

Maple magic back for another year

By Jason Parks
Gazette Staff

The seventh session of Prince Edward County's favourite syrupy sweet celebration commences at the end of March.

Maple in the County, a two day festival celebrating all things involved with the local maple syrup industry, runs March 29 and 30 at various sap shanties, restaurants and even wineries.

A listing of locations and events was announced alongside a fresh seasonal offering from Barley Days Brewery at the Maple media event recently at the County's newest lager and ale producing facility.

Rebecca LeHeup-Bucknell, executive director for Taste the County, said Maple,

the two day self guided tour recently named one of the "Top 100 Ontario Festivals" in 2008 by Festivals and Events Ontario (The province's professional association for the festivals and events industry) will have over 34 sites this year.

"The great thing about Maple in the County is that it's a festival event that encompasses all kinds of businesses that feature or have a key component of maple syrup in their operations," LeHeup-Bucknell said.

Whether it's the pancake breakfast opportunities at Fosterholm Farms or Hubb's Sugarbush, the Picton Maple Mad-

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ness Celebration and Sale on Picton's Main and Elizabeth streets or maple themed tasting menus at various wineries and restaurants, the event has something for everyone.

The presenting sponsor of the event is The Waring House Restaurant, Inn, Conference Centre and Cookery School and Owners Chris and Norah Rogers hosted the media gathering at their Barley Days brewery, where the drop cloth was pulled back on Sugar Shack Ale.

Bottled last Wednesday, the light presentation features drops of Vader maple syrup and features an Aiden Haley rendition

of the Vader sap house on the bottle's label.

Chris Rogers said he's excited about the prospects of another successful maple event coupled with the rollout of limited edition beer.

"We don't have a ski hill, but we have events like maple to help draw people here," he added.

Organizers of the event wished to point out the Honey Wagon Farms event has been cancelled this year due to owner Ed Taylor's recent illness, although LeHeup-Bucknell hoped to have the stop reinstated for 2009.

For a full listing of events, visit www.mapleinthecounty.ca.