



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

Media Release

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LOCAL FOOD FEST WINS TOP HONOUR AT ONTARIO CULINARY TOURISM AWARDS

Taste Real presented with Award of Excellence for Event of the Year

Wellington County - Wellington County's Taste Real Programme is the proud recipient of the Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance (OCTA) Award of Excellence for Event of the Year. The Local Food Fest is held annually in June at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre and Farm, attracting families, students, seniors and professionals. More than 50 exhibitors also took part offering prepared foods, craft beer samples, fresh produce and flowers.

"We're honoured to receive the Award, and we're thrilled for our community partners, sponsors and volunteers who work so hard to celebrate local food and agriculture in Wellington County" says Christina Mann, Taste Real Coordinator. The event highlights Guelph Wellington as an excellent food destination within Ontario, deeply rooted in agriculture and rich in creative and innovative farm and food businesses.

The awards, presented by OCTA in Toronto this month, celebrate the passion and excellence of those dedicated to advancing the culinary tourism movement in Ontario. They recognize the efforts of those who help promote farmers, chefs and beverage producers.

The Local Food Fest is a popular and growing event that features something for everyone. Visitors can take part in workshops offered through a partnership with Minga Skill Building Hub, to make cheese and bread, the finer points of canning, butchery, goat milking and fermenting. Patrons are also able to pick up fresh, local, healthy and delicious food, and local food industry professionals are able to use the Local Food Fest to network around food and agriculture.

Bob Desautels is the owner of the Woolwich Arrow Pub, Borealis Grille and Mijijidaa Restaurant in Guelph. He has been a long time partner of Taste Real and the main Sponsor of the Local Food Fest for the past few years.

"As a restaurateur and business owner, I find this event invaluable for the opportunities it provides to promote local food, healthy eating, and celebrate our strong food community. The popularity of the event and growing attendance further proves that the interest in local food is not a fad -it is a permanent trend and it is here to stay."

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