

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Margaret Trudeau to deliver lecture on the role of public figures

For Immediate Release

**March 10, 2006
21-06**

**Contact: Dr. Richard Christy
Associate Professor, Sociology
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3405**

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

WATERLOO – One of Canada’s best known political wives turned activist will deliver a lecture on the duties of public life when she visits Laurier next week. Margaret Trudeau will also accept a donation as honorary president of the charity WaterCan.

Trudeau will deliver this year’s Schweitzer Lecture at Laurier. Her talk, entitled *The Role of the Public Person in Community Service*, will take place in the senate and board chamber at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14. A reception will follow.

“It is an honour that Margaret Trudeau would come and address the Laurier community on the role of the public figure in community service and fundraising,” said Richard Christy, a sociology professor and organizer of the event. “Her dedication to the efforts of WaterCan everywhere – but particularly at Laurier – are especially important at this time of year as some of our students work to raise \$2,000 for an Ethiopian water and sanitation project.”

Christy has been encouraging students in his sociology classes to raise money for WaterCan since one of his students asked: “What can one person do, anyway, to change the world?” Students have raised just under \$8,000 since 2002. Christy and his current students will be presenting Trudeau with a cheque for WaterCan from their latest effort and expect it will total \$2,000.

– more –

Trudeau has been an active member of WaterCan, a charity dedicated to providing clean drinking water to people living in the developing world, since 1996. In 2002 she was named honorary president of WaterCan and in that role has travelled to Uganda to see the organization's efforts in action.

Trudeau's public role dates back several decades. In 1971, at the age of 22, she became the youngest wife of a world leader. Her official role led her on a continuous round of state visits, political campaigns and grand parties. She was often the focus of more attention than her husband, Canada's 15th prime minister.

Six years into the marriage and three children later, Trudeau took the unprecedented step of leaving a reigning head of state. She went on to become a photographer, actress, writer and television host.

The Wilfrid and Marion Schweitzer Lecture was created to bring to Laurier a series of distinguished speakers of recognized international stature in the fields of English literature, history, political science, international relations, music or religion. The couple for whom the series was named attended lectures on campus, found them interesting and especially rewarding, and established the lectures in return for the enjoyment they experienced.