

Local chefs, farmers and food producers line up to support second annual Mayor's Gala

Perth County farmers, restaurant chefs and food producers donate hundreds of dollars of local product to treat guests at upcoming charity event.

Restaurant chefs, farmers and food producers in Perth County will donate everything from lamb sausage to devilled eggs to the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation, in support of its second annual Mayor's Gala, to be held Friday, January 14, 7:30 to 11 p.m. in the Stratford Festival Theatre Lobby. The gala will also feature entertainment from Stratford Shakespeare Festival artists Paul Nolan and Barbara Fulton with Paul Shilton, and the Michael Wood Jazz Trio.

"We've been overwhelmed by the response from Perth County's culinary community," says Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth Hachborn. "This year we've received donated product from over 20 restaurants, farmers and food producers – and I can tell you, it is going to be one delicious evening!"

Hosted by Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson, the Gala supports the operation of the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation. Like sister organizations across the country, the Foundation raises and administers endowed funds for the purpose of generating income, which is then returned to the community through grants to local charities. The Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation holds \$1 million in community endowments and has granted \$140,000 to local charities.

The highlight of the Gala will be the announcement and presentation of grants to local charities by representatives of the endowed funds.

Food donations set to appear on plates at next week's Gala include local pork, beef and lamb, as well as unique canapés from local restaurants, gourmet popcorn, hand-made chocolates and a stunning "Tuxedo Nocturne" dessert from the Wildstone Bar and Grill at the Stone Willow Inn in St. Marys.

"It's a win-win-win situation: farmers, restaurateurs and food producers showcase their product at an exciting event; the Foundation lowers fundraising costs; and the guests enjoy delicious food created and produced right here in Perth County," says Ms Hachborn.

Lead sponsors for the event are Culliton Brothers Limited, Scotiabank, and Toronto-based legal firm Aird & Berlis LLP.

Tickets are \$80 each and are available online at spccf.ca, or by calling Ticket Window at 877-700-3130. A charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.

2011 Mayor's Gala – Hospitality Partners

Alexa's Café, Sebringville
Diamond Estate Wines, Beamsville
Erbcroft Farms, Sebringville
Herlick's Meats, Stratford
M&M Meat Shops, Stratford
Mornington Dairy, Millbank
Mrs. Foster's Popcorn, St. Marys
Pazzo Pizzeria, Stratford
Perth County Beef Farmers Association/ Tim
Yungblut Meats, Tavistock
Perth County Dairy Farmers/ Countryside
Poultry & Cheese, Listowel

Perth County Egg Farmers
Perth Pork Products, Sebringville
Raja Fine Indian Cuisine, Stratford
Rheo Thompson Candies, Stratford
Simple Fish & Chips, Stratford
Stratford Chefs School, Stratford
Tenderbuff Water Buffalo/Food at your
Fingertips, Stratford
The Parlour, Stratford
The Sun Room, Stratford
Wildstone Bar & Grill at the Stone Willow
Inn, St. Marys

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