

HISTORY
SPEAKER SERIES

2011-2012



GIVE ME SHELTER: THE FAILURE OF CANADA'S COLD WAR CIVIL DEFENCE, 1945-1963

Thursday, November 24, 2011

3:00 pm

DWE 3516

During the early years of the Cold War, Canada created a civil defence organization to prepare Canadians for a possible nuclear attack. A key element to its success was persuading the public to incorporate the principles of preparation into everyday life. Through exhibits, exercises, and public appeals, Canada's CD agencies exhorted citizens to volunteer as air raid wardens, to stockpile supplies, and to build fallout shelters to wait out the nuclear storm.

In this presentation, Andrew Burtch, historian for the Post-1945 period at the Canadian War Museum, explains the evolution of Canada's civil defence policies and addresses why the program failed.



Andrew Burtch, PhD

Historian, Canadian War Museum

UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO