

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 History of the university

For more than 10 years, prominent Durham Region leaders worked to realize their vision for a student-focused institution dedicated to great teaching, groundbreaking research, and the use of leading-edge learning technology. By preparing students for critically needed, knowledge-intensive careers, the university would ensure bright futures for its graduates, and generate economic growth for Durham Region, Northumberland County, and all of Ontario.

In one of Ontario's earliest efforts to combine university and college studies in one location, the Durham University Centre was created in 1996 on the campus that the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) shares with Durham College. Courses offered at the centre were taught by professors from both Trent University and York University. However, despite this notable achievement, the unique vision for UOIT remained strong.

May 9, 2001 marked a historic day for Durham Region and Northumberland County when the Ontario government announced plans for the province's first new university in 40 years and earmarked \$60 million in start-up funds through the Ontario SuperBuild Corporation. An operations centre was set up next to the President's office, where 11 teams, working seven days a week, produced a to-do list of 856 tasks and hundreds of subtasks. Team members toured top institutions across North America to study best practices.

UOIT officially came into being on June 27, 2002, with the provincial legislature's passage of Bill 109, Schedule O, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology Act, 2002, and it welcomed its first class of 947 students in September 2003. By September 2006, the award-winning campus had grown to approximately 4,300 students driven by a common desire for excellence and innovation. Professors at UOIT are experts in their fields from around the world. They challenge and inspire students to push their own boundaries of thinking and learning and UOIT's commitment to research excellence sees students collaborate with professors in the classroom, the lab, and the field, turning innovative ideas into real solutions to make an impact on society.

UOIT's short history has been marked by tremendous accomplishment and growth, and an exciting future lies ahead. The university's first two state-of-the-art academic buildings – Science, and Business and Information Technology – and an architecturally award-winning Campus Library were completed by fall 2004. The Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Engineering building opened in 2006 and a 90,000-square-foot campus athletic expansion is scheduled to open in June 2007. UOIT has expanded north across Conlin Road thanks to the estate of industrialist E.P. Taylor and the donation of a portion of Windfields Farm, a world-class thoroughbred racing operation that once nurtured the great champion, Northern Dancer. On this land stands UOIT's Campus Ice Centre and its year-round Campus Tennis Centre.

One of UOIT's most eagerly anticipated projects is the Automotive Centre of Excellence which is being built in partnership with General Motors of Canada and the Government of Ontario. Canada's premier automotive research and development centre is due to open in 2008, bringing faculty, students and researchers together on campus.

UOIT will continue to expand and grow in the years ahead, giving rise to even more leaders of tomorrow.

1.2 Mobile learning environment

UOIT's leading-edge mobile learning environment allows students to connect with professors and peers at any time and from anywhere, putting them one step ahead when they graduate.

In fact, UOIT's state-of-the-art Mobile Learning program is so highly regarded for the advantages it provides students and faculty that it earned a prestigious Silver Award of Excellence in the category of Organizational Transformation from the Canadian Information Productivity Awards (CIPA) program in 2006.

At Ontario's only laptop-based university, all students use a high-end Lenovo ThinkPad laptop, loaded with the latest program-specific software. Professors develop sophisticated course content using a powerful campus-wide online Learning Management System.

One of the greatest advantages of the Mobile Learning program is that students have equal access to the same technology, resources and services, inside or outside of the classroom. Students can make quality computer-based presentations, conduct Internet research, work electronically on their own or with other students, and have seamless access to all online resources electronically.

An annual mobile-computing fee covers the use of hardware learning tools, extensive technical support, virus protection, high-speed Internet, free printing services, insurance, and a wide range of educational software tailored specifically to each program. In addition, all laptops are refreshed with appropriate program-based software every year and upgraded every two years. The university is committed to giving students even more value for their education and investment in technology while they study at UOIT.

The university's Student Laptop Ownership program is available to students graduating or completing their final year of full-time, multi-year programs of study. Once they have paid for their final year of studies, they can purchase a laptop for \$1.

1.3 University library

The award-winning UOIT Library offers an inviting atmosphere for individual and collaborative learning, including a bright, spacious second-floor study area. The library features:

- ten group study rooms
- two state-of-the-art library instruction classrooms
- wireless access to the campus computer networks
- first-floor café
- fireplace reading room
- Teacher Resource Centre
- Special Collections Room for quiet study
- award winning fiction for leisure reading
- 160 computers available throughout the building
- daily newspapers and magazines for browsing
- 40,000 full-text e-books
- over 110 general and specialty databases
- 40,000 digital full-text periodicals

Most of the library's resources are in digital format and are available 24x7 through the library's web page. They may be accessed virtually from anywhere, via computer from residences, laboratories, clinical settings and homes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The library also offers complementary print collections including a casual reading collection. Librarians are available to assist with the skills required to navigate effectively through the information environment.

For more information about the UOIT Library and its services, please visit www.uoit.ca/library.