

# Taste! a treat for all of us

There's something a little extra tasty this year about an annual food event in Prince Edward County.

Taste! A Celebration of Local Cuisine is about to begin its seventh season. It's scheduled for Sept. 27 at the Crystal Palace just east of Picton's downtown.

The event's ability to market the county within the Quinte region and well beyond its borders has long been proven.

But this year, the event that promotes county food will also include a farmer's market — one with a social conscience.

Growers have agreed to donate proceeds from the market to Picton Food Bank.

"Farmers are the backbone of our community and they are so generous to us," said Pat Romkey, the food bank's executive director. "We don't just get meat and potatoes; we also get all kinds of other food and produce which helps us out so much.

"We would not be in existence without them," said Romkey.

That means Taste! is not only helping increase the county's wealth, but sharing it.

By drawing up to 2,500 tourists from Ottawa to Toronto, Taste! shows others the healthy and top-notch cuisine and products available in Prince Edward.

Judges with impressive resumés in the food industry help select the best of the best; a few talented musicians add to the atmosphere.

Even the kids will be entertained, with Prince Edward Fitness and Aquatic Centre providing child care for those 12 and under at the neighbouring curling club from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Register your child by

Sept. 26.)

Rebecca LeHeup-Bucknell is executive director of Taste the County, and in keeping with the philosophy of the event — and, to be fair, that of many events in this region — she notes it is one of many attractions happening that weekend.

"Taste is just another example of how we incorporate agriculture and tourism here in Prince Edward County," she said. "Not only can people come here and experience the event which is an amazing event in itself, but they can also enjoy the Taste Trail and Arts Trail while they're here.

"It's a beautiful time of the year to visit this area and we want to keep those tourists here for more than just the day on Saturday."

It's hard to argue with that kind of logic.

Taste! is a polished, well-conceived and well-executed event. We congratulate everyone involved, and look forward to seeing how it evolves.

In the meantime, it's encouraging to see such an event flourish here, and as of this year, to know the less fortunate will also be helped by this prosperity.

So whether you're new to the area or need some more insight into the tastes of Prince Edward County, it's time to get your ticket — so long as you're age 19 or older.

Tickets are \$15 and can be bought by calling 613-393-2796, by visiting the Taste the County office at 289 Main St. in Bloomfield, or through the website at [www.tastecelebration.ca](http://www.tastecelebration.ca).

Food-sampling tickets are 50 cents each, with most samples costing between one and six tickets.