



# ECFA

# 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL - ESSEX COUNTY FARM HIKER TOUR

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Message from the ECFA

Welcome to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Essex County Farm Hiker Tour. The Essex County Federation of Agriculture is pleased to be able to offer you this opportunity to **explore** the agri-food industry in Essex County. We would like you to know more about farmers and their commitment to this way of life. New innovation, specialization and persistence have helped Essex County farmers proudly produce top quality, abundant, safe and well priced products. These products are available from the farm, at local markets and, if you ask, even at your grocery store. Supporting your county farmer supports your local economy. Nothing tastes better than locally grown, fresh produce.

This tour provides lots of new things to see and learn for families and friends of all ages. All you **need** is a **car**, your **hiker map**, sturdy foot ware and an **open mind** to truly enjoy the day.

We wish to thank the farm families and agri-business hosts for opening their gates and sharing their knowledge.

*Enjoy the tour!*

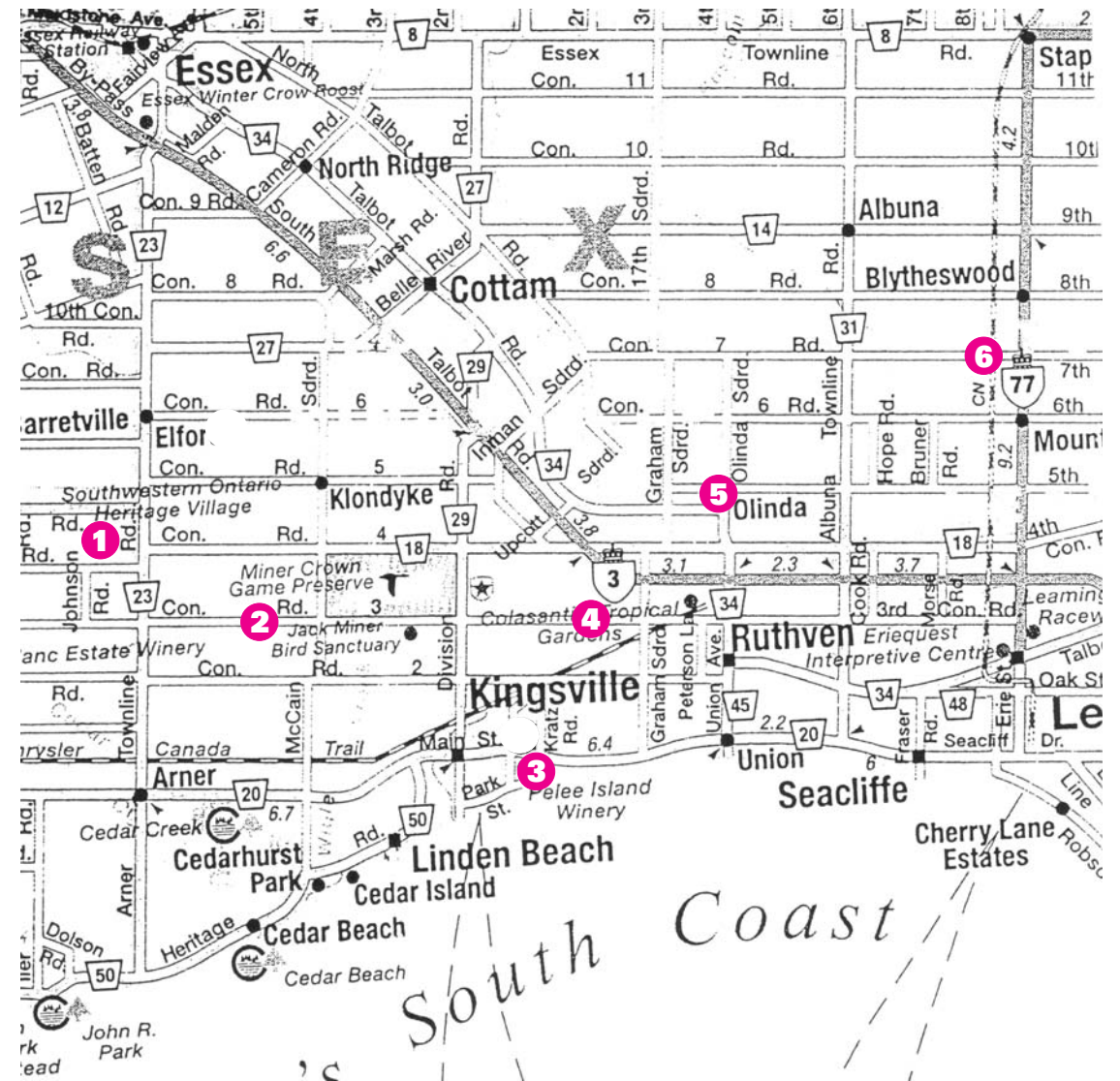
### SITES

1. Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village  
6155 Arner Townline (County Road 23), Kingsville
2. Denotter Farms  
1240 Road 3 West, Kingsville
3. Pelee Island Winery  
455 Seacliff Drive (County Road 20), Kingsville
4. Evmar Farms/Foxland Jerseys Inc.  
523 Road 3 East, Kingsville
5. Nickels Orchards  
1498 County Road 34, Ruthven
6. Windsor Farms Equine Centre  
528 Mersea Road 7, Leamington

*Farm Credit Canada will be collecting canned goods at **EVMAR FARMS** in support of their "Drive Away Hunger" program. This is a nation wide campaign with a goal of gathering over 500,000 pounds of food for local food banks. Alternatively, a cash donation of \$10 will buy a bag of groceries for your local food bank.*

*Together we can drive away hunger!!!*

Thank you to the Essex-Kent Junior Farmers for their assistance!



The Essex County Farm Hiker Tour is presented by:  
 Essex County Federation of Agriculture,  
 360 Fairview Avenue West, Suite 320, Essex, Ontario, N8M 3G4  
 Telephone: 519-776-5159 • Fax: 519-776-4671  
 Hours: Tue., Wed., Thur., 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 Website: [www.ecfa.ca](http://www.ecfa.ca)

***Brought to you by the dedicated farmers of Essex County.***

***Your Neighbours!***

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- Keep in mind the safety of the animals. Avoid any sudden noises or movements and please ask for permission from the farmer before physically interacting with the animals.
- DON'T FORGET TO WASH YOUR HANDS.
- Stay within the area of the site that has been designated for the tour.
- Please no food or drink inside any buildings.
