



April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

For Immediate Release

### **2021 North & Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference**

The Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) and the County of Renfrew have come together to co-host the 2021 North & Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference virtually, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). This year's theme is "Local Food More Than Ever", and the sessions will explore the hard-won lessons from a global pandemic that can help strengthen local food businesses and organizations.

Previously, this extremely successful event was held in Eastern Ontario only, bringing together those in the local food industry to learn and network. With the constantly changing pandemic, the opportunity to deliver the conference virtually has allowed the conference to be extended to include Northern Ontario. This new format will be delivered over a series of free webinars exploring diverse perspectives on local food.

Throughout March, each session will start at 10:00 a.m. (EST), with virtual participatory chef-led luncheons taking place at noon on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Sessions include:

- **March 10<sup>th</sup>** – "Local Food More Than Ever: Harvesting the Lessons of COVID-19"
- **March 17<sup>th</sup>** – "Navigating Agri-Tourism During a Pandemic" *with a chef-led "Taste of the North" participatory lunch at noon*
- **March 24<sup>th</sup>** – "Surviving and Thriving: The Resilience of Local Food"
- **March 31<sup>st</sup>** – "Innovations in the Local Food Frontier: Greenhouse, Vertical Farming, Aquaculture, Aquaponics" *with a chef-led "Taste of Renfrew County" participatory lunch at noon*

For more information or to register, please visit the [event page](#).

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#### **For more information:**

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### **About NOFIA:**

The Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides a research and innovation infrastructure for agriculture in Northern Ontario by creating partnerships with various groups to research, innovate and commercialize agricultural products and technologies for effective use in Northern Ontario. For more information, please visit [www.nofia-agri.com](http://www.nofia-agri.com).

### **About the County of Renfrew:**

**The County of Renfrew** is the upper tier municipality comprised of the federation of 17 lower tier municipalities and geographically also includes the City of Pembroke and the Algonquin's of Pikwakanagan First Nation. Renfrew County is the largest county in Ontario covering an area of 7,645 sq. km. with a population of approximately 108,000

Rural in nature and blessed with some of the most beautiful scenery in Ontario, Renfrew County traces the south shore of the historic Ottawa River, stretching west from the City of Ottawa for 220 km along the trans Canada highway and with Algonquin Park bordering the County to the Northwest.

Renfrew County is a landscape encompassing 900 lakes and carved by four river systems, the Petawawa, Bonnechere and Madawaska Rivers flowing out of Algonquin Park and into the historic Ottawa River. This part of the Ottawa Valley is the White Water Capital of Canada, featuring a plethora of outdoor recreational and elite sporting activities year round, including a world class motorsports race track, downhill skiing, water slides, zip-lines and numerous scenic and challenging golf courses.

Home to Canada's largest military base, **Garrison Petawawa** and one of Canada's leading research facilities, **Canadian Nuclear Laboratories**, Renfrew County also boasts a number of private businesses operating in aerospace, defence and security, advanced manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, healthcare, adventure tourism, retail, food services and hospitality.