

1911 THE CONNAUGHT ANTITOXIN LABORATORY AND UNIVERSITY FARM IN YORK TOWNSHIP ARE DEDICATED BY EDMOND A. E. GORNERHAM. What we now know as Connaught Laboratories Limited originated in the mind of a young University of Toronto medical graduate John Gerald Fitzgerald. It was Fitzgerald's desire to set up an institute that would engage its research into preventive medicine and prepare essential public health biological products for Canada. In 1914, authorization was received from the University's Department of Hygiene and the Provincial Board of Health to develop the idea further. As both rabies and diphtheria were serious problems, Fitzgerald immediately set out to develop the Pasteur anti-rabies vaccine and diphtheria antitoxin. Initial work was carried out at the Board of Health labs at 5 Queen's Park. Covered with a first floor stable behind the home of one of the technicians at 143 Barton Street in mid-town Toronto. (This stable is now at the North York Connaught Lab site). Here, after immunizing the horses, an antitoxin was recovered, purified and used to combat diphtheria in humans.

Philanthropist and businessman Albert Goodhart recognized the need for a central facility where Fitzgerald's work could be carried out and in 1915, Goodhart purchased 38 acres (21 hectares) on the north side of Steeles Avenue West between Dufferin and Barbara Streets and began construction of the Connaught Antitoxin Laboratory and University Farm. The facility was named for the Duke of Connaught, the then Governor-General of Canada and was dedicated on this day in 1917. Many years later, in 1945, Connaught took over the old Ross Theological Building on Spadina Avenue for the production of penicillin which was in great need in the various theatres of war around the world. Today, Connaught Laboratories Limited continues to manufacture dozens of products such as insulin, antivenom, and vaccines including one for swineflu, which stands in large part to the work done at Connaught, has been virtually eliminated from the face of the earth.

1925 THE NOBEL PRIZE IS AWARDED TO DR. BANTING AND DR. MACLEOD OF TORONTO FOR THE DISCOVERY OF INSULIN.

The \$40,000.00 prize that came with the award was split by Banting and Macleod. Banting split his half with his co-worker Charles Best and gave the remaining \$40,000.00 to the Banting Medical Research Foundation. On September 16, 1930 the Banting Institute on College Street was opened. Dr. Banting died in a plane crash on February 20, 1941.