

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Lessons of history addressed at first Laurier Brantford conference *Conference draws participants from across Canada, the United States and Australia*

For Immediate Release

August 16, 2000
68-00

Contact: Dr. Peter Farrugia
Assistant Professor, Laurier Brantford
(519) 756-8228, ext. 5707
pfarrugi@wlu.ca

or Holly Cox
Recruitment/Public Relations Coordinator, Laurier Brantford
(519) 756-8228, ext. 5709
hcox@wlu.ca

BRANTFORD – Is it possible to draw lessons from history? Scholars from across North America and Australia will gather in Brantford from September 28 to 30 to discuss key issues of the 20th century and what can be learned from the past. Held at Laurier Brantford, the conference is the first of its kind for Wilfrid Laurier University's satellite campus.

Titled *The Lessons of History: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Past, Present and Future*, the conference looks at history from a variety of perspectives and academic disciplines, including philosophy, political science, communications, economics, and languages and literature. Participants will speak on such themes as the impact of technology on historical change and the invention of historical events for political purposes.

"The 20th century, more than any previous century, has been marked by our efforts to make sense of the past and to draw lessons from it, sometimes with disastrous results," says conference organizer Peter Farrugia. "The exploration of this theme from a variety of perspectives fits well with the interdisciplinary emphasis of Laurier Brantford."

– more –

The conference features keynote speakers Derrick de Kerckhove of the University of Toronto and Peter George, president and vice-chancellor of McMaster University. Director of The McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, de Kerckhove will deliver a speech titled "The Printing Press and the Internet: a Second Renaissance." George will present a paper on "Lessons for Mass Higher Education: Balancing Accessibility, Excellence, Accountability and Economy."

The conference is open to academics, professionals in related fields and the general public. Registration is \$75 before September 10 and \$90 after the 10th. To register, please contactCarolynn Wyckoff at (519) 756-8228, ext. 5700, or e-mail cwyckoff@wlu.ca. For more information on the conference, please visit www.wlu.ca/~wwwbrant/pages/conference/conference.html or contact Farrugia or Holly Cox.

Laurier Brantford opened its doors to students in September 1999. The campus's flagship program in contemporary studies is only offered at Laurier Brantford and takes a team-taught, interdisciplinary look at the issues and events that shape our world. The campus provides a unique experience for students with its extremely small class sizes and exciting core program.