

Harvestin' the County supper huge success in Wellington

BRUCE BELL
THE COUNTY

It was a festive mood here last Thursday as 1,000 people gathered on Main Street to enjoy the best of County cooking at the 3rd Annual Harvestin, the County supper.

Organizers said the dinner which is held to celebrate local farmers and locally grown food was a huge success as the huge crowd enjoyed the feast at tables stretching more than 200 metres down the village's main drag.

Rebecca LeHeup-Bucknell, executive director of Taste the County said the event appears to be gathering momentum each year

"I just can't believe how well this is doing," she said while watching some of the overflow crowd enjoy their meals from the comfort of the Main St. Park. "The first year in Bloomfield we had 350 people and last year in Milford there was 700, now we've had a complete sellout of 1,000 here this year. Honestly, we could have sold another 200 or 300 tickets judging by the calls and emails we received."

Once again, the meal was prepared entirely from food produced in Prince Edward County. This year Waring House Gourmet prepared the feast which featured 100 per cent County-raised beef from Carson Bay Farms; cheese platters from Black River Cheese; rainbow sweet pepper salad with peppers from Sunset Farms; roasted potato salad with potatoes from Cherryvale Organic Farm; heirloom toma-

to platters with basil from Vicki,s Veggies; butter basted corn on the cob from Lakeshore Farms; portobello mushrooms from Highline Mushroom Farm; multi-grain rolls from Pastry House; non-alcoholic sweet sparkling cider from the County Cider Company; and bottled water from Pure County Bottled Water.

Barbara Jennings, 42, of Toronto was in the area visiting family and said it was her first time taking in the festivities of the supper.

"I think it's just amazing that all these people are able to come out and enjoy a meal that is entirely locally grown," she said. "People here are so lucky to have this kind of food available and I hope they realize it when they shop."

As Mayor Leo Finnegan, Counc. Peter Mertens, MPP Leona Dombrowsky and MP Daryl Kramp joined scored of volunteers serving meals to a seemingly endless line of people,

Caroline Granger, owner of the Grange of Prince Edward Vineyards and Estate Winery, this year,s presenting sponsor said the night serves to strengthen the local agricultural community.

"This is a program that works and everyone here makes it work," she said. "Every time you buy something locally produced it works for our farmers and makes the agricultural community stronger."

While LeHeup-Bucknell could not say if the event would grow again next year, she said the

meal will move to the municipality,s largest urban centre and will be held on Picton,s Main Street.

"We could probably sell more tickets again next year but that takes the logistics up another level and I'm not sure how much more we can ask of our volunteers," she said.



Mayor Leo Finnegan and MPP Leona Dombrowsky help serve during Harvestin' the County supper.

A LITTLE WATER AND DESSERT



Bloomfield potter Peta Hall serves up some water and dessert during last week's Harvestin' the County supper in Wellington.

Bruce Bell photo