

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Canadian Olympian to discuss his life as told in *Shadow Running*

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2000
87-00

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WATERLOO — The community will have a unique opportunity to explore Canada's past as Wilfrid Laurier University hosts 1932 Olympic medallist Raymond Lewis at its latest literary event. On Thursday, October 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre, Lewis will discuss his life story as told in the book *Shadow Running: Ray Lewis, Canadian Railway Porter and Olympic Athlete*.

Born in Hamilton in 1910, Lewis is the great-grandson of enslaved African-Americans who escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. In high school he displayed a natural talent for running. He joined the Canadian Pacific Railway as a porter after graduation, training next to stopped railway cars by running against his shadow. He competed in just one Olympic Games — in Los Angeles in 1932 — winning a bronze medal as part of the 4 x 400 relay team.

"Mr. Lewis has a very interesting life story — he has been an eye-witness to many of the changes in Canadian society in the 20th century," says religion and culture professor Carol Duncan, whose department is co-hosting the event along with the Laurier Bookstore. "We wanted to bring him to the local community because his story is such a vital part of the history of our province and our country."

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Shadow Running details Lewis's life story as told to author John Cooper. Cooper has written for a variety of publications and has worked as a media relations officer, speech writer and editor with the Ontario government. Most recently, he worked on a history of the railway porters' union in Canada entitled *My Name's Not George*.

This is just one event in the Laurier Bookstore's Meet the Author series. **In** the past 15 years, the Laurier Bookstore has brought to the community such world-renowned authors as Margaret Atwood, Timothy Findlay, W.O. Mitchell and Jack Granatstein. For more information on the series, contact Kathryn Wardropper at (519) 884-0710, extension 3109.