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Laurier opens research centre for sustainable food systems

WATERLOO – The Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems will be officially launched with a series of events beginning at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14 at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, room 142.

The Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems brings together researchers from a variety of disciplines to study sustainable food systems, and to increase opportunities for more sustainable food systems by disseminating their knowledge through local, national and global networks. www.wlu.ca/research/food

The opening event will begin with a panel discussion on sustainable food systems from 4–5:30 p.m. Panellists include a mix of researchers and community members who are experts on a range of food sustainability topics. They include:

- Simon Dalby, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) Chair in the Political Economy of Climate Change, (Balsillie School of International Affairs/Wilfrid Laurier University)
- Karen Landman, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, University of Guelph
- Theresa Schumilas, PhD student, operator of the Garden Party Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and Food Club in Waterloo, and expert on local food policy
- Av Singh, expert on organic agriculture and inaugural holder of the JustUs! Chair in Small Farm Sustainability at the Centre for Small Farms in Nova Scotia
- Randy Whittaker, a graduate of the University of Guelph and general manager of the Ontario Natural Food Co-op

A reception celebrating the launch of the Centre will be held from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., followed by keynote speaker, Bryan Gilvesy, recipient of the Ontario Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence in Small Business and the Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Award. Gilvesy is the owner of the Yu Ranch and eastern Canada lead for community-developed, farmer-delivered Alternative Land Use Services.

Admission is free, but space is limited and registration is requested at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/laurier-centre-for-sustainable-food-systems-launch-rsvps-required-tickets-8452823623>

Both the panel and the keynote are still accepting registrations, and while the reception is full, there is a waitlist.