

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Foundation funds educational component of heritage inventory

Peter Farrugia part of team receiving \$39,500 from Ontario Trillium to continue research

For Immediate Release

**May 27, 2004
37-04**

**Contact: Dr. Peter Farrugia
Professor, Laurier Brantford
(519) 884-0710 ext. 5707**

**or Holly Cox
Co-ordinator, Recruitment & Public Relations
(519) 756-8228 ext. 5709**

BRANTFORD – The Brant Historical Society and Peter Farrugia, a professor at Laurier Brantford, have received \$39,500 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to create the educational component of a multimedia project on Brantford's history and heritage.

The Heritage Inventory Project was launched by the City of Brantford in 2001 to highlight the richness of Brantford's heritage. The inventory is a searchable database of architectural and historical information as well as photographs of parks, buildings and monuments in the city. It is an invaluable resource for local historians, city staff and potential visitors to the city and can be viewed at <http://www.brantford.ca/heritage/>.

Farrugia is generating the content of a CD-ROM, entitled *Brantford: Industry and Perseverance*, that will profile two of the more prominent sites from the inventory project – the Bell Monument and the Carnegie Building. The disk will enhance what's available on the project site by offering additional information. It will also include lesson plans and suggestions for school administrators and teachers at the elementary and secondary levels.

The name *Brantford: Industry and Perseverance* comes from the motto adopted by the City of Brantford when it incorporated in 1877. Images of the Bell Monument and Carnegie Building are used as portals into broader discussions of the history of Brantford. Explored themes include industry and its impact, the changing role of women and the consequences of the two world wars.

– more –

“It has been fascinating to be involved in this project,” says Farrugia. “As a newcomer to Brantford I didn’t fully appreciate its history. At the turn of the last century, Brantford was an economic, political and cultural force. I want to communicate the richness of its past as well as the spirit of its inhabitants, who are just now beginning to see their city rebound after some pretty difficult times. I hope this project has a positive impact on the public’s perception of Brantford.”

Community organizations have played a major role in Brantford renewal and Farrugia is impressed by the support he has received with his research, most notably from the Brant County Museum and Archives, the Brantford Expositor, the Brantford Public Library and the local branch of the Red Cross.

The design and production of the CD-ROM is but one component of the Trillium-funded project. Another element is a book, to be produced by the Brant County Museum and Archives, on the architecture of Brantford.

The CD-ROM is scheduled for completion by September 2004. The city will distribute copies free of charge to local educational institutions and sell them through the Laurier Brantford Bookstore and the Brantford Museum.