



**Western University**  
**Department of Physics and Astronomy**

## **PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM**

**Date: Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Time: 1:30 p.m.**

**Location: Physics & Astronomy Seminar Room 100**

### **Dr. Jean-Pierre St-Maurice**

Emeritus Professor – Department of Physics & Astronomy, Western University and the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, University of Saskatchewan

***“The Aurora Borealis: more than meets the eyes!”***

#### **ABSTRACT**

The aurora borealis is a fascinating display of the interaction between the solar wind and the earth. There is a lot of physics hidden behind questions such as: where does the light come from and what do we learn from an analysis of the light emissions from the aurora? Also, is the aurora involved in electrical currents and, if so, what is the current system like and where does it come from, namely, how is it linked to the “solar wind”? Finally, is the aurora dangerous somehow? While we now have basic answers to these questions, there is a fly in the ointment, namely, the aurora just might be “a tad” turbulent; given this, what does it mean for us, students of the aurora?

I will rely heavily on a question and answer format for this presentation (also beware that I like to ask questions from people at the back of the room!). *A Note from the Department Chair:* He’s serious! Come prepared. ;-)

**HOST:** R. J. Sica

***COFFEE + light snacks will be available in the Atrium, 2nd floor, at 1:15 p.m.***