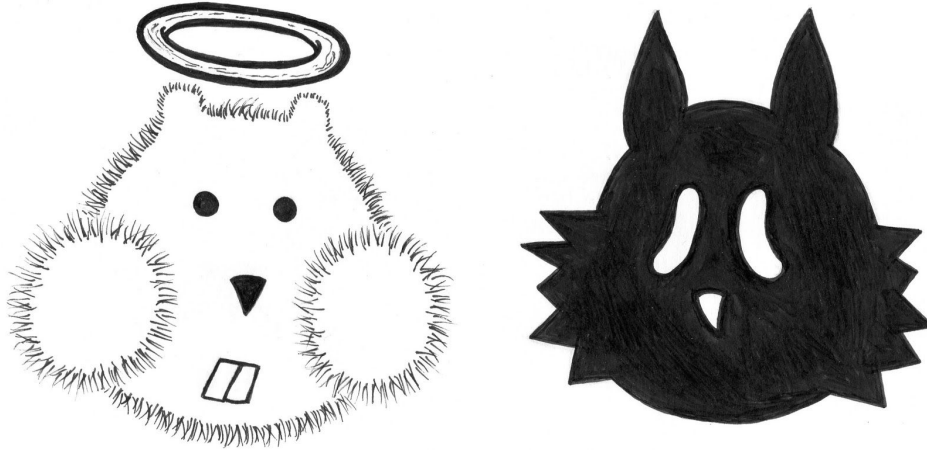


The History of The Carleton Hogs

Written By Jonathan Marshall on February 1st, 2016

Gather round first-years, because your favourite news source will be unveiling the wonderful and mysterious history of the Groundhog Collective at Carleton. Truth is, much of Groundhog history has been kept secret to avoid scandal, and to trump up certain other creatures that flock to campus. The 'Hogs of Carleton have in fact played a pivotal role in the creation of the academy and maintaining its vibrant culture.



It all began in in 1942, when a group of Ottawa philanthropists gathered downtown and formed a Groundhog Appreciation Club. In these dark times of WW2, any frivolity was considered useless and detracting to the national cause, so the coalition was publically known as Carleton College. This was an obvious homage to Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester, who led the Quebec resistance against American Continental troops, famously carrying a Groundhog upon his shoulders and is oft quoted, "When the enemy sees our shadow approaching, it is they who will hide!"

The first President of the college, Hog Meister Tory, saw to it that the young adults and returning veterans of Canada knew the importance of their fuzzy mascots in reviving their country's prestige, with the Institute of Public Administration opening its first classes.

By the time H.M. Tory was lowered into the Hog Hole of his very own the booming society had grown too large, and in order to keep the Groundhog Appreciation Club intact, Carleton College was legitimized to distract the world from its true purposes. Murdoch Maxwell MacOdrum became President after Tory, and in his time the downtown campus flourished with emerging academics, entrepreneurs and acclaimed artists, and all patrons to the Groundhog cause. After his passing, the campus was moved to the Rideau River location and a Groundhog sanctuary was constructed below

the topsoil, and hastily covered up with a building. The MacOdrum Library was so-named due to the immense admiration and respect that the man had for these “Carleton Critters”.

However, soon after the Ontario Government got wind of a certain university who loved their subterranean mammals more than the national goose. There was a crackdown; “Groundhogs and any support for them are hereby banned in perpetuum”. They were dark days, but in response, universities and colleges all across the province came out in protest against the measures, and the government, recognizing the passionate support, backed down.

Over the years, the friendship and aid that the Groundhogs on campus have shown towards students and faculty has become legend. One particular example was the snowstorm of 72’, when the students found themselves trapped in their residence dorms with no way to get to sustenance. Motivated by the crisis, one well-known Groundhog, Oliver, managed to bring berries, burgers and booze to all the students (and President) that were trapped on campus, all in a single night! Due to his heroic actions, the University named the campus pub after him, and got to work developing their own “human-sized” tunnels. Thanks Ollie!

It seems that the Groundhog culture is alive and well, no longer having to hide itself behind ritualistic practices and secret gatherings (though some say Room 464 in the Library may see this from time to time). Indeed, most if not all, Presidents at Carleton University have harboured some favouritism to the Hogs, each having bestowed some distinction over the years, despite that some lingering institutionalized discrimination has continued.

The question is, will Roseanne Runte follow suit? Will there be “anonymous donations” to the Groundhog Collective, fruit distributions, or Heated Hog Holes? Perhaps, but this group will take some initiative and ask our President outright for a public commendation to the animals which have so clearly made our University what it is today. That’s is correct Runte, we’re talking Honourary Degrees.

It can be of your choice; Engineering, Political Science, or even Philosophy. We feel these represent both the school and the nature of our natural naturalists. Engineering, for the elaborate tunneling systems they are known for, as well as being people-shy. Poly-Sci, because they know how to hide from the press and get their news from the Underground. Finally, Philosophy, because of their yearly celebration of dissent from

the belief of certainty and continuum in the universe, i.e. these badasses are hella empiricist.

We ask you do this for not just the Groundhogs, but the students themselves who adore and respect their furry friends. My peers, make sure you spend this February 2nd appreciating the only animal on campus you feel truly safe to be around, and who will always be there to share in the sun, and shade. To protect The Hallowed Hogs, *Ours the Task Eternal*.