



Elgin County
Progressive by Nature

E-NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2017

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Business Profile

La Houlette De Vie - Nourishing, Nutrient Rich Bread in Elgin County



If you've ever fantasized about running off to the french countryside to pursue your true passions, Seth Wiggin's story is one you might be interested in. Seth spent his childhood in Port Stanley but left the area to pursue his education and

subsequently his career in civil engineering. He travelled for a while after graduation visiting England and France where he ended up spending some time learning to make cheese on an organic goat cheese farm.

After finishing his travels and returning to Canada, he lived and worked in Toronto for a time. While at home in Canada he longed for the fresh, delicious bread he enjoyed on a daily basis in France and decided to experiment with natural ferment/ sourdough bread at home. He quickly realized that his current career path did not interest him and he decided to return to France and the cheese farm. He soon realized that his passion for cheese lay in consuming it – not creating it; however, he was still very interested in learning to bake bread in a traditional french way. He began working at the Boulangerie Les Copains a bakery cooperative, and ended up staying for four years gaining an intimate knowledge of artisanal bread making.

After returning to the Port Stanley area, Seth made the acquaintance of Ken and Martha Laing, owners of Orchard Hill Farm just west of Sparta. The farm's idyllic rural setting, with its rolling hills and stunning vistas, is reminiscent of the French countryside. The 93 acre organic farm is powered by Suffolk Punch draft horses and provides fresh fruits and vegetables for approximately 100 families through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Using grains grown and milled on-site at Orchard Hill Farm, Seth launched his bread making business, La Houlette De Vie.

La Houlette De Vie translates to "The Staff of Life" a phrase that makes reference to bread's role as an important diet staple the world over. Seth believes that bread being a staple should be nourishing and nutrient rich. His decision to return to his roots has been Elgin County's gain as residents now have access to fresh handmade artisanal breads crafted in the french style.

All La Houlette De Vie doughs are naturally fermented and made with only flour, water, sourdough, and salt. Seth then adds any nuts, fruit, or seeds to the mixture. Breads are then baked to perfection in an authentic wood-fired stove built on-site at Orchard Hill Farm. This is a process that can take up to 24 hours from start to finish; however, according to Seth, it is well worth the wait.

"Good bread takes time," he says. "This is bread that will fill you up for hours with nutrients that aren't found in bread that has been mass produced."



Some of the mouth watering selections offered by La Houlette De Vie include baguettes with crisp crusts; wheat breads with flax and sunflower seeds; buckwheat flour bread with organic cranberries; 100% Rye bread; and, Walnut - Raisin Bread.

Seth's bread can be purchased at the Horton Farmers' Market, the Covent Garden Market, the Stratford Slow Food Market, at Orchard Hill Farm, at Common Ground Farm, and by special order. For more information about La Houlette De Vie visit lahoulettebakery.com.

Community Resource

Funding for Vibrant Local Events



Attention all Elgin County festival and event organizers! Elgin County is pleased to present the Festival and Event Partnership Program (FEPP) again in 2017. The program provides funding to qualifying local groups that take it upon themselves to develop the vibrant festivals and events that make Elgin's communities great.

In 2017, the FEPP will provide up to \$4,000 of funding to support several qualifying festivals and events across the County. Elgin supports festivals and events because they are an important representation of the area's culture, attract visitors to the County, retain local spending; and enhance the quality of place within the community.

Festivals and events are eligible to apply for funding provided that they are located within Elgin County and meet the following goals:

1. Increase the amount of people that visit Elgin;
2. Increase the length visitors stay; and,
3. Increase the amount of money that visitors spend.

In 2016 the Off the Wall Art Show, Port Stanley Harbourfest, the Strawberry Fields Kite Festival, and Cactus, Cattle and Cowboys were successful in receiving funding.

A copy of the FEPP application can be downloaded by visiting the County of Elgin's Tourism website.

Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 7, 2017 to qualify. If you have questions about this program, call the Economic Development Department at (519) 631-1460 ext. 164 or send an e-mail to jedebackere@elgin.ca.

Local Event

Celebrating Ontario Food and Farming



On June 24, 2017, Breakfast on the Farm will be hosted at the Donkers Family Farm near Shedden, Ontario. This is the first time that the event has been held on an Ontario dairy goat farm.

It will be the seventh Breakfast on the Farm hosted by Farm & Food Care Ontario since 2013. To date, almost 12,000 people have been fed, entertained and engaged at the events. Organizers are expecting between 2,500 and 3,000 people to attend the June event.

Breakfast on the Farm provides a unique opportunity for farmers and non-farming Ontarians to have a conversation about food and farming. It gives visitors the chance to visit a real working farm, provides a showcase for agriculture and gives non-farmers the opportunity to have their questions answered by real farmers.

After being treated to an all-Ontario breakfast featuring eggs, pancakes, sausage and more, visitors will be able to tour the dairy goat farm and meet hundreds of goats. Interactive stops around the farm will include many displays, activities and exhibits that showcase other types of farms in Ontario. There will also be more than 100 Ontario farmers on hand to answer guests' questions about food and farming.

This year's event is taking place at Donkers Family Farm near Shedden. The farm has been owned and operated by the Donkers family for 55 years. Today, it's run by Ed Donkers who milks 900 goats – with about 1700 goats on the farm in total. Milk from the farm is used in the production of specialty cheeses which is one of the fastest growing markets in Ontario agriculture.

Donkers said that he is excited to be hosting this year's event. "I've been wanting to host an open house like this for several years," he commented. "Partnering with Farm & Food Care on Breakfast on the Farm is a great way of showing the public how goats are raised and cared for on Ontario farms.

This event will run from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm, with breakfast being served until 11:30 a.m. The farm tours wrap up by 1:00 p.m. It is a free event, though preregistration is required. The first 2,000 visitors are guaranteed breakfast.

Breakfast tickets can be obtained by visiting www.FarmFoodCareON.org. For further information:

Kelly Daynard, Interim Executive Director, 519-837-1326, extension 224; kelly@farmfoodcare.org

Summer Company Spaces Available



Summer Company

YOU BE THE BOSS.

Training, support and grant funding to help students run a business this summer.

Email mkerkvliet@sbecinnovation.ca or call 519-631-1680 ext 4504



OUT THERE CREATIVE THERAPY PRESENTS

STANDUP



A NIGHT OF COMEDY

AND SILENT AUCTION

Friday, March 31, 2017

Comics look at the lighter side of mental health.

Show 8-10 p.m. Doors Open 7:00 p.m.

Port Stanley Festival Theatre

6-302 Bridge St, Port Stanley, ON N5L 1C3

Tickets \$15.00 (+admin fee)

Visit www.portstanleytheatre.ca or call 519.782.4353

Funded & Supported by:



United Way
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CREATIVE THERAPY
www.otctherapy.ca



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Elgin County
Mental health for all

Local Event

Connect with Dutton Dunwich

Connect with Dutton Dunwich



Friday March 31st from 7-9 pm
Dutton Dunwich Community Centre



Kick off Ontario's 150th Anniversary of Confederation with the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich by celebrating local culture. Connect with Dutton Dunwich organizations while enjoying local food and entertainment.



Local Food Samples



Local Entertainment



Local Organizations

Please RSVP for this free event to Karen Etherington
At 519-762-2204 or ketherington@duttondunwich.on.ca



Municipality of Dutton Dunwich

