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OCT. 6, 2015 | 164-15

## LAURIER EXPERT ALERT: Thanksgiving

WATERLOO – Canadian Thanksgiving is on Oct. 12.

There are several Laurier experts available to comment on Thanksgiving.

**Kevin Spooner**, associate professor in Laurier’s North American Studies program, is an expert on Canadian and American culture, identity and history. Contact information: 519-884-0710 x2165 or [kspooner@wlu.ca](mailto:kspooner@wlu.ca).

“Canada and the United States both approach Thanksgiving quite differently,” says Spooner. “In the United States, Thanksgiving is part of their founding mythology and can be considered to some as more important than Christmas. In Canada, you’ll find the holiday grew from more of a religious tradition, thanking God for a bountiful harvest.”

Areas of expertise:

- Canadian foreign policy
- Peacekeeping
- National and regional identity and community
- Canadian historiography

**Michel Desjardins**, professor in Laurier’s Religion and Culture program, is an expert on food, culture and religion. Contact information: 519-884-0710 x3323 or [mdesjardins@wlu.ca](mailto:mdesjardins@wlu.ca).

Areas of expertise:

- Food and spirituality
- Christian origins
- Academic study of religion