



# NEWS

FROM  
*Wilfrid Laurier University*

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July 28, 1986

Laurier offers opportunity  
for class cluster in Fergus

would you, along with some friends, like to take a university credit course right in Fergus and at a time that suits your group?

It's a possibility, now that Wilfrid Laurier University and the Wellington County Public Library have joined forces to make WLU Telecollege courses available at the library.

Six residents or more from Fergus and vicinity can form a class and they can choose from over 20 course offerings in a great many fields-- anthropology, sociology, business, science, economics, psychology, religion and culture, astronomy, geography, or social welfare.

While the lectures can be seen at a scheduled time on TVOntario or one of the four cable systems in the province, the library will maintain the tapes as part of its regular holdings and they can be borrowed for twenty-four hours for home viewing.

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In addition, the Fergus group will have an opportunity to interact with the professor teaching the class and with fellow students at other centres through two teleconferences during the term.

There are opportunities, too, for each student to chat with the professor during the course, by means of a toll-free university phone number.

Clifford G. Bilyea, director of part-time studies at Laurier, said the "class cluster" concept for communities throughout Ontario provides a new way for adult learners to work toward university graduation.

"While some people enjoy studying totally on their own, there are many advantages in taking a course as a group," he said. "The social interaction and exchange of thoughts, questions, and viewpoints, enriches the entire experience. In addition, the video is an added advantage over a totally print-based course."

He pointed out that the retention rate for WLU Telecollege students is 92 per cent, considered as extremely high. This means only 8% of the students who enrol do not finish the course, and this is a much better rate than for other methods of distance education.

Bilyea added that WLU Telecollege courses, whether offered individually or through class clusters, are always integrated packages. Included are textbooks, resource binders and study guides.

Fergus librarians welcome the opportunity to widen the library's services to the community by having it become a "campus" for courses offered by Wilfrid Laurier University.

They have more information about courses and invite anyone interested to discuss the class cluster concept with them. Course offerings begin in early September.