



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Nipissing Agricultural Task Force works to increase opportunities for sector and local Food Bank

Sturgeon Falls, Ontario – December 16, 2014

The West Nipissing Agricultural Task Force (WNATF) Committee presented a donation of \$350.00 on December 16, 2014 to the West Nipissing Food Bank. The WNATF put their donation toward purchasing a commercial size refrigerator for the Food Bank. “Every season we have produce that we donate to organizations in North Bay and we would like to also donate locally to the West Nipissing Food Bank. However, without an adequate amount of cold storage, we are unable to provide the Food Bank with fresh produce,” said Mitch Deschatelets of Leisure Farms & WNATF.

As an incentive for farmers to donate to community food programs, such as the West Nipissing Food Bank, the food donation tax credit has been made available by the province. The tax credit provides farmers with up to 25% of the fair market value of the products they are donating. This donation will help both Food Bank recipients and area farmers, by making healthy food available to members of the community and providing a space for farmers to donate their produce.

The WNATF’s contribution was raised at the first annual Farm to Fork event held at Pasta Kitchen and Bar on November 14, 2014, with net proceeds from the event going towards the donation. The event seen 36 members of the business community attend. The four course meal had been prepared with all locally sourced food from Field Good Farms, Leisure Farms, Dalew Farms, Sucrerie Seguin Sugarbush and a selection of cocktails made from a berry syrup sourced from Boreal Berry Farm and Winery.

The WNATF was established in 2014 as part of the West Nipissing Business Growth Initiative. The committee works to promote the local agricultural sector and ensure local food security in Northeastern Ontario now and for the future success of the industry in West Nipissing. The WNATF is governed by a committee made up of sector business owners, key stakeholders, industry policy makers and members of the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Committee members represent the following businesses, organizations and industry personnel including Field Good Farms, Leisure Farms, Boreal Berry Farm and Winery, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Labour Market Group, RDÉE Ontario and the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce. The role of the WNATF is to increase awareness of the food that is produced locally and market the advantages of eating organic, locally sourced food. The Agricultural Task Force Committee is committed to educating the community at large on the value of shopping and eating locally and how it benefits residents and local business.

“The Farm to Fork event provided the business community with a first-hand experience





CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE
WEST NIPISSING OUEST
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The voice of business • La voix du milieu des affaires

of what local food producers have to offer. The WNATF is planning to host another Farm to Fork event in 2015, along with initiatives that will encourage existing businesses to sell local agricultural products,” said Jolene Lisk, Project Manager at the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce.

The work that the WNATF Committee is undertaking would not be possible without the generous support of the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce’s project partners including RDÉE Ontario, Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the Labour Market Group.



Donation Presentation (From Left to Right) Jolene Lisk (West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce & WNATF), Gilbert Lanthier (West Nipissing Food Bank), Mitch Deschatelets (Leisure Farms & WNATF), Claudette LeRoy (West Nipissing Food Bank) and Isabel Mosseler (West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce & WNATF)

Contact Information:

West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce

Jolene Lisk, Project Manager

Telephone: 705-753-5672 Fax: 705-580-5672

Email: jolene.lisk@westnipissingchamber.ca

200 rue Main Street, Unit B, Sturgeon Falls, ON P2B 1P2

