

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Dr. Leo Groarke named Acting Vice-President: Academic**

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO — Dr. Leo Groarke, Principal/Vice-Principal of the Brantford campus of Wilfrid Laurier University, has accepted an appointment as Acting Vice-President: Academic for the university. The acting appointment runs from August 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, after which Groarke will return to his position at Brantford.

“I’m delighted to be welcoming Dr. Groarke to this new role and I’m looking forward to working closely with him as he advances what will be a very active academic agenda,” said Laurier President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Max Blouw.

“In addition to his extensive knowledge of the university and Ontario’s post-secondary system, his specific experience at Laurier Brantford will be particularly helpful as we continue to explore the possibility of building a new campus at Milton,” he continued.

Groarke first joined Laurier in 1983 as a professor of philosophy. He was chair of the Philosophy Department from 1994 to 1997, and was named assistant dean of program development in the Faculty of Arts and Science (later divided into two separate faculties) in 1999. He was appointed dean of Laurier Brantford in 2000 and became the first principal/vice-president in 2007.

Groarke was instrumental in developing the innovative Contemporary Studies curriculum at the heart of Brantford’s degree programs, and he helped forge unique partnerships with Nipissing University, Mohawk College and Conestoga College. He has also overseen the significant physical growth of the Brantford campus.

“I’m very excited about the appointment,” Groarke said. “It will be difficult to step away from Laurier Brantford during what is such an exciting time in that campus’ development, but I

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look forward to being able to make significant contributions to our entire multi-campus university in this new role.”

Groarke succeeds Dr. Susan Horton who, in December 2007, announced her intention to step down after four years to pursue her research projects. Horton, an expert in the economics of developing countries, was recently recognized by a distinguished international panel of economists who ranked her solution for addressing child malnutrition as the top proposal for solving one of the world’s biggest challenges.

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