



Tarah Brookfield, Associate Professor
Department of History, Department of Youth
and Children's Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University
519-756-8228 ext. 5756 or tbrookfield@wlu.ca

Beth Gurney, Associate Director
Communications & Public Affairs, Laurier Brantford
519-756-8228 ext. 5753 or bgurney@wlu.ca

MARCH 16, 2017 | 047-17

Laurier's Brantford campus to host public talks with Toronto author Zoe Whittall

BRANTFORD – Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus will host public talks with Canadian author Zoe Whittall March 23, as she discusses her novels *Bottle Rocket Hearts* (2007) and *The Best Kind of People* (2016). Her novels address issues of sexual violence, rape culture, and LGBTQ issues.

Whittall will speak from 11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. in Grand River Hall, 171 Colborne Street, to students in the third year course Canadian Women's and Gender History. The talk is also open to the public.

"Students in the course are assigned to read *Bottle Rocket Hearts* because it's story of a young queer woman coming of age in 1995 Montreal that demonstrates the intersections between national politics and identity politics in a way that fits well with the course themes," said Tarah Brookfield, associate professor of History and Youth and Children's Studies. "Being able to meet the author in person and learn about her inspirations for crafting the story is an incredible way to learn how our understanding of the past is shaped through stories and storytellers."

Laurier is partnering with the Brantford Public Library to present Whittall March 23 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. She will discuss her latest novel, *The Best Kind of People*, in the Brantford Public Library Auditorium. A finalist for the Scotiabank Giller prize in 2016, *The Best Kind of People* navigates the topics of sexual violence and rape culture from the perspective of a family, school and community in crisis.

The two events with Whittall, which include opportunities for Q&A and book signing, are sponsored by Laurier's Faculty of Liberal Arts. Both events are free and open to all guests.

For questions, please contact [Tarah Brookfield](#).

- 30 -