

## The possibility of the reason for the high level of volunteerism at Laurier is due to the small, community-esque atmosphere [your title is stupid: there is no such thing as community-esque]

By Laurie Sadowski

Ah yes, the alleged 'selfishness' of volunteering. Why selfish? Because deep down, it makes the do good-er feel great. "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." [this idea of selfishness is never picked up again in the body of the essay] Wilfrid Laurier University has a high level of volunteerism in comparison to other universities in Canada. In my essay, I am going to explore ~~the possibility of~~ the reason for the high level of volunteerism at Laurier is due to the small, community-esque atmosphere. ["The possibility of the reason"? What does that mean? Try to clarify your meaning by avoiding awkward structures like: "I'm going to explore ... the reason ... is due to ..."]

On December 6th, 1944, the Board of Governors compiled a Mission Statement for WLU, complete with our values. One of these values included: "We believe in our obligation to foster knowledge, skills and wisdom throughout the community". Community: it is that simple [no it's not. The statement doesn't say anything about community -- it talks about knowledge, skills, and wisdom.] Growing up in a small city ~~myself~~ [incorrect use of the reflexive pronoun], I have realized how important living in an actual community (as opposed to large city) is [how important is it? Tell us what you realized.] My big city friends are flabbergasted that when I go for jogs in my town, ~~where~~ everyone says hello, smiles, and is friendly. You discuss your day, the weather, and town news (while jogging?). I could not fathom living in a place where bustling (along with potential rudeness) is constant. [So because you live in a nice (possibly WASPY) community, everyone should volunteer? The connection to your thesis is unclear.]

The small population of Laurier is a factor in the community that it portrays [unclear meaning: are you saying that Laurier has a small population, or that it's portrayed as having a small population?]. In 2003, the population was approximately 9500 full-time students. That number is significantly higher [so you're saying Laurier no longer has a small population] (more than double, in fact), than it was twenty years ago. It is almost impossible to walk through any area of the school without seeing students from your classes. Laurier's tight knit layout gives that opportunity [What opportunity? to be crowded on a small campus with 10,000 other students?], which is the layout for our community, our 'city'. [Your ideas are muddled. In this paragraph you told us that Laurier is small, but no longer small, and because we're all crammed together on campus we have opportunities. Eh?]

Laurier is easily compared to ~~that of~~ your typical small city [eh? You mean we're narrow minded? And mostly white?]. The amenities and services provided in the 'basic city' are at a student's fingertips in the community at WLU [So urbanization is good. By your logic, the bigger the city, the more amenities it would offer, and thus the better the community. So big cities are all right.] ERT (Emergency Response Team) consists of certified first aid volunteers

that attend all campus events. In addition, their nightly patrolling of Wilf's and the Turret keep everyone on campus in good hands. The Peer Help Line provides Laurier students with a trustworthy and dependable phone service with assistance ~~to~~ for any situations or problems. The ~~external~~ (How do you mean external?) volunteers in this establishment make themselves known at various campaigns throughout the year. BACCHUS promotes awareness about four of the most important university related things: drinking, sex, drugs, and stress (I guess academics isn't an important university related "thing"). Raising money for charities such as MADD, and Big Sisters, BACCHUS helps others in the Waterloo, as well as the Laurier, community. These three teams represent the hospital aspect of the community at Laurier. [unclear what point you're trying to make. You're not explaining WHY people volunteer – you're just asserting that they do. That's not an argument at all.]

Next in our community are those providing us with up to date campus and city coverage. This is represented through many of campus publications: The Cord (a weekly student newspaper), the Keystone (an end of the year summary via yearbook), the WLU'er (not just a day planner, but full of information directed towards students), Radio Laurier, with up-to-date news broadcasting constantly, and filling our ears with diverse music. [oh, someone remembered student publications. But again, you're merely stating that people volunteer – you're not telling us why.]

