



LANARK COUNTY
Harvest Festival
Get Fresh with a Local Farmer!

Celebrate Lanark County's bounty at Harvest Festival

Want to get fresh with a local farmer? The third annual Lanark County Harvest Festival will give everyone a chance to do just that!

This outdoor event, slated for Sunday, Sept. 13 at Beckwith Park (1319, 9th Line, Beckwith), will celebrate the county's bounty of the harvest featuring local producers, food seminars, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, local musicians and more. This year, Tay Valley Township will be the featured community, showcasing its people, products and projects.

The Lanark County Harvest Festival is an opportunity for people to meet our local farmers and purchase local food and other locally made products. Our county has a unique blend of producers, passions and food.

The festival will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is a collaboration of several local groups, including Lanark Local Flavour, Lanark County Farmers' Markets, the Lanark County Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Township of Beckwith, Tay Valley Township and Lanark County.

In 2015, the collaboration between four Beckwith Churches will continue to deliver the popular "Harvest Church Supper" of traditional stew including lamb stew, vegetable stew, beef stew and gluten-free stew (not to mention pie of all kinds). Some of the participants are growing the ingredients, and others are sourcing local ingredients. It is "stew good to miss." Tickets are \$12 and will be sold in advance or at the door for the supper, taking place from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. following the Harvest Festival.

The program includes cooking demonstrations featuring local chefs who will present information about cooking with local ingredients. Other food related seminars will include topics on chocolate, and maple syrup. The renowned "Bowes Brothers" are returning as the musical entertainment; and children's activities such as a petting zoo, bouncy castle, and face painting, can be expected.

"The event provides a perfect opportunity for local producers to bring awareness to our communities through their products and expertise," adds Marie White, Lanark County tourism manager. "We recognize the benefits of local food. This festival is a time to celebrate with our local families and show our appreciation for our agricultural community by sharing food, drink and laughter."

The celebration of local food is an annual event that supports more than 55 local businesses and six farmers' markets, as well as developing a new economic development network for the county through partnership with the Ontario Tourism Culinary Alliance (OCTA). Last year, the Harvest Festival was recognized by OCTA as a provincial finalist for "Culinary Event of the Year."

"Beckwith Township is pleased to be the host municipality for the Lanark County Harvest Festival," says Richard Kidd, Beckwith Reeve. "Our staff has been working very hard with partners to ensure the event is a huge success. It is a tribute to our agricultural past and future."

"We hope to continue to create employment, build on the customer base and encourage lots of visitors to come to Lanark County," states festival founder Bill Dobson, Montague Reeve.

"Lanark County has been recognized as a food destination, and we want to build on this momentum while raising awareness about our agriculture" adds Keith Kerr, Lanark County Warden.

There are still spaces for vendors. To register, contact cmcgregor@twp.beckwith.on.ca. For general information, visit www.harvestfestival.ca or call 1-888-4-LANARK.

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For more information, contact:

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