NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University

Laurier Brantford to celebrate first graduation ceremonies

150 guests to witness inaugural convocation and awarding of first honorary degree

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BRANTFORD –Wilfrid Laurier University will confer 12 degrees on the first graduating class of its Brantford campus. The inaugural convocation will take place next door to the main campus building, in Central Presbyterian Church, at 6 p.m. this Wednesday.

The 12 graduates, known at Laurier Brantford as the 'pioneers', have met all the requirements for a three-year bachelor-of-arts degree. Most reside in Brantford and the surrounding areas.

"This evening celebrates more than a single event. It is a significant step towards the fulfillment of a vision that began in Brantford decades ago," said Leo Groarke, dean of Laurier Brantford. "These 12 students have not only earned their degrees, but a place in the history of both Brantford and Laurier, in return for their belief and trust in the institution we began building three years ago."

University chancellor John Cleghorn will open the ceremonies with Reverend Mark Gaskin of Central Presbyterian Church performing the invocation. Students, university officials and honored guests will also witness the awarding of an honorary doctor-of-laws degree to James Hillier, originally from Brantford and co-inventor of the electron microscope.

Convocation is the university's most solemn ceremony marking the successful completion of a rigorous academic program. Since its founding in 1911, Laurier has graduated more than 50,000 students.

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