

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Summer archaeology camps gets kids digging up the past

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WATERLOO, Ontario — Sand, shovels and a whole lot of digging.

Not quite a day at the beach, but for 25 children participating in the Summer Youth Archaeology Camp at Wilfrid Laurier University, sand and shovels will be the order of the day for an introduction to the fascinating world of archaeology.

The first of three one-week camps will be held on **Monday, July 14 until Friday, July 18, 1997**. Activities for the week include an introduction to basic excavation and laboratory techniques, the manufacture of aboriginal stone tools and pottery, and an analysis of the week's finds collected from the Lucinda House site. The camps will be hosted by faculty and recent graduates of Laurier's archaeology program. Additional camps are scheduled for the week of July 28 to August 1 and August 18 to August 22. More camps may be added during the summer if interest warrants. Activities begin at 8:30 a.m. and finish at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Bill Fitzgerald, professor of archaeology at Wilfrid Laurier University, says the camp helps to develop skills of deduction and observation.

"Studying the past is like working on a big jigsaw puzzle without having all the pieces. The students will have an opportunity to piece together what happened based only on the things they have collected."

Students will be excavating at the historic Lucinda House (157 Albert Street in Waterloo), first excavated in 1994. From a series of digs, archeologists from Laurier have put together a better understanding of the life and times of the area's first settlers. The house was originally constructed in 1838 by Joseph Good, Waterloo's first medical doctor. The Goods lived at the site until 1874 and much of the material retrieved has been dated to this period. Artifacts from the region's first nations people have also been discovered.