

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Afghanistan to speak at Laurier Brantford

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WATERLOO – Lieutenant-general Michel Gauthier, commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command, will speak on *The Canadian Forces in Afghanistan: Full Spectrum Operations in the 21st Century*. The talk will take place at 7:00 p.m. on October 20, 2006 at Laurier Brantford, a satellite campus of Wilfrid Laurier University.

“This event provides a rare opportunity to discuss the issues facing Canadians in Afghanistan with a senior command official,” said Terry Copp, director of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS). “The public is most welcome to join us.”

Lt.-Gen. Gauthier is the keynote speaker at a conference sponsored by LMCSDS and the 56th Field Regiment, Brantford. The conference, entitled *From Courcellette to Kandahar: The Canadian Army, 1916-2006*, will be held at Laurier Brantford in the Carnegie Building, Victoria Square, Brantford.

The conference will continue on Saturday, October 21 with morning presentations on the Canadian army in the First and Second World Wars. Papers include *Brantford Boys and the Somme: The 4th Infantry Battalion at Courcellette, October 1916* and *The First Special Service Force (the Devil’s Brigade) in Italy*.

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The Saturday afternoon session returns the focus to modern conflicts. Two officers of the 56th Field Regiment who have served in Afghanistan, captains Chris Marvin and Mark Whitworth, will join historian Lee Windsor to discuss past and future Afghanistan operations.

There is no charge for the public to take part in the event, although seating is limited. Registration is not required, and lunch will be provided. A full program is available at:
www.canadianmilitaryhistory.com.

Lt.-Gen. Gauthier commanded the 4th Combat Engineer Regiment when it was deployed with the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia. He subsequently served there as chief engineer responsible for de-mining. Gauthier was subsequently appointed as the first commander of the new Canadian Expeditionary Force Command, which is responsible for all overseas deployments, including Afghanistan.

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