



Claire Bennett, Manager
Sustainability Office, Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 4280 or cbennett@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director
Communications & Public Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

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Laurier to host Water Innovations Walk

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University’s Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, Sustainability Office and REEP Green Solutions will host a Water Innovations Walk March 24 at the Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science.

“The walk will showcase sites that have successfully put into practice Laurier’s sustainability mandate with best-in-class stormwater management and water conservation technology,” said Claire Bennett, manager of Laurier’s Sustainability Office. “The tour will also stop at Silver Lake in Waterloo Park to demonstrate the connection between these practices and helping to protect our local waterways.”

After a noon lunch, special guest Dorothy McCue Taylor will open the event with a Sacred Water Circle ceremony and song, and Jean Becker, Laurier’s senior advisor: Aboriginal Initiatives, will deliver a territorial welcome. Representatives from Laurier and REEP Green Solutions will then give presentations on water sustainability at Laurier.

“This event features various voices from our community, ranging from traditional Aboriginal teachings to innovative engineering design and sustainable landscape practices,” said Cheryl Evans, RAIN program manager. “The goal is to inspire great discussion and problem-solving so that we can work together to protect our water.”

The walking tour will run from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will feature six sites on Laurier’s Waterloo campus and a visit to Waterloo Park:

- Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science underground cisterns
- Salt Management Plan at Wilfrid Laurier campus
- Natural Landscaping and low water use planters at MacDonald House Residence
- Green Roofs
- Rain Garden and rainwater harvesting system at Laurier’s Aboriginal Student Centre
- Waterloo Park presentations from REEP Green Solutions, and the Cities of Waterloo and Kitchener

At 4:30, along the banks of Silver Lake, beside the Perimeter Institute, a closing water ceremony will be performed by Dorothy McCue Taylor of Sacred Water Circle.

Water Innovations Walk funders include: REEP Green Solutions, RAIN, Wilfrid Laurier University Sustainability Office, Wilfrid Laurier Aboriginal Student Centre, Green Communities Canada. The event is presented in partnership with the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo.

The event takes place from noon to 5 p.m. at the Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science at 65 Lodge Street, Waterloo. It is free and open to the public. To register, visit: <http://reepgreen.ca/event/water-innovations-walk/>.