

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier begins search for sixth chancellor of the university

John E. Cleghorn will step down after convocation ceremonies in June

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University has launched the search for a new chancellor. John E. Cleghorn will be leaving the position after convocation ceremonies in June.

Cleghorn will have served as Laurier’s fifth chancellor for seven years. Since leaving the position of chairman and chief executive officer of Royal Bank of Canada, he has been turning his attention to new interests, most notably Canadian history.

His frequent contact with Terry Copp, co-director of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, rekindled his interest in Canadian Military History. He was recently appointed chairman of Historica, a foundation that seeks to provide Canadians with a deeper understanding of their history and its importance in shaping their future.

“I have embarked on several visits to Europe with my wife to follow the route of the Canadian forces in both World Wars using guidebooks by professor Copp,” said Cleghorn. “My family and I had a very moving experience this summer, visiting Canadian war cemeteries during a personal tour of the Battle of Normandy sites. The tours that Professor Copp and his colleagues at the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation organized for students and interested adults are truly worthwhile.”

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Cleghorn, during his time as chancellor, enjoyed greeting “so many bright Laurier graduates” during convocation ceremonies as well as witnessing the steady growth of the student body and physical campus. An active chancellor, he attended numerous meetings and retreats of the board of governors, and participated in or hosted an array of activities that included seminars, alumni events in Toronto and Waterloo, and Golden Hawks’ football games.

“John Cleghorn has been an extremely active member of the Laurier community since he first accepted the position of chancellor, overseeing every convocation and participating in more activities than one could easily count,” said Robert G. Rosehart, Laurier’s president and vice-chancellor. “He has been a model chancellor and we greatly appreciate his many contributions.”

Laurier has established a committee to begin the search for the sixth chancellor. The university will officially install the new chancellor during fall convocation ceremonies in October.