



Eastern Ontario Local Food 2016 Conference

For Immediate Release
September 13, 2016

Journalist and best-selling author Sarah Elton to deliver keynote address at Local Food Conference November 23

QUINTE WEST/ BELLEVILLE, (ON) – Local Food producers, processors and champions will converge on the Quinte area this fall to attend the Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference where they will tour local food hotspots, enjoy a tasting of Eastern Ontario local foods, and learn from a number of speakers and experts, including “Locavore” author, Sarah Elton.

Registration is now open for the sixth annual Eastern Ontario Local Food 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”**, will explore the impact of climate change on the local food system, and the opportunities and challenges it creates. A highlight of the program is the keynote address by Sarah Elton on November 23.

Elton is a Toronto-based journalist and best-selling author. Her first book *Locavore: From Farmers’ Fields to Rooftop Gardens, How Canadians Are Changing the Way We Eat* won Gold at the Canadian Culinary Book Awards and was named one of Amazon’s top 50 books of 2010. Her second book titled *Consumed: Food for a Finite Planet* made the national bestseller list in its first week and is based on Elton’s reporting on the sustainable food movement in countries such as India and France. Elton has written for publications such as Maclean’s Magazine, The Globe and Mail and The New York Times, and is the food columnist for CBC Radio One’s Here and Now. Says Elton about the conference theme: "Farmers, food producers and the people in the communities they feed in Ontario are increasingly recognizing the importance of building resilience into our local food systems. This will be an important coming together of ideas and innovation."

Once again this year, a pre-conference local food tour will be held on November 22, with stops throughout the Quinte Region that demonstrate resilience in the agriculture and culinary sectors. Later that evening, an Eastern Ontario Local Food Extravaganza will feature tastes from across Eastern Ontario.

In addition to touring and tasting, participants will have the opportunity to collaborate with local food stakeholders, be inspired by speakers and network with peers and industry experts. The conference draws 200+ participants each year from all sectors and all counties in Eastern Ontario and beyond.

Content this year will focus on building resilience in the local food sector. The sessions will concentrate primarily on sustainability, infrastructure, and business development.

Online registration, exhibitor information, and a copy of the program agenda are available at eastontlocalfood.ca.

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

- 30 -

For more information:

Jennifer Rushlow
Tourism Coordinator
Economic Development & Tourism Services
City of Quinte West
613-392-2841 x 4479
jenniferr@quintewest.ca

Elisha Purchase
Development & Tourism Assistant
Economic & Strategic Initiatives
The Corporation of the City of Belleville
613-967-3221
epurchase@city.belleville.on.ca