



INTELLIGENCER PHOTO BY JACK EVANS

Owners of the new mini-brewery, Barley Days Brewery, Christopher and Nora Rogers make a ceremonial toast using the first batch of the brewery's new Sugar Shack Ale to be available in time for the festival during a media day event held in the brewery on Thursday.

March 29-30

County gearing up for popular maple festival

By Jack Evans
FOR THE INTELLIGENCER

Prince Edward County tourism promoters seem bound to make the county the mecca of maple for the seventh annual Maple in the County Festival.

Details of the event, set for the weekend of March 29 to 30, were unveiled at a media gathering in the recently opened Barley Days Brewery where the mini-brewery's first batch of a specially created Sugar Shack Ale made with maple syrup from Vader's sugar bush at East Lake was ceremonially sampled.

Also unveiled was a complete new look for the Mabel the Maple Leaf mascot with bright red colourings and a big smile. The life-sized character was originally unveiled last year as a mapleleaf-shaped caricature in a dull rusty colour and no smile.

Rebecca LeHeup-Bucknell, executive director of Taste the County, recounted for those who attended the kick-off that Prince Edward has won a provincial award for the festival, recognizing it as among the top 100 festival events across Ontario last year.

She cited some 34 participating organizations and businesses as taking part in the coming festival, eight more than last year and two fun-packed weekend days with activities for all ages, including special treats and events for children.

One of the key partners again is the Picton Business Improvement Association, which will offer special indoor and on-street entertainment and fun on the Saturday, March 29.

Other key partners include the County of Prince Edward and the County Weekly News, 95.5 Classic Hits Radio Station, with The Waring House complex operated by

Christopher and Nora Rogers as overall sponsor.

Other participants, scattered all over the county, include Gilmour's Meat Shop and Deli, Rossmore; Sweetwater Cabin and Hubb's Sugar Bush, Lake Lodge (Masonic); Prince Edward Stewardship Council, Carmel Estates Winery, By Chadsey's Cairns Winery, Integration Gourmet, Wellington; Copper Kettle Chocolate Company, Wellington; Wight's Greenhouse and Flowers, Wellington; Fields on West Lake (Henry-Ostrander Barn) Bloomfield; Angeline's Restaurant Inn and Spa, Bloomfield; Isaiah Tubbs Resort, West Lake; Fosterholm Farms, East Lake; Vader's Maple Syrup, East Lake; Barley Days Brewery; Waring House; Honey Wagon Farms; Stones Maple Syrup; Picton Maple Madness (business association); Paper Images Gallery; The Painted Peppercorn, Picton; The Bean Counter Café, Picton; Buddha Dog, Picton; Celebrations Gourmet-to-go, Picton; Regent Theatre Foundation; County Fiddle and Dance Fest; Picton Harbour Inn; Claramount Inn and Spa; Harvest Restaurant, Picton; The County Cider Company, Waupoos; Waupoos Estates Winery; Pat's Jams, Black River; Black River Cheese; Milford Bistro and J and C Nyman Farms.

Besides the traditional maple cheddar cheese created by Black River Cheese Factory and a maple-based ale by the Barley Days Brewery, LeHeup-Bucknell also announced a maple-based wine will also be available along with traditional treats like maple snow taffy and maple-coated popcorn, a maple-bake-off and bake sale and more.

Brochures outlining all events and a map for locations are now available at many locations in and around the county and details are also available online at: mapleinthecounty.ca.