



Ottawa Valley FARM SHOW

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OTTAWA MAYOR TO OPEN 2012 FARM SHOW

March 5, 2012.

Mayor Jim Watson will officially open the 2012 Ottawa Valley Farm Show March 13, the 85th anniversary of the event which debuted in Renfrew County as a rotating seed exhibition.

Watson will officiate March 13 at 12 noon during the first show to be held at the city's new CE Centre on Uplands Drive. Prior to this year, the OVFS spent more than half a century at Lansdowne Park where it evolved into the largest agricultural trade show in Ontario east of Toronto. Proud of his own agricultural connections, the mayor is expected to welcome the event and say a few words about the importance of the industry within the city. He'll be thanked by Bruce Hudson, president of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association, an Ottawa farmer based at Kinburn. The Seed Growers have sponsored the farm show since its inception, returning a large percentage of the proceeds to the Eastern Ontario agricultural community and supporting such causes as the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

In addition to booths mounted by some 360 exhibitors, highlights of the 2012 OVFS will include the annual Pedigreed Seed Sale for CHEO, seed growers awards presentation, several seminars in meeting room B, extensive 4-H displays in meeting rooms C and D, and a large presentation by Vintage Iron and Traditions of Eastern Ontario, also in C and D.

Dedicated to protecting and promoting agricultural and rural customs and artifacts, VITEO members met at the Galetta home of Barry Dean March 4 to finalize their participation in the show. As both a director of VITEO and of the Seed Growers, Dean is coordinating the club's display of assorted artifacts.

Seed competition entries from across the region, the centrepiece of the farm show, will be judged March 10 at the Vernon Recreation Centre, with winners on view at the Seed Growers booth, number 1231.

The show is taking up the CE Centre's entire 120,000 square-feet of exhibit space, with about 20 prospective exhibitors remaining on a waiting list. There are also several exhibitors outside at the front of the building.

The OVFS routinely draws 10-12,000 visitors but Hudson expects a greater turnout this year as Eastern Ontario farmers and other rural residents who may not have attended for awhile come out to see the new, more accessible venue. "There's a lot of curiosity out there about how the show is going to look at the CE Centre. I think we'll not only draw more from the region but also from further afield."

Admission is \$10, children under 12 free when accompanied by parents. The show occurs during March Break and the Seed Growers welcome the farmers of the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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