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## **Savour Stratford Perth County Invites Public to Assist with September Culinary Festival**

(Stratford, ON) Planning is underway with Stratford and Perth culinary businesses and associations for **Savour Stratford Perth County Culinary Festival this September 26-27, 2009**. Expanding from Savour Stratford, the two day showcase of food producers, chefs and the culinary community will celebrate the best of Perth County's abundant harvest season. A public meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Stratford City Hall Auditorium** to outline the 2009 Festival and recruit committee members and volunteers.

The executive committee in charge of organizing the feast for the senses is expanding and enhancing the two day event, with a more participants, music, activities, community partnerships and programming that will offer something for everyone and every taste.

The Stratford Tourism Alliance, with other partners, will support the expansion for the 2009 festivities as part of its long term culinary tourism development programme.

Eugene Zakreski, Executive Director of the Stratford Tourism Alliance, said "Last year's successful festival indicated that Stratford can establish itself as an important Ontario culinary tourism destination, not only attracting a large number of visitors but local crowds. It has convinced the Stratford and Perth County food industry that there is a real opportunity to build their profile and promote and sell their quality products." "With the new investment we will highlight Stratford and area's extraordinary culinary culture," proclaims Mr. Zakreski, "this two-day event could have a positive economic impact on the region of over \$3 million. That's more than double the estimated economic imprint left on the region after the 2008 event."

The Savour Stratford Perth County executive committee is pleased to announce its new partner, The Stratford Perth Museum will host their annual "Flavors of Perth" barbeque fundraiser on Saturday evening at York Street. The committee has also invited the York Street merchants to take part in new programming for the York Street area. Robert Pel, owner of RKilts on York Street has joined the Savour Stratford Perth executive.

Danielle Brodhagen, Program Development for the Stratford Tourism Alliance and Chair of the Culinary Festival, was very pleased with last year's festival overall but is confident that, with the assistance of Perth County residents, this year's festival will be markedly superior. Ms. Brodhagen said, "We received a lot of great feedback and to increase the celebration's accessibility and appeal."

The committee encourages all who enjoyed the weekend and would like to help with to the festival to attend the meeting on February 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Stratford City Hall Auditorium.

### **For more information:**

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