

1988-1990

Trials and Triumphs, 1988-2000

In the spring of 1988, Sheridan's third President, Mary Hofstetter, started her tenure with a decision to initiate a "strategic transformation of the college." She explained that it was time for Sheridan "to reach for new heights of development and fulfillment in a world of change." President Hofstetter's plan included re-defining Sheridan's role in the college system, building more "creative partnerships" with various organizations and institutions, and, perhaps most importantly, embracing a more global approach and presence.

While Sheridan made significant progress in these goals, the global recession and funding cuts of the 1990s had a severe impact on the college. 1995-1996 proved a particularly tough year with wide ranging program cuts and layoffs.

Sheridan weathered this difficult period, however. As the college approached the new millennium under the leadership of Sheldon Levy it continued to lay the foundation to become a degree-granting institution. When the Ontario Government agreed to let the colleges grant degrees in 2000, Sheridan stood ready to enter the next stage of its development.

September 1, 1988:

Sheridan became a smoke-free college. In the college's first years, students and faculty could smoke in the classrooms and hallways, now they had designated smoking areas.

October 1988:

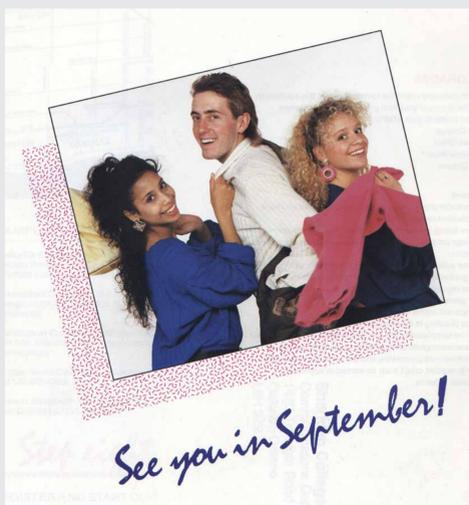
The opening of Sheridan's new day care centre at the Mississauga Civic Centre.

Fall 1989:

The Continuing Education program registered its 500,000th student.

October-November 1989:

The second strike by college faculty over wages, job security and sick leave benefits.



“The 1990s promise to be a decade of opportunity and challenge for the Ontario college system. With its reputation for academic excellence, and with creative, career-focused programs and professional staff, Sheridan College is poised to respond to these challenges.”

Mary E. Hofstetter, *Focus Bulletin* | April 22, 1988



“The good news about student enrolment is that we have grown along with the rest of the College System. The less good news is the fact that our growth has strained our physical and financial resources and the patience of staff and students alike.”

Mary E. Hofstetter, *Open Letter to the College Community*, November 20, 1990

1990:

Sheridan's Men's Basketball team won the CCAA National Championship, five years after taking the prize in 1985. The Men's Volleyball team won the OCAA championship - the team won eleven championships between 1978 and 1994. The Men's Outdoor Soccer team were also champions in 1990, and would win again in 1991 and 1993.

Summer 1990:

The beginning of a \$1 million, 5,000 square-foot expansion of Davis Campus. President Hofstetter also implemented Awards for Excellence at Sheridan which recognized faculty and staff who demonstrated "leadership, creativity and concern for their students' success."

Fall 1990:

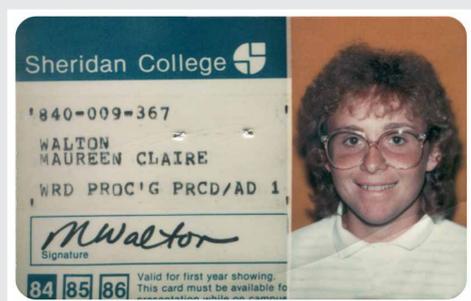
As Sheridan's enrollment reached 7510 full-time students, students filled the *Sun* with complaints about overcrowding and lack of classroom space. With a tuition hike from \$685 to \$740, students felt like they were paying more and getting less in return.

September 1990:

Sheridan held its first annual Take Back the Night event and implemented a 'safe walk' program for members of the college community.

