

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



First-year students learn to survive on *Laurier's Treasure Island*
Shinerama events, regatta games and move-in day highlight Laurier's orientation week

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WATERLOO – Over 2000 first-year students will begin a new and exciting journey at a place of adventure, learning and friendship when they arrive at Wilfrid Laurier University on Monday. During orientation week, themed *Laurier's Treasure Island: The Greatest Adventure of All*, students will learn how to survive the next four years of university.

Aided by over 350 volunteers and 70 residence dons, incoming students will meet university staff, tour the campus and the city, take part in academic information sessions, and learn the ins and outs of living and learning at Laurier. Students will also compete in regatta games, cheer offs, a talent contest and Shinerama events as part of one of four colour teams – the Red Pirates, the Green Adventurers, the Blue Islanders or the Gold Trailblazers.

"This is the first taste of Laurier a lot of these students get," says orientation week coordinator Tara Milne. "Students here are known for their spirit and the sense of community is really strong. We want everyone to feel welcome and having fun is a big part of that."

The week begins when students move in to campus residences on **Monday**. After registering, attending floor meetings and dividing into colour teams, students will pack the Athletic Complex for the opening ceremonies and a mock convocation at 7 p.m. University and students officials, including president Bob Rosehart, will address the crowd, followed by live entertainment by Rick Bronson, 1998's college entertainer of the year.

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The highlight of **Tuesday** is a series of regatta games from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Willison Field will be the centre of activity as colour teams square-off against each other in fun, team-building games designed around the Treasure Island theme.

Students will get a chance to show off their car shining skills in a Shinerama preview at the Aird Centre parking lot on **Wednesday**. The 4 p.m. event features four of Waterloo's finest automobiles, which will be covered in all kinds of dirt and grime. Students from each colour team will have two minutes to shine the cars, with the cleanest car taking the top prize.

Thursday's events include a talent show in The Turret from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and a full day of amusement at Bingeman's. The day finishes with a special mystery concert at 8 p.m. by one of Canada's top hip-hop artists.

Teams will compete in a cheer off at 3:30 p.m. on **Friday** in the Athletic Complex, vying for the honor of being dubbed the most enthusiastic group on Laurier's Treasure Island.

Saturday is Shinerama day, with teams dispersing to 78 locations in Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and surrounding areas. Students will be shining shoes, cars, glasses, windows and anything else they can get their hands on, to benefit cystic fibrosis research. Laurier's goal this year is to raise \$65,000. Started by Laurier students in 1961, Shinerama is now the largest university- and college-student fundraiser in Canada.

The final Shinerama fundraising total will be revealed at the closing ceremonies, held in the Aird Centre parking lot at 8 p.m. on **Saturday**. To wrap up the week of information sessions, group activities, spirit-building games and making new friends, the closing ceremonies will feature fireworks and an on-campus party.

For more information on orientation-week events, locations and times, visit the WLU Students' Union website at www.wlusu.com/oweeek2000.