



LANARK COUNTY
Harvest Festival
Get Fresh with a Local Farmer!

Lanark County Harvest Festival named Provincial finalist

The Lanark County Harvest Festival has been named a finalist for "Ontario Culinary Tourism Event of the Year," a prestigious category that is part of the annual awards hosted by the Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance (OCTA).

The award recognizes an Ontario-based festival or event that is "an authentic culinary tourism experience through its commitment to showcasing local food and beverage products."

"Our team is absolutely thrilled to be nominated for this award," said Harvest Festival Co-Chair / Warden Richard Kidd, who along with Lanark County Tourism Manager, Marie White will be attending the annual OCTA summit and will be present during the awards ceremony on Nov. 12. Marie White said, "The festival is becoming a destination for people who want to connect with local food producers and learn about their benefits and how to prepare them. It is a celebration of fine foods made with love in Lanark County."

Other contenders for this year's award include Foire Gourmande in North Eastern Ontario, The Chatham-Kent Table in Chatham Kent, and Cuisine-Art at the Alton Mills Art Centre.

The second annual Lanark County Harvest Festival was held on Sept. 7 in Beckwith Township. The idea for the festival originated with former Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) as a way to bring all the communities of Lanark County together, and it has since provided a venue for producers to showcase maple products, cheeses, garlic, honey, farm-fresh produce and much more.

The festival celebrates the bounty of Lanark County's harvest while offering an opportunity for visitors to learn more about how to grow and prepare local foods. It features children's activities, fine local musicians and a juried selection of talented artisans. For the first time this year, it culminated with a sold-out Harvest Church Supper of traditional stews, including lamb, vegetable, beef and gluten-free.

OCTA promotes culinary tourism in Ontario as a way to tell "the magnificent story of our food, our land and our varied people. This year's champions will, as their predecessors did, exemplify the innovation in story telling that satiates the growing appetite of folds to experience local flavours."

"We are very proud of what the Harvest Festival has accomplished to date. This success would not be possible without the Committee and Staff's hard work along with the commitment of all the vendors involved," said Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve). "It is a great way to bring the elements of local food and family farms together and showcase them for all to see."

For information, visit www.lanarkcountytourism.ca or call 1-888-4-LANARK. For more information about OCTA, visit <https://ontarioculinary.com/>.

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