

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Summer reading program selects Jane Urquhart's *The Stone Carvers* *Incoming arts students join One Book, One Community program with discussions and challenge*

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University has once again joined Kitchener-Waterloo's One Book, One Community program, a project designed to make reading a shared community activity instead of a solitary pastime.

This year's novel, Jane Urquhart's *The Stone Carvers*, was also selected as the book for the Laurier summer reading program. Incoming faculty of arts students are being encouraged to read the book and join Laurier professors in a tutorial-like discussion.

"The goal of the summer reading program is twofold. We want to transform reading from a solitary pursuit into a catalyst for building relationships and exploring literature, and it serves as an excellent introduction into university life and education," said Robert Campbell, dean of the faculty of arts. "It is an excellent way to welcome incoming students to academics at the university level and establish a connection between the students and their professors."

Campbell, along with Canadian studies program co-ordinator Christl Verduyn, will host an informal discussion on the novel at noon on September 3 in Wilf's Den.

Campbell hopes the summer reading program will be the start of a book-of-the-month club he hopes to establish in partnership with Laurier's residence-life office and the book store. He sees it as another way to connect residence with the academic community and hopes to build on the success of the residence-life debating forum, Discussing University at Laurier (DU@L).

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“This is an excellent way to maintain people’s interest in books and literature, and having people continue to talk to each other about academic issues,” said Campbell. “Too often students who have a passion for literature arrive at university and their academics take them away from it. This is an attempt to keep that love for reading going.”

In addition, the Laurier Bookstore has issued a challenge to its University of Waterloo counterpart to see which can register the most readers as part of the program. A draw will be held in September for a New Canadian Library Series collection and an autographed hardcover copy of *The Stone Carvers*. After reading the novel, students, staff and faculty of either university register in their bookstore for a chance to win.

The goal of the One Book program is to have at least one percent of the Kitchener-Waterloo population read the same book. Last year, almost 7,000 K-W residents read Alistair MacLeod’s *No Great Mischief* and heard the author speak at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.