



Rebecca LeHeup-Bucknell

Bruce Bell photo

# Taste! bids fond farewell to executive director

BRUCE BELL  
THE COUNTY

Prince Edward County tourism will soon lose one of its strongest voices locally, but will gain one at the provincial level at the same time.

Taste the County executive director Rebecca LeHeup-Bucknell will leave her post at month's end to assume the same role with the Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance (OCTA).

This weekend's Taste! event at Crystal Palace in Picton will be a fitting good-bye for LeHeup-Bucknell who has served as executive director of Taste the County since its inception in 1999.

She said she will be leaving the post with a heavy heart, but at the same time, is looking forward to promoting tourism and agriculture province wide.

"Sometimes you take the things you have for granted and I'm certainly going to miss getting up every morning and going to work

here with such amazing people," she said. "But on the other hand, moving on is the next logical step for me and the great thing is, we can still live here and that's important because Prince Edward County will always be home for us now."

A native of Toronto, LeHeup-Bucknell landed in the County, with generations of family ties, as a 20-year-old stricken with the travel bug. Although she didn't see as much of the world as she had planned, her odyssey began that will see her take over the inaugural executive director's post with the OCTA Oct. 1. She has served as co-chairperson with the organization since January.

After working at the Waring House and opening her own business, the Waupoos Warehouse,

she quickly moved into culinary tourism promotions, first as a volunteer with Taste the County and then as its first paid employee.

"We've come a long way since that first winter," she said with a laugh over a cup of coffee recently. "We have received so many accolades and quite a few awards but the most rewarding part of all of this has been the team we have developed. As a team, we are all as equally passionate about it and

that just makes it a lot of fun and rewarding at the same time."

Since its inception, Taste the County has worked in collaboration with the municipality's economic

development office as the driving force behind a number of programs to promote tourism in the county. **Continued on Page 11**

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