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## **Galen Weston receives Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Huron University College**

**LONDON, ON:** Huron University College is pleased to announce the granting of an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to Mr. Galen Weston.

Mr. Weston is one of Huron University College's most prominent friends and associates to grace the halls of the university, which makes the granting of this honorary degree a particularly important event. As chairman emeritus of George Weston Ltd., a Canadian food and retail giant founded by his grandfather in 1882, Mr. Weston is one of this country's greatest business leaders. Through his lifelong commitment to philanthropy he has sought to make a difference in the world around him.

"Galen Weston is not only a great Canadian, but also one of the most accomplished persons to have even studied in the more than one-hundred-and-fifty-year history of Huron University College," Dr. Barry Craig, Principal of Huron University College, said.

Huron is an institution that seeks to challenge students to be Leaders with Heart. Developing leadership with heart means nurturing the individual gifts of students while prioritizing their care for the people and world around them. Huron achieves this by encouraging their engagement with and contributions to solving the world's challenges. Huron University College is honoured to recognize Mr. Weston's people-focused approach to business and philanthropic attitude that has inspired a rich history of giving to arts & culture, medical research, and community programs.

After Mr. Weston successfully ran retail and grocery stores in Ireland, he took over Loblaws in 1972, which was then run by his father. Loblaws, a then struggling retailer, was turned around by redesign and the smart thinking of Mr. Weston. Weston's strategic leadership made Loblaws into a Canadian institution. Although Mr. Weston last year passed the reins of the company to his son Galen Weston Jr., he continues to be involved in the empire he worked so hard to build.

"Galen Weston inherited an iconic Canadian company and grew it into an enormously successful international enterprise that has brought jobs and prosperity to tens of thousands of people," Dr. Craig said. "In addition, Galen and Hilary Weston are among this country's greatest philanthropists, supporting an astonishing array of charities."

Mr. Weston funded the Weston Family Learning Centre at the Art Gallery of Ontario; the Weston Family Innovation Centre at the Ontario Science Centre; he is a featured donor/partner on the Nature Conservancy of Canada for helping protect Canada's unique natural heritage in some of the most endangered areas across the country; and Galen continues to be involved with various social organizations that include numerous food banks, the Salvation Army, YWCA and YMCA branches, Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada along with countless other organizations and causes.

Additionally, in 2008, Mr. Weston established the W. Galen Weston Fund for British History at Huron University College which funds and supports the teaching of British history in the curriculum offered by the university's Department of History.

We are tremendously proud of our long relationship with Galen Weston.

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#### **About Galen Weston**

Mr. Galen Weston, a member of the Order of Canada, was born in 1940 in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, just outside of London. As the son of Reta and W. Garfield Weston, Mr. Weston was involved in the business world from the very beginning. Weston and his family moved to Canada in 1945 as his father, Garfield, pursued various business ventures, including supermarket chains in North America and Europe.

Weston was inducted into the Companions to the Order of the Business Hall of Fame in 2011; received the Order of Canada in 1990; and awarded the Order of Ontario in 2005. Weston currently serves as Chairman, Holt Renfrew & Co., Limited, Brown Thomas Group Limited and Selfridges & Co. Ltd and is the former Board President, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, former Chairman and Chief Fundraiser of the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific and President of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, private foundation.

#### **About Huron University College**

For more than 150 years, Huron has challenged students to be Leaders with Heart. With a focus on providing a well-rounded Liberal Arts education, Huron strives to be the best strategically small university in Canada. The Huron experience equips students with the tools to be agents of change who receive faculty mentorship and unparalleled research opportunities from day one.

#### **Media Contact:**

Jon Munn  
Director, Marketing and Communications  
Huron University College  
[jmunn4@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:jmunn4@huron.uwo.ca)  
[1 \(506\) 225-0004](tel:15062250004)