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Author Lawrence Hill to spend a week at Laurier as writer-in-residence

WATERLOO – Award-winning writer Lawrence Hill, author of the best-selling novel *The Book of Negroes*, will spend a week at Wilfrid Laurier University as writer-in-residence from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1.

Hill's itinerary includes three public readings — two on the Waterloo campus and one at Laurier Brantford — and a private fund-raising dinner to help establish the Lawrence Hill Graduate Award in Arts and Humanities at Laurier.

Hill has visited Laurier several times in the past. He wrote a small portion of *The Book of Negroes* while staying in Laurier's Lucinda House guest residence on a previous visit.

His upcoming visit stems from an invitation by Laurier professor Carol B. Duncan, a friend and colleague who contributed to a documentary film project, *Seeking Salvation: A History of the Black Church in Canada*, for which Hill served as writer. The writer-in-residence visit is sponsored by the office of Laurier vice-president academic and provost, Deborah MacLatchy.

"Inviting Lawrence Hill to visit the Laurier community will allow students, faculty, staff and visitors to the university the opportunity to hear an acclaimed author discuss his work. The arts are an important aspect of university life," said Duncan, chair of Laurier's Department of Religion and Culture.

Hill is the son of American immigrants, a black father and a white mother who raised their family in Toronto. The story of how his parents met, married, left the United States and raised a family in Toronto is described in Hill's best-selling memoir *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada*. He has published three other works of non-fiction as well as three novels. *The Book of Negroes* won the overall Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Ontario Library Association's Evergreen Award and CBC Radio's Canada Reads Award.

Lawrence Hill's free public events at Laurier:

- Monday, Sept. 27, 2-3 p.m. A reading, talk and book signing, The Concourse, Laurier's Waterloo campus. Seating is limited.
- Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. A reading, lecture and book signing, Maureen Forrester Hall, Waterloo campus. Seating is limited.
- Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2:30-3:30 p.m. A reading, talk and book signing, Laurier Brantford, Room 202 of the Laurier Brantford Research and Academic Centre. Seating is limited.