Perusing students’ recollections of life in Taché Hall during the past century will likely do one of two things for readers: make those who lived there pine for their residence days or make those who didn’t ponder what might have been.

With work humming along on the new Pembina Hall residence, Taché’s run as a student home-away-from-home is drawing to an end. But before the iconic structure, completed in 1911, begins its metamorphosis into the new home of the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music and the School of Art, there will be one last weekend hurrah to celebrate its centennial. And everyone is invited.

Housing and Student Life is hosting an open house—May 6 and 7, save the date—and they want you to join them. Details about the weekend are available on their website.

Coinciding with the centenary celebration, work is underway on a commemorative book. Details on how this project came to be are provided below, courtesy of Taché Hall alumnus, retired U of M lecturer, and occasional On Manitoba contributor: Leo Pettipas [BA/65, MA/67].

The now-global ‘Doors Open’ built-heritage tour program originated in France in the 1980s. Its objective was to offer the general public an opportunity to become acquainted with architectural legacies that ordinarily might not be familiar to most. Within 10 years the number of participating countries had increased to 47, and visitor participation had grown to 20 million by 2000.

The Winnipeg rendition of the city-wide event was first held in 2004. In 2009, one of the buildings featured in the program was Taché Hall, and to supplement the on-site visitor tour, a 20-page hand-out was prepared titled, appropriately enough, The History of Taché Hall. It was decided at the time that the hand-out would serve as the foundation for a book to commemorate the centenary. Participants in the 2009 tour were invited to contribute stories and information about their experiences as residents of Taché Hall. Pending the publication of the proposed book, those stories reside online (umanitoba.ca/housing). Thus far, more than 40 anecdotes, some with photographs, have been posted, most of them relating to the 1960s.

If you were a resident of Taché Hall, please consider sending along your memories and/or photos (scanned at 300 dpi) with captions. If you were a resident of the all-female Mary Speechly Hall in its early days and you have colourful recollections of Taché Hall and its inhabitants, your contributions would be welcome too. Dates would be helpful, or at least let us know the decade to which the stories and pictures apply.