



Huron University College welcomes bestselling author Michael Harris to discuss award winning book with students and London community

London, ON - Huron University College's first Huron1Read program concludes for this year with a visit from author Michael Harris, winner of the 2014 Governor General Literary Award for his book: *The End of Absence: Reclaiming What We've Lost in a World of Constant Connection*. Michael Harris will visit Huron's campus from 1-2:30 pm on Friday, December 4, 2015. The public is invited to attend and participate in a discussion with Harris and students in first year Sociology and English.

Michael Harris' book *The End of Absence* received an outpouring of critical and commercial success. In this fascinating non-fiction work, Harris explores the downside of constant connection and the fact that we're completely lost in our logged-on lives. We are faced with a generation where absence itself – silence, wonder, solitude – is lost to us.

The Huron1Read program provides each first-year student with a particular book during the summer months. In September, as they transition into campus life, they are invited to participate in campus wide discussions and events, together with faculty and staff, surrounding the chosen publication.

By choosing this book as the inaugural selection for the Huron1Read Program, first years, along with staff and faculty, have the opportunity to come together to explore the fascinating notion of a generation where the barrage of texts, emails, social media and Netflix binges are affecting our brains and our society. Those born prior to 1985 are the only generation in history that has experienced life both with and without the internet. For everyone who follows, online life will simply be the air they breathe.

"Huron is thrilled to have Michael Harris visit our campus as the capstone event for this year's Huron1Read program," said Jennifer Robinson, Director of Library and Learning Services at Huron University College. "The opportunity for our students to meet with a Governor General Award winning author and speak with him about his work is just one example of the kinds of enriching academic experiences Huron offers its students."

The Huron1Read program was developed for incoming students who will soon realize they are part of a larger learning community. Through this program, students have the opportunity to engage with other Huron students, faculty and staff in exploring timely issues from multiple angles and prospective. The program encourages inter-disciplinary dialogue, allowing students to hear from voices different from their own.