



Ottawa Valley FARM SHOW

Official Ag Business Partner



2015 OVFS WILL FLY THE FLAG HIGH AND PROUD

February 11, 2015

Ottawa Valley Farm Show management has decided to add fanfare and a dash of patriotism to the 88th edition March 10-12. For the first time ever, farm show directors will be piped up to the podium at 12 noon on opening day (March 10). They'll be easily identified in new burgundy and gold gear designed to make them more conspicuous throughout the show when visitors have questions about booth locations or other topics.

Also for the first time, tribute will be paid to the Canadian military; O Canada will be sung, and the Maple Leaf will be raised to stand proud for the entire show. A bagpiper, singer, and Canadian Armed Forces representation has been arranged. "We often travel to farm shows and fairs in the U.S. to see how others do it," said John Roosendaal, president of Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association which sponsors the Ottawa show. "We've been struck by the patriotism and pride in the military demonstrated at the American shows. We don't do enough of that in Canada and we thought we could start the ball rolling."

Among other attractions at the 2015 OVFS will be the Seed Growers Awards and display, the Pedigreed Seed Sale with proceeds going to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, the annual guest artist, a chainsaw sculptor who'll carve an oversized corn cob to be sold at the auction, guess the weight of the fiberglass bull and brass bell contest, antiques, quilt and 4-H displays, and OFA tailgate luncheon.

In preparation for the seed awards, judging will take place March 7 at the Greely Community Centre not far from the main show venue. Qualified judges from across Eastern Ontario take part every year in selecting the top seed crops to feature at the show.

Some 350 exhibitors will be on hand at the OVFS with the latest in farm machinery, equipment, and services. In addition to machinery companies, seed dealers, agricultural organizations and financial institutions are well represented.

Farm show management would like to remind its guests that, this year, the event doesn't land during Ontario Spring Break. "It's the way the calendar works out every five or six years," said General Manager Tom Van Dusen. "We expect many farm kids to show up anyway, with their parents taking them out of school for a day because they understand the educational value of the farm show."

Van Dusen said he loves seeing children on site because they're the farmers of tomorrow following in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents who routinely attend the show in preparing for the new growing season.

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