A community would not be complete without their school system. Laurier students assist other students academically through various opportunities. Laurier Students for Literacy (LSFL) assist younger students (IE the elementary school system in our 'community') to inspire children to love to read with tutoring. With over 100 volunteers (or 'teachers') alone, its clear how largely involved Laurier students are with volunteering. Our tutorial services aim at a different age group – ours. Helping out each other, the tutorial students make it easy for students to get assistance in the courses that trouble them. Like LSFL, Tutorial Services assist outside the city of Laurier and into Waterloo, to gain experience in teaching high school students. The Writing Centre also offers assistance in school-related items, like essay writing [maybe you should have stopped by the WC before submitting this. And the Tutors at the WC are not volunteers.] These three aspect comprise the school aspect of our community. [Wow, you mean Laurier is ... like ... a school?]

What city doesn't have cops patrolling the streets to ensure the safety of others? Our makeshift cops take on the alias as Foot Patrol [awkward syntax]. For the last fifteen years, Foot Patrol has made sure that Laurier students are safe with walk-home or drive-home services – free of charge. These volunteers stay up late hours, sometimes in the frigid cold [isn't cold always frigid?], to serve in a way like no other – simply to escort “Susie” home from her night class, or “David” home from the Turret [names changed to protect the drunk]. Like city police, they know ~~their~~ First Aid [is First Aid exclusively theirs?], and would never turn anyone down. They keep the 'community' [I like those scare-quotes around community] safe while looking for things that are suspicious, and even make their way outside the community to help school children and neighbourhoods [how?]. No community has police and protection without lawyers, and Laurier's legal services rightly fill that duty. Legal Resources offers information to Laurier students regarding anything a student might need. They have contacts for all Waterloo professionals, and specialize in the Tenant Protection Act. With Foot Patrol and Legal Resources, Laurier could never be safer [never safer? Well then, fuck off security services – we don't need real cops when

we have Foot Patrol!. In this paragraph you're again telling us what people do, not why they do it.]

Every community has charity events. Ours include the Boar's Head Dinner, the Charity Ball, and Shinerama as their main ones, ~~but many, many more~~ [awkward syntax]. For students to get together and support so many different charities ~~are is~~ incredible – it really is a beautiful thing [aww]. It shows generosity and diversity within our community; ~~breaking barriers to come together~~ [first, we're not breaking any barriers. Second, avoid sentence fragments]. Laurier University Charity Council (LUCK) gives students a boost in the right direction. [Are you essentially trying to write down every volunteer's job description? Why?]

And really... What town doesn't have ~~their-its~~ fair share of fun and entertainment [Some towns have not entertainment at all -- Barrie is the most depressing town on earth]? Business owners supply this sort of fun in most regions (yay malls!), but in the community of Laurier, the A-Team takes over. In addition, our sixty ~~plus~~ Campus Clubs have something for everyone. Ice-Breakers get the first year students involved during Orientation Week. These people plan crazy events in our 'town' and keep school spirit (and the love for our 'community') at a high. [why?]

Clearly there are many positions in a real city that are not listed here, but within Laurier, there are ~~tones~~ of other volunteer opportunities than ~~just~~ the aforementioned. In addition, no community would be complete without the 'behind the scenes' people [the sanitation people? My friend spent a whole summer cleaning up porter potties. Do volunteers have equally shitty "behind the scenes" jobs on campus?]. Those who we don't really see any of (any of what?), but we know that they take their time to make sure everything is properly executed. ~~Obviously~~ [it is not obvious], those positions are filled at Laurier, too.

With over 2000 applicants each year, Laurier's ~~amount of~~ volunteerism (volunteerism is not an amount) is extremely high – that's almost a quarter of the student body! And this, obviously, doesn't include those who perhaps don't have the time, but want to volunteer. It is ~~very clear~~ (it's not clear -- you haven't made these connections above) that Laurier's tight-knit layout, in conjunction with small population, is a reason for us to all work together to devote our time to make Laurier what it is. Fulfilling specific roles, like in any community, students at Laurier work hard in conjunction with each other, to create a great place – not only to attend school, but to ~~literally~~ live our lives. Our volunteers meet all our needs (Really? They provide food, shelter, sex, and pocket money?); be it health, safety, school, fun or anything community related. This community aspect of Laurier is ~~clearly~~ a reason for our high level of volunteerism. [this is not clear! By the end of your essay I still don't know why people volunteer – you haven't proven your thesis. You just convinced me that people volunteer. Get a better title and try again.]

F--