

Feast of Fields presents outdoor extravaganza Sunday

By Mark Pavilons

High-caliber chefs will present the ultimate outdoor banquet this Sunday, during the annual Feast of Fields event in King. The 24th annual event will be held Sept. 8 at Cold Creek Conservation Area on the 11th Concession, just east of Bolton. It's a day that's sure to please any palate and visitors can get up close and personal with some of Ontario's best chefs and finest organic products.

The longest running organic festival of its kind in Canada, Feast of Fields brings together 100 vendors in one location. You'll be treated to sophisticated dishes and beverages in a fun, relaxing atmosphere that celebrates food and experiencing new dishes. Field of Fields, a feather in the cap of the Organic Advocates group, continues to grow exponentially. The event brings quality and sophistication to food, giving patrons great value and a chance to sample one-of-a-kind creations. The event also has its fair share of personalities.

Visitors can enjoy the antics of Ted Reader, known as the "kingpin of the barbecue." The author, entertainer and showman will bring his mobile unit to the grounds to help novices become "masters of the flame."

Emerie Brine, brand manager and chef at Bernardin Ltd., will be on deck.

Meet Brad Livergant, chef at Toronto's The Fifth Grill & Terrace.

Visit the booth manned by Wanda Beaver, of Wanda's Pie in the Sky bakery.

"We are delighted to be returning to Cold Creek Conservation Area. The location was a hit for the last three years. Every year the event gets bigger and bigger. As the organic, local food movement is raising consciousness of the food we eat and drink, more and more people are making the event a staple of their fall outings," said chef Daniel Gilbert, event founder.

"We are thrilled to partner with Organic Advocates for this great sustainable event and thank them for contributing to the construction of a shaded pavilion at Cold Creek. The Township supports and nurtures the local sustainable food movement through community and tourism festivals and events such as Feast of Fields," said King Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

While intended to be a sumptuous leisurely experience, the underlying theme of the Feast of Fields is the connection between organic food producers and consumers.

There's a long list of vendors from restaurants, organic farms, breweries, wineries, artisans and non-profit groups on tap, to provide a full-bodied experience.

Organic farms include Beretta Farms, Black Willo Elk, k2Milling, Leitch's Honey, Pioneer Honey, and HempolaValley Farm to name a few.

Refreshments will be provided by several large and craft brewers and wineries such as Pelee Island Winery, Reimer Vineyards and Sandbanks Estate Winery.

Artisans will offer everything from teas and coffees to soaps, gifts and health food items.

Visitors will enjoy watching the chefs in action, and sampling their on-site creations during the day. Many have incredible displays and fire pits and you can get up close to learn a few things along the way.

Entertainment during the afternoon will be provided by George St. Kitts, a Juno Award-nominated R&B singer and promoter. He's known for his performances in "The Lion King" and as Sammy Davis Jr. in "The Rat Pack."

The Organic Advocates and Feast of Fields also connects restaurants, chefs and food producers through an ongoing network and visits to trade and industry shows.

Feast of Fields is the signature event of Organic Advocates. Originating in 1989, as a modest walkabout featuring urban cuisine in a rural setting, it has become an eagerly anticipated annual event. Imagine strolling through a sweet smelling field, sampling dozens of fresh, succulent organic creations, accompanied by local wines and beers, and you will get a taste of Feast of Fields.

The event draws visitors from all across the province, Quebec and even northern New York State.

The event also gives back. The group helped build the permanent open pavilion at Cold Creek, a functional facility for community events. The Advocates also pitched in and created the Children's Garden, an organic garden for hands-on learning garden for local children. They also support programs at the University of Guelph.

Feast of Fields takes place from 1-5 p.m. Sept. 8. To purchase the \$100 tickets by phone please call: 905-859-3609 or email them at tickets@feastoffields.org. Visit their website at www.feastoffields.org for more.