/artcollection>.

*"The piece is about transitions.... In looking at the piece one can be seen to be looking at the future through the window..."* David James, 2010.



Visit Our Web Site:

<http://www.trentu.ca/library/archives>.



Check our Facebook page regularly for news and updates.

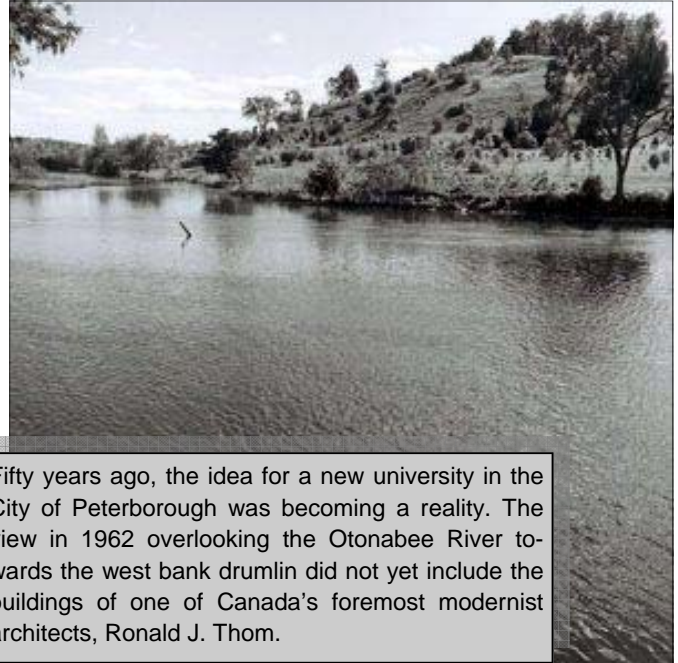


# TRENT UNIVERSITY: BEGINNINGS

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With the approach of Trent's 50th anniversary, many people have been contacting the Archives with various queries about the University's history. As part of its mandate, the Archives houses the records of the University and we, too, have been caught up in the excitement! The Trent records in our holdings include: photographs, reports, student newspapers, university calendars, faculty papers, theses, architectural drawings, posters, works of art, publicity materials, annual reports, senate minutes, and historical administrative records. All these documents contribute to the Trent story and they are in high demand as preparations are made to celebrate the anniversary. We've highlighted just a few of the earliest documents in this issue of *Archives News*; these items exemplify the vision of individuals who initiated and endorsed the idea for an institution of higher learning in Peterborough.

On December 5, 1957, Reginald R. Faryon, President of the Quaker Oats Company of Canada, wrote a letter to the *Peterborough Examiner* advising that money acquired from the sale of Peterborough's gas services to an outside company should be spent on a Junior College for Peterborough.



Fifty years ago, the idea for a new university in the City of Peterborough was becoming a reality. The view in 1962 overlooking the Otonabee River towards the west bank drumlin did not yet include the buildings of one of Canada's foremost modernist architects, Ronald J. Thom.

## *"Make Good Use of the Gas Money"*

Sir:

*One of the surprising and disappointing aspects of the recent Municipal Election is that not one candidate for Council or Board of Education mentioned the possibilities of a Junior College for Peterborough.*

*This, to me, is an amazing oversight because, while most of the candidates promised to do their utmost to bring new industry to Peterborough, they apparently overlooked the fact that not only would a Junior College be a very desirable industry, but probably would do more to attract additional industry than any other factor.*

*A Junior College would not only be the equivalent to a good sized industry, but it would attract students, visitors and other money to this city.*

*Only a very few Peterborough boys and girls receive an education higher than Grade 12 High School. In fact, I believe that the number of Grade 13 pupils and those going beyond Grade 13 is one of the lowest percentages to population of any area in Ontario.*

*This is why very few of the higher paid positions in Peterborough are held by the children of Peterborough parents. Most of these jobs are filled from out of town because the local applicants do not have sufficient education.*

*One of the reasons for this, besides the lack of interest in higher education in Peterborough, is the cost –and the main cost of a college education is not tuition, but board and lodging.*

