

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Woldemar Neufeld exhibition premiered at June 14 fundraiser** *Laurier's cultural affairs department prepares for first travelling art exhibition*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – The life and work of artist Woldemar Neufeld will be celebrated in a June 14 event at Wilfrid Laurier University, entitled An Evening of Wine, Art & Song.

The evening premieres the collection of 36 works that Laurier will send to Germany this October as part of a cultural exchange with Philipps-Universitäts Marburg. The show, called “A Place Called Home: Waterloo to Connecticut,” is the first travelling exhibition ever mounted by Laurier and features images of Waterloo and other North American landscapes.

“This event will not only highlight Neufeld’s artistic career, but will provide an opportunity for the general public to view the selection of oils, block prints and watercolors going to Germany,” says Suzanne Luke, curator and co-ordinator of Laurier’s Robert Langen Gallery.

The June 14 Evening of Wine, Art & Song is also a fundraiser for the Woldemar Neufeld Endowment Fund, and features live and silent auctions, door prizes, and a performance by internationally known Laurier vocalist Daniel Lichti (bass-baritone), accompanied by Laurier pianist Leslie De’Ath.

The combination of art and music sets this cultural affairs’ event apart from other fundraisers. Local and regional artists have donated works for the silent auction, including Laurier fine arts instructors and graduates. Those in attendance will also be able to bid on an original Neufeld watercolour, “Late Summer Plowing,” which is framed in walnut from a tree once situated on Neufeld’s farm in Connecticut. A Neufeld block print entitled “The Sawmill” is the event’s door prize.

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A Russian Mennonite, Neufeld was born November 10, 1909 and at age 15 immigrated with his family to settle in the German-speaking Mennonite community of Waterloo region. Neufeld, who is now 91 and lives in Connecticut, attended Laurier during its Waterloo College days. It is because of that connection that, in 1998, a collection of his artwork was transferred to Laurier from the City of Waterloo.

Neufeld's work "records historically significant sites in Waterloo region," such as the Homer Watson House and the Seagram distillery, as well as other landmarks that may no longer exist. "Neufeld has strong roots to the region and often came back from his home in Connecticut to paint and draw scenes from the area," says Luke.

"A Place Called Home: Waterloo to Connecticut," which runs from October 14, 2001 to January 27, 2002, will be held at the Marburger Universitäts Museum in conjunction with Philipps-Universitäts Marburg. Laurier enjoys a formal agreement of co-operation with Phillipps-Universitäts that allows for research collaboration and faculty exchanges between the two institutions.

Neufeld's son Laurence and wife Peggy will attend the Evening of Wine, Art & Song, which will be held in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall foyer and the Robert Langen Gallery, beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Laurier's Cultural Affairs Department at (519) 884-0710 ext. 3800.

Tickets for this evening of artistic celebration are \$20 per person or \$180 for a group of 10, and include wine and hors d'oeuvres. "A Place Called Home: Waterloo to Connecticut" is on display in the Robert Langen Gallery from June 15 to August 4, 2001. Special gallery hours are Wednesday, noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon.