

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Laurier students chase away seasonal blahs with Winter Carnival
Annual tradition pits over 450 students on 20 teams against each other in friendly competition

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WATERLOO - To cure the winter blahs and get students out into the snow, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) is hosting its annual Winter Carnival from January 22 to 27. *WCI: Taking You Back to the Beginning* offers the 450 students a variety of challenges, contests and friendly competition - almost 24 hours a day.

Campus clubs, athletic teams, residence floors and groups of friends have organized themselves into 20 teams that will compete throughout the week. Teams earn points for spirit, the number of participants at an event and how well the team finishes in an event. There are between 25 and 30 students per team, so that even when some of them are attending classes, there are enough to take part in Winter Carnival.

"This is a huge event on campus and I have to admit that some of the students are die hard participants," says Mandy Vandervelde, winter carnival coordinator. "The point isn't really the competition, although some students take that very seriously too. The point is just to have fun, get outside and interact with other Laurier students."

A Laurier tradition since 1965, this year's Winter Carnival features:

- Opening ceremonies on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Turret, followed by the Habitat for Humanity Camp Out. Laurier's largest slumber, the Camp Out involves plenty of entertainment and food for students sleeping overnight in the Turret.

- Tuesday's Decathlon will be held on Willison Field from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and involves a number of challenges ranging from a potato-sack race and a mini-marathon to underwater retrieval exercises and water chugging contests. The 72-hour scavenger hunt will also begin on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the 24 Hour Lounge.
- Regatta games are the highlight of Wednesday's festivities and will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at locations across campus. Wednesday afternoon also features a nine-hole Frisbee Golf challenge beginning at 2:30 p.m.
- Dog sled races, in which eight participants will pull two of their teammates through an obstacle course called The Eliminator, will be held on Willison Field from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on Thursday. A L.U.C.K. charity party will cap off the evening in the University Stadium gym beginning at 8:30 p.m.
- Entries in the snow sculpture contest will be judged at locations all around campus on Friday. The 72-hour scavenger hunt also wraps up on Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the 24 Hour Lounge.
- The always-popular team lip-synch competition will be held from 12 to 3 p.m. in the Turret on Saturday. Closing ceremonies, including announcements of the WC] award-winning teams, will end the week in the Turret from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

A complete schedule of Winter Carnival activities is available on the WLUSU Web site at <http://www.wlusu.com/createarticle.asp?articleid=355>.