October 1990:

Sheridan's Board of Governors accepted a new mission statement for the college: "Sheridan College will meet the growing and diverse educational needs of our communities through the provision of flexible and innovative learning opportunities, enabling students and employees to build productive careers and to excel in changing society."



“A lot of people feel that we can't go on with a mandate to serve all the people who want to come to college and provide them with all the variety of offerings. We can't do everything for everybody.”

Catherine Henderson, Academic Vice-President | 1990

1991-1992

“Social and cultural aspects of a college education are vital in the complete development of our graduates, and assists us in sending them out into the world with an attachment and strong positive feeling for Sheridan....The concept of a student centre as both a marketing tool and retention vehicle has come of age...[A student centre will act as a] catalyst, which, if fully supported, can ignite a new image for Sheridan.”

Student Administrative Corporation and Student Services Department, Student Centre Proposal | September 7, 1988

1990-1991:

After years of declining enrolment in the technology programs and skilled trades, Sheridan experienced a boom of 20% – the result of a far more aggressive outreach program that actively recruited in the high schools.

January 1991:

Sheridan started its FUTURES program, which assisted people between 16 and 24 years of age who had been out of school and unemployed for 3-5 months.

Fall 1991:

Sheridan's enrolment grew by 7.9% leading to even more student complaints about overcrowded campuses. The college now had 8,000 full-time diploma students, 2,000 in skills training and 60,000 part-time students. To address the issue of classroom space, the college extended its school day length by one hour to 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Meanwhile, tuition continued to rise, increasing from \$740 to \$800.

September 25, 1991:

After two decades of student lobbying, the \$2.8 million Student Centre finally opened at Oakville. The final push for the facility came in the late 1980s as students and the Student Services Department demanded a new space to provide the “social and cultural aspects of a college education.”

October 1991:

The global recession that had started the previous year continued to weaken Canada's economy, creating a poor job market for graduating students. In October, Ontario's Minister of Colleges and Universities, Richard Allen, advised that college operating grants would be reduced.

November 1991:

Sheridan's first Muslim Student Association formed at the Brampton Campus.

March 1992:

Sheridan had spent its first 25 years spreading out, but with the opening of the Skills Training Centre the process of centralization began. The 88,000-square foot facility replaced Sheridan's Perdue, Port Street, Argus Road, Dorval and Queen Elizabeth campuses.

During President Hofstetter's tenure, Sheridan transitioned from twelve campuses to three.



Skills Trade Centre

“A lot of good memories go along with those old portables. There's a lot of nostalgia there – a complete generation of performers were taught there. We have graduates who are now stars in major shows who learned their craft in those buildings.”

Don Graves, Dean of the Faculty of Fashion, Media, Merchandising and Music Theatre | 1992

Fall 1992:

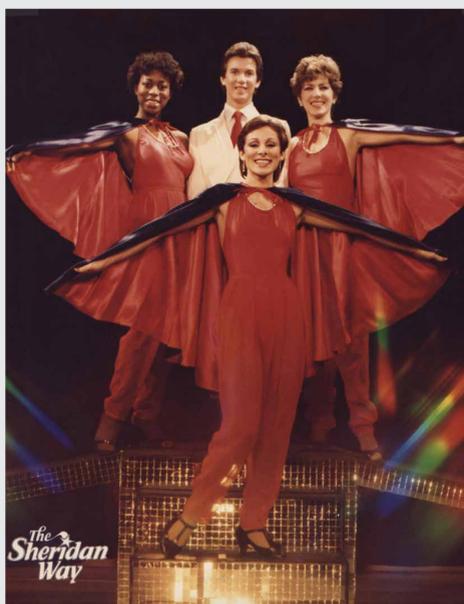
A \$7 million extension opened at Oakville with new space for theatre and dance, replacing 33 portables that had been in operation at Sheridan since the 1970s.