- Consider all the sounds, sights and smells you are exposed to on the tour. You will experience pleasure at some sensations and possibly irritation at others.
- Plan ahead. Please review the map and site descriptions. You can start at any site. Watch for signs along the route for additional directions.
- Please do not bring pets or other animals on the tour.
- Dress for comfort. Good walking shoes and a hat are recommended because most of the activities will be outside.
- Ask questions! The farmers and volunteers will be happy to try and answer any questions you have about the sites.

**Farm Hiker 2008**

R C M K W D X N P W L O  
 E Q O A Y S A H X I Q M  
 C O R T C R N I Y A A H  
 U M C D W H E T R C P O  
 D S H W O B I N A Y E R  
 O C A R O L I N I A N S  
 R J R U I N A M E W M E  
 P M D C Q D L E R R A B  
 E G A T I R E H U Q Y A  
 W F Z A Q U A L I T Y C  
 O K N F A M I L Y A P K  
 S E L P P A E Q U I N E

APPLES	MACHINERY
CAROLINIAN	QUALITY
FACILITY	CANADIAN
HORSEBACK	EQUINE
PRODUCER	HERITAGE
BARREL	ORCHARD
DAIRY	WINERY
FAMILY	

**Word Scramble**

1. SUMMEU  
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2. DOISEELIB  
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3. AENIYVDR  
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4. SJEEYR  
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5. TDICIANOED  
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6. PEAIUTTHCRE  
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**Answers:**

1. MUSEUM 2. BIODIESEL 3. VINEYARD 4. JERSEY  
 5. DEDICATION 6. THERAPEUTIC

**DID YOU KNOW? .....**

- Essex County has 1740 total farms – approximately 3 % of the 2006 Ontario total. Over 1000 of these farms are primarily grain and oilseed crops like corn and soybeans.
- Ontario’s farmers and food processors are committed to ensuring that the foods they grow, raise and process are produced in the safest, most responsible manner possible.
- Cows come in different shapes, sizes and breeds. Dairy breeds tend to have thinner coats of hair and less muscle than beef cattle. The six common dairy breeds are Holstein, Jersey, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey and Milking Shorthorn.
- Therapeutic riding for the disabled has been recognized for years as physically, socially and educationally beneficial. Horseback riding can improve balance, co-ordination and strengthen muscles. Riders are challenged and rewarded with a sense of achievement.
- Horses produce about 10 pounds (4.5 KG) of manure per day.
- Apple growing is an involved and technically specialized science known as “pomology”.
- Pelee Island is the southernmost inhabited part of Canada, on the same latitude as Mendocino, California and Rome, Italy.
- The turn of the century farmer produced enough food for only 10 people and 50 cents of every dollar was spent on food. Today’s farmer can feed over 120 people and the cost is only 12.5 cents of every dollar earned. Canadians have one of the lowest grocery bills in the world.



