

Mad about Maple in the County

Visitors and organizers don't let Saturday's rain dampen enthusiasm for sweet harvest

By Ross Lees
Editor

It rained on the Maple in the County parade, so to speak, on Saturday, but it did not dampen the enthusiasm of participants or organizers.

In fact, they came out stronger than ever on Sunday, according to many participants and organizers of this celebration of the first agricultural harvest of the year.

Even Saturday morning, it appeared sugarbush operators were doing a booming breakfast business prior to the downpours later in the day.

"Yes, we slacked of quite a bit on Saturday afternoon because it was such inclement weather," Janice Hubbs, the President of the Quinte Local of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association of Hubb's sugarbush stated Monday. "But we more than made up for it yesterday (Sunday). We had two busloads of cadets from Ottawa come in. It was still cloudy and cool, but it didn't seem to have any effect on the visitors."

Running the longest established sugarbush breakfast in the Quinte area, Hubbs said she feels some of it is just tradition.

"They come on that Sunday morning no matter what," she noted.

Syrup producers were granted a last minute sap run by Mother Nature just hours before Maple in the County was to kick off, Hubbs indicated.

Sap began to run a little on Wednes-

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Gazette photo by Ross Lees

Tasty Treat – Customers were lined up to get some of the tasty pancakes the Lake Lodge No. 215 was preparing at the Hubb's Sugarbush Saturday morning as part of the Maple in the County. The man above looks like he can hardly wait to begin digging into the pancakes as the heated maple syrup is poured over them.

