



As long as there has been a Lakehead University, there has also been an Alumni Association. Formed soon after the Lakehead University Act came into effect in 1965, the first Presidents of the Association were Bert Baumann and Jim Foulds (each a half term), followed by Roy Piovesana, the President of the 1965 graduating class and now a Fellow of Lakehead University.

Active on and off through the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Association underwent its first major revival in the 1980s. Led by Dusty Miller and Eric Wilson, the Association established the *Nor'wester Magazine* (now *Journey*), created the Alumni Entrance Scholarship, bestowed its first Alumni Honour Award to Dr. Ron Duhamel, and organized the first Lakehead Annual Fund. Since 1988, the Association has also recognized a graduating Visual Arts student through its Alumni Art Purchase award.

The awards and recognition program continued to expand throughout the 1990s and 2000s, with the addition of an Outstanding Young Alumni Award and the Alumni Legacy Award. During this time, the Association also founded the annual Alumni Golf Tournament (now the Bill Keeler Memorial Golf Classic) and completed a successful Alumni House campaign, which culminated in the Association providing funds to help the University acquire the Avila Centre from the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Alumni Association underwent its second major renewal in the early 2010s under the leadership of Rob Jamieson. It adopted both a new brand, in close synergy with the University rebranding initiatives, and a new Vision and Mission. At Convocation in 2014, after crossing the stage each graduating student for the first time received the Alumni Scarf. It is a powerful, visual symbol of their transition from student to graduate, and now a university tradition the Association is proud to have introduced.

In 2015, the Association contributed to the establishment of an Alumni Commons at Lakehead Orillia. A focal point on campus, this quiet study area is a popular destination for students and a central gathering point for small groups and activities. The Alumni Association also set aside funds to assist with the refurbishment of the Agora and to establish an Alumni Commons in Thunder Bay. Two key elements displayed in both Alumni Commons are the Alumni Recognition Wall and selected works from the Alumni Art Collection.

An exciting new chapter for the Alumni Association launched in the summer of 2019 with two momentous events. The first was the approval of a five-year alumni engagement plan, *Lakehead for Life*, by the Board of Directors. This first ever plan of its kind for Lakehead University consists of five overarching goals, and will focus on five key pillars of engagement:

- Students
- Key Alumni Constituent Groups
- Alumni House/Alumni Commons
- Chapters, Programming and Regional Engagement Opportunities
- Alumni Ambassador Program/Volunteer Engagement

The second event of summer of 2019 was a move to the NEW Alumni House at 1294 Balmoral St. This new venue will be a primary welcoming point for alumni, donors and visitors to campus in Thunder Bay.

We look forward to welcoming everyone into our new space.