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King's receives \$1m from estate of former Chief Librarian Elizabeth Russell

London, Ontario - A \$1 million donation from the estate of Elizabeth Russell, one of the largest individual gifts in King's history, will ensure improved accessibility for all patrons, enhanced technology and improved study space in the G. Emmett Cardinal Carter Library. In recognition of this generous support, the first floor of the Library will be named the "Elizabeth Russell Achievement Centre."

A valued member of the King's staff from 1970 to 1993, Russell held a series of roles with increasing levels of responsibility at the Library, retiring as an award-winning Chief Librarian. During her tenure, plans were finalized to build the current library, which opened in 1995. Today, the Library remains a vital and valued space within the King's community and is ready for a rejuvenation, again thanks to Russell and her stewardship.

The renovation will involve a complete refitting of the beloved first floor to bring study space into the 21st century with improved access to technology required by contemporary scholarship. With the relocation of the traditional front service desk will come more community-based places to learn, collaborate and research including via technology pods. This donation will allow enhancement of spaces and services that will establish the Library as an accessible, inclusive and inspiring environment for learning, collaboration, creativity and student success activities.

A celebration of Russell's donation to the Cardinal Carter Library will be held upon completion of the Library enhancements, which is expected to occur during the 2021 calendar year.

Quotes

- "Elizabeth dedicated more than two decades of her career to King's, and she was committed to the Library as the heart of the College. This donation honours her vision for the Cardinal Carter Library, and her legacy will benefit students for years to come," says Ms. Eileen Fallows, speaking on behalf of Elizabeth Russell's estate.
- "Ms. Russell has demonstrated, through this generous gift, her continuous belief in being a responsible guardian of education. Little did she know the future needs of our students and the technological supports that would be necessary to further their education. However, she entrusted to us her belief in King's and that we would be good stewards. I am so grateful for her leadership and honoured to see her positive impact on the community will continue," says Dr. David Malloy, King's Principal.
- "I am very fortunate to be following in the footsteps of our former Chief Librarian, Elizabeth Russell, who was wholly dedicated to King's and to the Library as the centre of the intellectual community. Like Elizabeth, King's continues to be committed to ensuring that our students are successful, and part of that is providing them with the support and information they need to pursue their academic goals. Through her work, Elizabeth brought new, modern technologies and library spaces to the King's community. This gift continues that effort by supporting the needs of a current and

evolving community and will allow King's to offer the infrastructure and resources for tomorrow's students and researchers," says Adrienne Co-Dyre, Director of Libraries.

- "Miss Russell, as she was known affectionately by her staff, was dedicated to building a community of practice that recognized the Library as a beacon for scholars and students alike to find a welcoming space to nurture their research and learning. How fitting it is that her estate is donating to the library at a time of great uncertainty by remodeling our library and preparing for the new way of delivering library services," says Linda Whidden, Associate Librarian and Head: Technical and Information Resources (who worked with Russell).
- "For many students, the Library is the heart of campus. It is where students go to study, to conduct research and to connect with each other. I am so grateful that someone would like to honour the great contributions that the library had made to our campus in the past and will revitalize the library so that it will continue to be a special place for our students in the future," says Ben Kitching, President, King's University College Students' Council

About Elizabeth Russell

- A valued member of the King's staff from 1970 to 1993 (retired)
- Retired from King's as Chief Librarian
- Recipient of the Academic Librarianship Award (1993) from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA).
- Western University alumna, Master of Library Science
- After a fulfilling retirement in British Columbia, she died in 2013

About the G. Emmett Cardinal Carter Library

The Cardinal Carter Library formally opened on September 29, 1995. It was designed to offer a variety of seating and study space options, as well as sufficient shelf space for an estimated twenty years of acquisitions in order to meet the current and long-term needs for space and resources. Dubbed "the library of tomorrow" by local media at the time, the Library provided access to the latest library information technology and offered many state-of-the-art features. More than 20 years after opening, the Cardinal Carter Library remains a vital and valued space within the King's community.

About King's University College

King's is a public Catholic University College that provides general and honors degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master's degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally autonomous, King's is academically affiliated with Western University, and King's graduates receive a Western University degree. King's is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centred on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person.

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