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- 1 Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village**  
 The Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village is a non-profit registered charity designed to “Preserve the Past while Enhancing Our Future”. This 100 acre site is now home to 20 historical buildings from Essex County, the Transportation Museum and the new Ambulance Museum. On the Farm Hiker Tour, you will be able to step back in time and experience farm life from a century ago. The Ross Cabin will be open to display domestic labour on the farm, the barns will display farm equipment and the woodworking shed will be open as well. Homemade baking will be available in the cabin. For an additional donation, guided tours of the Transportation Museum, Ambulance Museum and the full Village is available. The gift shop and 50’s Diner is also open.
- 2 Denotter Farms**  
 Eric and Henry Denotter operate this large scale cash crop farm in the Kingsville area. The brothers have gradually taken over from their father and mother, Joe and Meis, who started the farm in 1967. Denotter Farms was the recipient of the 2000 Essex Conservation Farm Award and is featured in the recently published Carolinian Canada fact-sheet. Henry is an active member of the Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Essex Conservation Club. Come see this large farming operation and the display of tractors, combines and other modern farm machinery. Learn about bio-diesel and see how soybeans are converted into fuel in a farm shop-made processor. Talk to representatives from local environmental and agricultural organizations to find out how they help keep agriculture a sustainable part of our community while being responsible to the environment. Be sure to catch the tree planting demonstration.
- 3 Pelee Island Winery**  
 The Pelee Island Winery has a long history of wine making worth discovering. Explore your senses when you try a wine from Pelee Island. Naturally endowed with ideal soil and climate conditions, Pelee Island produces quality grapes which are made into award winning wines. Pelee Island Winery has grown internationally and has received accolades and awards since 1979. Visitors will be greeted by the friendly and knowledgeable winery staff. A tour of the wine facility which will include the stainless steel tanks, barrels and barrique room, press room and filtration area will be conducted. If you are over the age of 19 years, after the tour, you may be able to enjoy a taste of Pelee Island wine. The gift shop will be open for you to purchase your favourite vintage. Discover the taste of Pelee Island!
- 4 Evmar Farms/Foxland Jerseys Inc.**  
 This is a fourth generation family farm. It was formerly a beef and veal operation but just over a year ago, a dairy herd was added. The barn was renovated and is now home to 30 milking head of registered Jersey cattle as well as 45 head of young stock. You will have the chance to see animals ranging from new born calves to milking age. The Essex County 4-H Dairy Club will be there selling hamburgers and refreshments. Please join the Essex Kent Milk Producers to learn more about how and where milk is produced. Don’t forget – this is the stop where you can leave your canned goods and help to “Drive Away Hunger”.
- 5 Nickels Orchards**  
 Nickels Orchards is a family owned and operated farm since 1961. The farm consists of 135 acres of prime land. Peaches are a huge part of their production with approximately 80 acres of trees. On the tour, you will see apples, plums, pears and green bell peppers. The Nickels’ family is dedicated to producing a quality product. All of the produce will be available to purchase in the store that is open year round. Visitors will be able to walk around the packing shed and through the orchards. There will be guides along your path explaining the process of growing an apple tree to produce a quality product. People eat apples because they are enjoyable and refreshing as well as plentiful, economical and good for our health. Buy an apple today!
- 6 Windsor Farms Equine Centre**  
 Windsor Farms Equine Centre is owned and operated by Bill and Liz Windsor and their two sons, Brandon and Dylan. The farm sits on 48 acres and the house and original barn were built in the early nineteen hundreds. This equine facility has grown and now consists of barns and stalls for 36 horses, a 50 X 100 steel indoor riding arena, a 100 X 160 coverall riding arena, wash racks for bathing and an observation area for viewing lessons. Windsor Farms offers horseback riding lessons in several disciplines including Western, English and Dressage. Three years ago, Windsor Farms became a host facility for the Special Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Association. This organization, known as SpEqTRA, offers riding lessons to children and adults with special needs. This program is much needed and enrollment has doubled every year. The Hiker Tour will give you the opportunity to tour the facility, be introduced to several horses, learn what their day is like, view riding demonstrations and enjoy the food booth in support of SpEqTRA.

**This is a self-guided tour that allows you to pick and choose which farms you would like to visit. Signs will help guide you along the route.**