

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



**Wilfrid Laurier University to hold installation ceremony for new president**  
Fall convocation to take place the following day

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO — Dr. Max Blouw will be installed as the president of Wilfrid Laurier University during a ceremony Thursday Oct. 25, the day before the university's fall Convocation.

Blouw assumed the president's duties at Laurier in September following a distinguished career as vice-president of research at the University of Northern British Columbia. He will be officially installed as president of Laurier in a ceremony starting at 2 p.m. in Laurier's Athletic Complex. A reception will be held in the Science Building courtyard immediately following the installation.

The next day, Friday Oct. 26, will see two Convocation ceremonies. Both are being held at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex on Father David Bauer Drive.

The 10 a.m. Convocation will be for graduates of the School of Business and Economics. Receiving an honorary doctorate at that ceremony will be Toronto businessman and arts supporter Jack Rabinovitch.

Rabinovitch, a Montreal native, graduated from McGill University in 1952 with a degree in English. He worked as a reporter and speechwriter, became an independent builder and developer, and joined Trizec Corporation in 1972. He remained with Trizec in a variety of senior roles for the next 20 years.

In 1994, Rabinovitch established the Giller Prize to honor the memory of his wife, Doris Giller, a literary journalist with a strong fondness for Canadian works. The Giller, now the Scotiabank Giller Prize, is Canada's premier English fiction award, offering a top prize of \$40,000 and runner-up prizes of \$2,500.

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Rabinovitch will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his achievements in business, community service, and the arts.

The afternoon Convocation ceremonies, which start at 1:30 p.m., will be for graduands of the faculties of Arts (including Laurier Brantford), Science, Music, Social Work, and the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Laurier graduate Allon Bross will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his pioneering work in social work, and as a business person, educator and community leader.

Bross, a Kitchener native, completed a master's degree in social work at Laurier in 1976 after earning a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Waterloo.

Following continued studies at the University of Toronto, Bross began a career as a marriage and family therapist. He was later offered appointments with Laurier's Faculty of Social Work and Renison's Social Development program.

In 1981, Bross established Family Guidance International. FGI's mission was to assist people in maximizing their potentials and to increase their effectiveness in their personal, family, and workplace lives. His application of systems theory to professional practice enabled him to reach out to diverse people needing assistance.

Over his career, Bross has consulted to hundreds of public and private organizations around the world, and has lectured in social work and business faculties in universities throughout North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. He has written 29 academic articles and a book, *Family Therapy: A Recursive Model of Strategic Practice*. In 2006, FGI was sold and Bross became chair of service provider Shepell.fgi, which has nearly 1,400 employees in Canada and the U.S. and works with customers in more than 86 countries.