



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce Feast on the Farm – Festin à la Ferme a Success!

August 13th, 2015 – Sturgeon Falls, Ontario –

The West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce Feast on the Farm – Festin à la Ferme was a smashing success Sunday, August 9th with 300 attendees and a sold out event. “We all benefit from eating locally, local foods are fresher, they taste better and purchasing local food helps support our local economy” said Chamber President Kathleen Thorne Rochon. The Feast on the Farm event consisted of six locally sourced food booths, one wine sampling station, wagon rides, as well as, local entertainment and a licensed bar. The event was organized by the West Nipissing Agricultural Task Force committee in conjunction with local food producers and chefs to increase awareness for the meats, produce and value added food products that are available locally.

The Chamber President Kathleen Thorne Rochon would like to thank the organizers, Ryan Spence and Isabelle Legault- Spence of Field Good Farms, Mitch Deschatelets & staff of Leisure Farms, Greg & Mira Melien of Boreal Berry Farm and Winery, Rob Majury of Stack Brewing Corporation, Julie Poirier Mensinga of OMAFRA, Isabel Mosseler and Pat Keough of the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Chamber Staff Jolene Lisk and Sylvie Quenneville.

“This event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors,” explained Thorne Rochon. “Thank you to the Municipality of West Nipissing, Foodland Ontario, the Tribune, North Bay Nipissing News, Le Loup, Le Voyageur, Canadian Tire, Michaud & Levesque and Alouette Bus Lines.” “I also want to give a special thanks to Leisure Farms for hosting this event and Isabel Mosseler for all her assistance with the marketing efforts, from designing the logo, posters and event maps, to the excellent interviews and blogs with our participants” said Thorne Rochon.

Several chefs participated in this event, all with a passion for working with local food. The event highlighted Chef Chris Gibb of Pasta Kitchen and Bar, Chefs René and Laura Dubois of the White Owl Bistro, Chef Nic Gignac of the Miner’s Son and Chef Daniel Esposito of Canadore College and Food Reflections. “Everyone kept telling me how phenomenal the food was, and how great of an initiative this event was for the Chamber and our community” said Patrick Keough Chair of the West Nipissing Agricultural Task Force Committee.

Mitch Deschatelets and his team did a great job not only supplying food for the event but cooking as well. “The venue for this event was perfectly well equipped for what we were aiming for, thanks to the Deschatelets family and staff at Leisure farms for being so accommodating and helpful. We could not have asked for better” said Keough.

The West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce, would like to thank all of the chefs for participating and going to great lengths to source food locally for this event as well as for use in your

businesses. Food for this event was sourced from: Leisure Farms, Field Good Farms, Somewood Farms, Boreal Berry Farm and Winery, Bella Hill Maple Syrup, Poschaven Farms, and Joyful Soil. “We wanted to showcase the local food that is available in our region and assist in creating awareness for what customers can be sourcing locally” said Keough.

By highlighting local farmers and chefs, attendees learned how to incorporate local food into their daily lives by purchasing from farm gate operations, CSA programs, participating in agri-tourism and choosing restaurants that include locally sourced food on their menus.

Finally the Chamber would like to thank everyone who attended this event. “The response from the public to this event has been overwhelming. It has been so encouraging to the Chamber, and the organizing committee to have so many people share our interest and commitment to the Local Food movement. We can’t wait for next year!” said Thorne Rochon.



The West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural Task Force Committee is seeking feedback from event attendees, please visit our website to complete a short survey:
<https://westnipissingchamber.ca/>

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