



Kevin Crowley, Director  
Communications & Public Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University  
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or [kcrowley@wlu.ca](mailto:kcrowley@wlu.ca)

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## LAURIER EXPERT ALERT: St. Jacobs Farmers Market

WATERLOO – The newly renovated **St. Jacobs Farmers Market** building opens **June 11**.

Several Laurier professors are available to comment on a variety of topics surrounding farmers markets.

**Alison Blay-Palmer**, associate professor in Laurier’s Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and director of the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, is an expert in resilient food systems and sustainable communities. She is the author of *Models and Best Practices for Building Effective Local Food Systems in Ontario*. Contact information: 519-884-0710 x2604 or at [ablayspalmer@wlu.ca](mailto:ablayspalmer@wlu.ca).

“Having spaces where farmers can sell directly to consumers is an important link in our local, sustainable food system,” says Blay-Palmer. “It helps support farmers and gives consumers access to fresh and healthy food. It also provides opportunities for people to learn about how food is grown and meet the people who produce it.”

Areas of expertise:

- Local food systems
- Sustainable communities
- Sustainable food systems
- Healthy food systems report card
- Local economic development
- Building and reinforcing regional food networks
- Social economy of food

**Sean Doherty**, professor in Laurier’s Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, is an expert on food tourism and a co-developer of [smartappetite.ca](http://smartappetite.ca), an application that encourages the consumption of local foods. Contact information: 519-884-0710 x2044 or at [sdoherty@wlu.ca](mailto:sdoherty@wlu.ca).

Areas of expertise:

- Local food consumption
- Food tourism
- Health geography