

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Laurier will bestow honorary degrees on five exemplary leaders**

**For Immediate Release**

**May 15, 2003  
37-03**

**Contact: Dr. Robert G. Rosehart  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2250**

**or Michael Strickland  
Manager, Media Relations & Information  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070**

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will bestow honorary degrees on five individuals who have distinguished themselves in a range of professions. Thomas S. Axworthy, James Balsillie, Donald W. Campbell and Russell Johnson will receive doctor of laws degrees at convocation ceremonies in Waterloo on June 6 and 7, while Thomas Hill will receive a doctor of letters at the June 10 ceremony in Brantford.

“These professionals have all distinguished themselves in fields as diverse as international affairs and information technology,” said Laurier president and vice-chancellor, Robert G. Rosehart. “Each of them has achieved tremendous success and stands as a model of what Laurier expects from its graduates.”

Donald Campbell, former deputy minister of foreign affairs, and renowned acoustician Russell Johnson will receive their honorary doctorates during ceremonies for students in music, science and social work. Campbell will address the graduates early in the ceremony, which begins at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, June 6 in the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

Campbell has enjoyed a long career of public service since graduating from Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfrid Laurier) with a bachelor of arts in 1964 and maintains a long-standing connection with the university. Laurier’s alumni association named him alumnus of the year in 1994. That same year, the university held the first annual Donald W. Campbell Lecture in International Trade.

– more –

Campbell was deputy minister for international trade and associate undersecretary of state for external affairs from 1989 to 1993. During his tenure he led the policy initiative to involve Canada in negotiations that produced the North American Free Trade Agreement. He was ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1997 and deputy minister of foreign affairs from 1997 to 2000. In April of 1999, he received the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service of Canada. He is currently group president for CAE Inc.

Johnson is being recognized for the impact his work as an acoustician has had on the world of music. He is the founder and chief executive officer of Artec Consulting Inc., which helps design premier music performance facilities around the world.

Along with the River Run Centre in Guelph and the Armenian Theatre in Kitchener's The Centre in the Square, he has worked on the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Centre in Dallas, Texas; the Symphony Hall for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Birmingham, England; the Concert Hall for International Music Festival in Lucerne, Switzerland; and the concert hall and opera house for The Esplanade in the Republic of Singapore.

James Balsillie, chairman and co-CEO of Research In Motion, will receive his honorary doctorate during the ceremony for the Laurier school of business and economics. Convocation begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the recreation complex and Balsillie will address the graduates early in the ceremony.

The honorary degree recognizes his entrepreneurial approach and innovation in business leadership, his support for research and education as well as his public and community services. In 2002, he founded The Centre for International Governance Innovation, a global research institute focused on the restructuring of international governance, with particular emphasis on financial and economic institutions.

On Saturday afternoon, Laurier will recognize Thomas S. Axworthy's support for Canadian history in education and his contributions as a public servant. He'll address graduates from the faculty of arts shortly after the ceremony begins at 2:30 p.m. in the recreation complex.

Axworthy has held various government posts, starting with special assistant on urban policy for the minister of state for urban affairs and special assistant (cabinet briefing) to the minister of national revenue in 1974, and ending as the principal secretary of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau from 1981 to 1984. He is the current executive director of Historica in Toronto. He is also an associate of the center for international affairs and an adjunct lecturer in public policy at Harvard University.

On Tuesday, June 10, Laurier will bestow an honorary doctor of letters on Thomas Hill during the ceremony in Brantford. He will address the graduating class shortly after the ceremony begins at 3 p.m. in the Central Presbyterian Church.

The doctorate recognizes Hill's expertise on indigenous artefacts and museum art. He is the museum director at the Woodland Cultural Centre, which has over 25,000 artifacts, including archaeological specimens, documents, furniture, clothing, traditional and contemporary art in all media, prints, graphics, sculptures, photographs, multimedia installations, and an extensive photograph and slide collection.