

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Geography symposium examines heritage river designation**

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WATERLOO, Ontario - Chicago, Illinois; London, England and Kitchener-Waterloo, all have something in common.

It has been said that what is similar about all great cities is the presence of a river. Although the Grand River in the Waterloo region no longer plays the crucial role it did during the settlement of the area, it still influences the region's tourism and recreation potential.

"The Grand as a Heritage River," is this year's theme for the annual **Geography Teachers' Symposium, scheduled for Friday, April 11, 1997 at Wilfrid Laurier University**. Guest lecturer Barbara Veale, co-ordinator of strategic planning and partnerships at the Grand River Conservation Authority, will explore the issues and opportunities that develop when waterways receive the heritage designation. Veale will present her lecture at **12:45 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre**.

The Grand River was declared a heritage river in 1984 and recreational and industrial use of the waterway is influenced by the designation. Veale will outline how the Grand River experience, including an educational initiative aimed at high-school students, can serve as a model for other communities.

The Symposium is hosted by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, and is expected to attract teachers from across Ontario.