*If we had a Junior College in Peterborough hundreds of Peterborough young men and women would be able to obtain part of their college or university education while living at home, and this would open opportunities to thousands over the years that just don't exist today.*

*Furthermore, it would offer this same opportunity to not only the children of the employees, but the children of principals of new industries and businesses that might consider locating here.*

*With a Junior College and all it would represent, Peterborough could become the accepted Capital of that rapidly growing part of Eastern Ontario between Oshawa and Kingston.*

*Now that the voters have decided to sell the Public Utilities Gas Franchise to an outside Gas Company, and as I understand that the money from this sale will come to the City Council to do what they like with it, I suggest that it be used, in conjunction with funds that can be obtained from the Provincial Government and probably from the Canada Council, to establish a Junior College in Peterborough.*

*Let us not dissipate the money from the sale of our gas services in little things. Let us invest in something really big—the Junior College which will pay dividends for generations to come and benefit directly, or indirectly, every man, woman and child in Peterborough.*

Yours sincerely,  
Reg. R. Faryon

June 26, 1962.

Walter G. Ward, Esq.,  
The Canadian General Electric Company,  
Peterborough, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Ward:

I am happy, on behalf of the Academic Planning Committee of Trent University, to express heartfelt thanks for the gift of land which the Canadian General Electric Company has made to Trent University. It is a most generous, thoughtful, and timely gift which will, I believe, always be remembered and honoured by the sons of this new place of learning.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

T.H.B.S.

T. H. B. Symons,  
The Chairman,  
The Academic Planning Committee,  
Trent University.

TBS/cr

In 1962, Canadian General Electric Company of Peterborough, Ontario donated the core 100 acres of Trent property, Nassau Mills, to the University. In a letter dated June 26th of that year, T.H.B. Symons, then Chairman of the Academic Planning Committee, wrote to Walter G. Ward, Vice-President and General Manager of C.G.E., thanking him for the "generous, thoughtful, and timely gift." Within a few years, construction was well underway on both sides of the Otonabee River.

Aerial view of the Trent University site prior to construction, 1964.  
Photo credit: Parks.



Aerial view of Trent University in 1968. Construction had begun on both sides of the Otonabee River.  
Photo credit: Parks' Peterborough Portrait Studio.



*The site is situated roughly two miles from the downtown area of Peterborough in a shallow draw formed by the Otonabee River, in an exceedingly beautiful region on the southern limit of the Canadian Shield... It seemed reasonable under the circumstances to make the Otonabee River the central feature of the campus...*

Ronald J. Thom  
*Architecture and the College*

For more information about pre-Trent land usage and ownership, click here:  
<http://www.trentu.ca/admin/library/archives/ztvision.htm>.

A long-time friend of the Archives, Martha Ann Kidd, died on July 30th, 2012. Martha was a well known and respected local historian, an author and artist, and an authority on local architecture. She had a long association with Trent University. Married to Kenneth E. Kidd (late Trent University Professor), Martha was a member of the Friends of the Bata Library and a strong supporter of the Library and Archives. Martha and her husband, Kenneth, received Honorary Degrees at Trent University in 1990. Several collections of their papers and publications are located at Trent University Archives.



Honorary graduates Martha & Kenneth Kidd  
Convocation, Trent University, 1990



Martha & Kenneth Kidd  
(Photo credit: Jack Marshall)

#### **Staffing Update:**

Jodi Aoki has been reappointed Archivist and Christine Withrow, Archives Assistant, for the period July 2012-June 2013. Our student assistant, Jayme Blondin, is also on board for the current academic school year.

All our newsletters are online:

[http://cat3.lib.trentu.ca:81/library/archives/newsletter\\_index.htm](http://cat3.lib.trentu.ca:81/library/archives/newsletter_index.htm)

Newsletter Editor: Jodi Aoki, M.A.

#### **Hours of Operation**

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 to 4:30; Tuesday: 12:00 noon to 7:30 (fall hours); Wednesday: 9:00 to 7:30  
Please make an appointment to ensure access. We are located on the first floor of Bata Library.

TRENT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES THOMAS J. BATA LIBRARY PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO CANADA K9J 7B8

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