



March 4, 2008

BIGGEST FARM SHOW COMING UP AT LANSDOWNE PARK MARCH 11-13

The biggest Ottawa Valley Farm Show ever is set to roll out at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa March 11-13. Some 330 exhibit spaces have been booked by everyone from large machinery dealers to providers of farm financial services, to agricultural lobby groups and other rural-based organizations, said OVFS general manager Tom Van Dusen.

“Every available square inch of inside space in Lansdowne’s show buildings is being used... and there are plenty of outdoor exhibits as well,” Van Dusen said. “Ironically, downtown Ottawa’s largest trade show in terms of space occupied is the farm show.

As usual, the centerpiece is the annual seed display held for the duration of the show on the Civic Centre Concourse, and the Seed Awards Ceremony Wednesday March 12 at 12 noon, also on the Concourse. Both are sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association which organizes the show on a non-profit basis and returns a good portion of the proceeds back into the Eastern Ontario rural and agricultural community by way of, for example, research grants and 4-H support.

“The seed component is what gave birth to the show 81 years ago in Renfrew County,” Van Dusen explained. “Much later, it was relocated to Lansdowne Park, machinery and other elements were added, and it became the show we know today... the largest agricultural trade show in Ontario east of Toronto.”

In addition to the awards ceremony, another highlight is the annual official opening at 12 noon Monday March 11 on the Concourse, with Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Geri Kamenz to say a few words, along with Osgoode’s Jeff and Eleanor Robinson, Ontario finalists in the 2008 Canada’s Outstanding Young Farmer competition.

And Thursday March 13 at 12 noon on the Concourse, Ottawa Mayor Larry O’Brien will welcome bidders to the annual Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Sale which has raised more than \$70,000 for CHEO. In addition to bags of seed, some other donated items will be auctioned off by Seed Growers director John Joynt, including a numbered print by Cavan artist Dave Gordon entitled “[Beauty of Farm Life](#)”.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [Tom Van Dusen](#), 613-445-3407.