

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Convocation ceremony to mark success of 650 Laurier students *Loreena McKennitt to be recognized with honorary Doctor of Letters degree*

For Immediate Release

November 27, 2002
93-02

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is set to confer 650 degrees and diplomas during what will be one of the largest fall convocation ceremonies in the university's history.

Singer/composer Loreena McKennitt will also be recognized with an honorary degree during a ceremony beginning at 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 1 at the university's Athletic Complex.

"This is a celebration of extraordinary achievements and the culmination of years of effort and accomplishment," said Laurier registrar John Metcalfe. "Students and their families will fondly remember this day of ritual and passage."

Laurier expects to confer approximately 200 graduate degrees, 435 undergraduate degrees and 25 diplomas on students in arts, business, music, science, social work and theology. On average, 80 percent of Laurier graduates attend convocation ceremonies.

McKennitt, whose "eclectic Celtic" music has captivated listeners worldwide, will receive an honorary Doctor of Letters and address graduands shortly after the ceremony begins.

Geography professor Barry Boots will be recognized as Laurier's University Research Professor of 2002-03 for his groundbreaking work in the area of spatial analysis.

Convocation is the university's most solemn ceremony and marks 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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