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MARCH 1, 2013 | 028-13

Celebrating Aboriginal culture at Laurier

BRANTFORD – Aboriginal culture at Laurier will be celebrated during the annual Aboriginal Awareness Week at both the Waterloo and Brantford campuses March 4-8.

“Aboriginal Awareness Week is an opportunity for the Laurier campuses and the community to celebrate the richness of Aboriginal culture,” said Jean Becker, senior advisor: Aboriginal initiatives. “We are trying to continue to enhance Laurier’s reputation as a leader in embracing Aboriginal culture on our campuses, and weeks like this are important.”

Waterloo campus events include presentations, crafts, drumming and dancing workshops, and a comedy performance by Ryan McMahon on Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m. in the Arts Building, room 1E1.

Other highlights at the Waterloo campus include:

- Drumology, a cross-cultural drumming journey with African drum stylings and First Nations Drums, followed by a drumming circle, March 6 at 10 a.m., Senate and Board Chamber
- Movie screening of *Crooked Arrows*, March 7 at 6 p.m., Kitchener: Faculty of Social Work, room FSW101
- Geronimo Henry, residential schools survivor, March 8 at 10:30 a.m., Arts Building, room 1E1
- Panel discussion on the impacts of Bill C45 on the environment and the Indian Act, March 9 at 1 p.m. in Bricker Academic Building, room BA201

In Brantford, events include traditional Tuesday, an artists’ showcase, and therapeutic Thursday, with a special presentation by author Theodore Fontaine on the legacy of residential schools on March 8 at 2:30 p.m., Research and Academic Centre, 150 Dalhousie Street, room RCW002.

Other highlights at the Brantford campus include:

- PowWow demonstration by Two Row Education, March 5, noon, Student Centre multi-purpose room, 103 Darling Street
- Smoke dance competition, open to all participants, March 5, 5:30 p.m., Student Centre multi-purpose room, 103 Darling Street
- Artists’ showcase including spoken word, hip hop, rock, Métis fiddling, gospel and blues artists, March 6, noon to 7 p.m., Student Centre multi-purpose room, 103 Darling Street
- Hypnotist show with motivational speaker and Laurier graduate student Darren Thomas, March 7, 5 p.m., 97 Dalhousie Street, room 007

For a full list of events at both campuses visit www.wlu.ca/aboriginal. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

For more information, contact Melissa Ireland, Waterloo campus at mireland@wlu.ca or Bonnie Whitlow, Brantford campus at bwhitlow@wlu.ca.

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