



# Eastern Ontario Local Food 2016 Conference

For Immediate Release  
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## Regional Conference Features Local Food Tour

QUINTE WEST/ BELLEVILLE, (ON) – Local food producers, processors and champions from across Eastern Ontario will be in the Quinte region this fall to attend the Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference. The conference will kick off with a tour of local food hotspots, including farms, factories, a winery and more.

The November 22<sup>nd</sup> tour will visit Sprague Foods, Barn Owl Malt/Wild Card Brewing Co., Enright Cattle Company, Potter’s Settlement Winery and Donnandale Farms. Following the tour, conference attendees are invited to Town Place Suites for the Local Food Extravaganza tasting event. This evening event will showcase local foods and beverages from culinary regions across Eastern Ontario.

The conference full agenda has been released and registration is open for the sixth annual conference hosted by the Cities of Belleville and Quinte West, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. This year’s conference theme, **“Mission: Resilience”**, explores the impact of climate change on the local food system, and the opportunities and challenges it creates.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> the conference program kicks off at the Maranatha Church with keynote speaker Sarah Elton, a Toronto-based journalist and best-selling author. Sarah’s keynote will address the increased recognition and importance of building resilience into our local food systems. Ideas and innovation around the theme of ‘Resilience’ will continue throughout the morning with words of wisdom and inspiration from ten local food trailblazers.

Following a delicious local food lunch, the afternoon will include nine sessions in three streams: Sustainability, Infrastructure and Business Support. Sustainability sessions will offer scientific information about growing conditions in the region and the challenges and opportunities those conditions present; OMAFRA’s senior economist explains how local food systems are being affected, and producers and food businesses share how they have prepared to meet future challenges. Infrastructure sessions will look at food hubs, hear from farmers who have used infrastructure innovations to adapt to climate change, and municipalities will learn how agriculture presents an economic development opportunity. The Business Support sessions will share how producers and food businesses plan and structure for resilience, how a region has shone a spotlight on local food producers in the retail environment, and costing and pricing your product for profit.

The conference draws more than 200 participants each year from a broad range of sectors and counties in Eastern Ontario and beyond. Online registration, exhibitor information, and a full copy of the program agenda are available at [eastontlocalfood.ca](http://eastontlocalfood.ca).

Get the latest on the Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference on Facebook and on Twitter @EOLocalFood #EOLFC16.

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