

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University

Contacts: Julia Ann Easley
WLU Information Officer
(519) 884-1970 ext. 3070

Dr. Barry Gough
Professor of History
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3260

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Soviet naval capabilities during Cold War subject of lecture at WLU

Waterloo (March 28) — Soviet naval capabilities during the Cold War and NATO's responses will be the subject of a public lecture at Wilfrid Laurier University on Thursday, April 6.

Barry Gough, an internationally distinguished naval historian and a professor of history at Laurier, will present "Hunt for Red October Reconsidered."

"As NATO commanders rightly argued, the Soviets were gaining the upper hand in technology and equipment from about 1960 to 1980," Gough says. "But as events unfolded, internal issues in the Soviet Union led to the end of the Cold War."

He says NATO and the United States and British navies built up a vast naval capacity. "It was founded on communications, submarines, and air power, plus all the hardware that could be fired and directed to potential enemy targets."

Gough was named University Research Professor for 1994-95 and freed for a year from teaching and service responsibilities to complete a major program of research. He is using the year to write *Seapower and the NATO Alliance, 1945-1989*. The book examines the development of NATO's sea commands and the NATO allies' knowledge of Soviet activities during the Cold War.

In conducting research for the book, Gough has studied the papers of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other classified documents, and interviewed naval commanding officers from the period.

Gough has written extensively on naval history, including *The Northwest Coast: British Navigation, Trade, and Discoveries to 1812*, *The Falkland Islands/Malvinas: The Contest for Empire in the South Atlantic*, and *British Mercantile Interests in the Making of the Peace of Paris 1763: Trade, War, and Empire*, all released in 1992.

The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. in Rm. 1002 of the new science building at the corner of King and Bricker Streets.

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