September 1992:

Sheridan celebrated its 25th anniversary, renaming Brampton as the Davis Campus in honour of the Minister of Education who helped make it all possible. The college announced that one of its main goals moving forward would be the creation of a better system for transferring college credits to university

1992:

The early 1990s proved an exciting time for Sheridan's Animation program as it consistently received international attention and acclaim. In 1992, the CBC released a very positive documentary on the program called The Sheridan Gang. Impressed with the high quality of the program, Dublin's Ballyfermont Senior College purchased curriculum from Sheridan for its new animation and education program. To cap off these developments, Disney – with support and encouragement from Sheridan – announced that it would open a permanent studio in Toronto.



1993-1995

“We’re age 25. We’re just like a person aged 25. We’ve attained young adulthood: now we’ll begin to look at what we can do with the rest of our lives.”

Faculty member Robert McManus, *Sheridan Insight*, vol. 1, no. 1 (1992-1993): 20

1992-1993:

In the face of a poor job market, applications to Ontario's community colleges soared by 24% (the largest increase in the system's history) as teenagers, adults and university graduates sought out new skills and education. As Sheridan faced growing enrolment, the gap between traditional funding sources and the cost of doing business continued to grow.

February 1993:

The formation of Sheridan's GLIS (Gays and Lesbians in Support) organization.

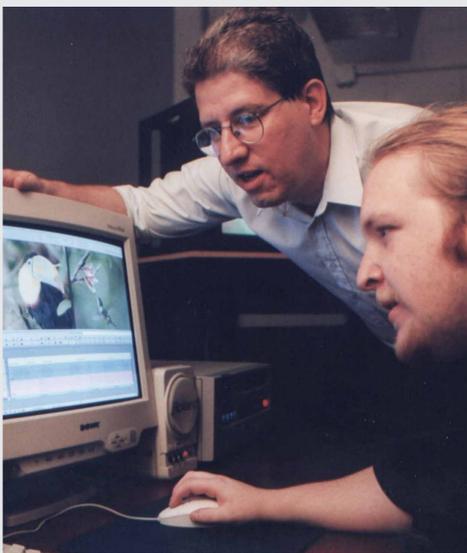


April 1993:

Sheridan's administration announced that they would cut the college's budget by \$3.5 million, leading students to express concern about the standards of their education.

Spring 1993:

Cree/Métis artist Rebecca Baird became Sheridan's first ever artist-in-residence at the Oakville Campus as a part of the Art & Art History program.



“No longer do we have to function in this community feeling isolated to the point that we have to say to ourselves, ‘Gee am I the only one in the whole college?’”

Gays and Lesbians in Support, *Sheridan Sun* | February 4, 1993

Summer 1994:

The President's Strategic Plan called for Sheridan to create more international partnerships, become a leader in technological development and continue to offer a holistic education for each student, in fewer, better resourced campuses. The 1994-1995 school year also saw the launch of Sheridan's first ever capital campaign, “Building Alliances, Creating Futures,” which eventually raised over \$3 million.

September 1994:

The start of Sheridan's International Business Program, which quickly became one of the most popular of Sheridan's new post-diploma programs. The fall term also marked another major milestone - Sheridan reached 10,000 full-time students.

March 1995:

Sheridan's Early Education students started to raise money for the Mushuau Innu of Davis Inlet, Labrador – they called the campaign “The Great Innushare Caribou Hunt at Davis.”

April 1995:

Sheridan announced that the Heavy Equipment School at Milton would be phased out due to aging equipment and underfunding.

Summer 1995:

To address persistent student complaints about overcrowding, Sheridan decided to expand the Davis Campus.

Fall 1995:

The Ontario government announced plans to cut funding to community colleges by 15%. In response, Sheridan decreased the pay of part time teachers, increased parking fees, reduced cleaning services at the college, closed the Credit Valley and Burlington campuses, cut all varsity teams besides men's basketball and women's volleyball, and cut ten programs including health sciences, civil engineering, fashion design and the three-year nursing program.

“Over the next year, we will see the most significant change in the structure of our college system since its beginning...an opportunity for all of us to be part of the process in a proactive way, to have a firm hand in the shaping of a new Sheridan and ultimately, of a new college system.”

President Hofstetter, *Sheridan Sun* | September 14, 1995