

May 2, 2012

## **Construction Begins on New Student Service and Alumni Centre at OAC's Ridgetown Campus**

The Ridgetown Campus of the University of Guelph is pleased to announce that construction has begun on a new \$3.5 million Student Service and Alumni Centre. The renovations to the Reek building will centralize and enhance student services, providing a central first-stop location for all students and visitors to campus including those that are considering Ridgetown for their future post-secondary studies. The project will also provide two new classrooms for the campus.

"We are extremely proud of the tremendous leadership role of our Ridgetown Campus," says Rob Gordon, dean of the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) at the University of Guelph. "This new centre will further enhance the overall Ridgetown experience, support harmonized student services, and create a welcoming environment for future students."

Funding for the project has been provided by the Province of Ontario from both the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). The project has been a priority initiative of the Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation, a volunteer board that works to enrich students' overall learning experience. "Support from corporate, alumni and community friends has been strong and we are indeed fortunate as we head into the final phase of the campaign," says Dave Baute, alumnus and Foundation chairperson. This capital improvement at Ridgetown is one of many projects under the umbrella of the University of Guelph's BetterPlanet Project campaign.

Building contractor Westhoek Construction Limited of Chatham estimates a 56-week construction time frame starting on May 1, 2012. The 13,000 square foot (1208 sq.m.) facility is expected to open to in fall 2013.

Ridgetown Campus is one of four campuses of the Ontario Agricultural College. Established in 1874, OAC is one of the founding pillars of the University of Guelph, Canada's largest and most comprehensive institution for education, research and service in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural communities.

### **CONTACTS**

**Mary Thring, OAC Communications Co-ordinator**  
OAC Deans Office  
Johnston Hall, University of Guelph  
N1G 2W1  
e-mail: [mthring@uoquelfh.ca](mailto:mthring@uoquelfh.ca)  
519-824-4120 ext. 56832

**Liz Meidlinger, Manager, Communications and Advancement**  
University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus  
120 Main Street East, Ridgetown, ON  
N0P 2C0  
e-mail: [lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoquelfh.ca](mailto:lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoquelfh.ca)  
519-674-1500 ext. 63587