



ElginCounty
Progressive by Nature

E-NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2019

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Turning a passion into a career is the key to success for any business owner. For Mike Shore of Shore Bird Control he turned his love of birds of prey or as he likes to say “his expensive passion” into his career.

Shore Bird Control is a home-based business located in Central Elgin. At his home, Mike has a number of raptors including hawks, eagles, owls and falcons that he cares for each and every day. Mike travels across Southwestern Ontario with these raptors to offer business owners across the region with bird control services.

Mike notes that “wherever there is a bird problem, whether it is a factory, industrial land, a landfill, an airport, a home residence, or even a farm, [he] can spend the day flying my birds around to help mitigate the problem”.

Over the past few years, Mike has embarked upon a major project with the London Landfill. It’s no surprise, that a smelly place like the dump would attract a colony of seagulls. The waste that these seagulls ingest isn’t a natural or normal diet for these birds, which can end up poisoning and ultimately killing

them. This also acts as a safety hazard for other species, as well as the human population surrounding this area. This led staff at the London Landfill to find a solution to reduce the number of seagulls present within the landfill. To help mitigate this issue, Shore Bird Control was contacted to utilize his birds of prey to keep the unwanted seagulls from flocking to the landfill.



Mike Shore on site with one of his hawks at a bird control job.

Soaring to New Heights in Southwestern Ontario (Continued)

Another significant project for Shore Bird Control was executed at a blueberry farm, which once saw hungry berry-eating birds wipe out an entire crop in the span of a few days. With the help of his birds of prey, Mike successfully worked from sun up to sun down at the berry farm to halt this catastrophe from occurring again.

Mike and his raptors are able to help a wide variety of businesses and individuals in solving their bird problems. Although, he admits that once he started his business bird controlling became a saturated industry in the area. As a result of the vast competition, this encouraged Mike to share his passion with others in a more personal setting.



Now, Mike spends a fair amount of his time focusing on growing the entertainment side of his business. Mike's enthusiasm and passion for birds comes to life when he performs in front of an audience.

Whether he's presenting to a group of school children, residents at a retirement home, children at camp, or attendees to a fall fair, the audience is left in awe as they take in the sights of the beautiful creatures that Mike has so patiently and gracefully trained. Spectators become captivated by the beauty and flight patterns of the raptors he brings with him to his demonstrations. One can expect to see an owl and a hawk and even a falcon, depending on the location.

Mike ensures that his audience is captivated and engaged through teaching them about the characteristics of each species. Mike also showcases and explains how these birds of prey fly and how he is able to train them. Crowds are especially excited when he welcomes the audience to get up and personal with the birds, as he allows individuals to hold these magnificent creatures.

To learn more about Shore Bird Control or to book one of his services, Mike can be reached at (226) 926-4515 or mike@shorebirdcontrol.com. His services and photos can be found on his website www.shorebirdcontrol.com or on his Facebook Page.



Tap Into Elgin: Elgin's Maple Trail



With the sun shining and the temperatures rising, one can only dream that Spring is nearing in Elgin County. Until then, we can get through the last of winter by indulging in all things maple!

Maple syrup season typically runs between the end of February and into late March, when the weather conditions are ideal for sap collection. When the nights dip below freezing and the days become slightly warmer, this allows for the tree sap to flow. The warmer temperatures in the day let the tree sap that was once stored in the tree's roots meander up to the tree trunk, where the tree is then tapped and sap is collected.

Once the sap has been collected producers then boil it down which causes any excess water to evaporate. The boiling process transforms the sap into a dense and sweet consistency, until it becomes what we know as maple syrup. For every 40 litres of sap boiled, it only creates 1 litre of maple syrup.

Several producers even take this process a step further to create maple products such as maple candy, maple sugar, or even maple butter. Elgin is fortunate to have not one but five maple syrup producers in our County. Tap into *Elgin's Maple Trail* to discover the various historical methods of producing maple syrup from local maple connoisseurs, or take home a sweet treat to savour long after your maple adventure.

For over 75 years the spring air at **Aldred Maple Products** has been filled with the sweet smell of sap

steam coming from the old sugar shack, boiling down the Maple sap to a beautiful Golden Syrup for the family's own use and the enjoyment of many local neighbours. Now you too can enjoy their maple syrup by visiting their sugar shack and purchasing local Maple Syrup.

Palmer's Maple Syrup is proudly owned and operated, since 1956, and has been producing Premium Ontario Maple Syrup ever since. Visit them during March Break or on weekends in March for their annual maple syrup shanty events and breakfasts.

With 1100 taps, **Our Sugar Bush** is a family operated maple sugar bush that has been around for more than 40 years! It all started with a sugar bush, a log cabin, and a love to make maple syrup. Visit them during the maple syrup season to enjoy local maple syrup throughout the year.

Rodgers Maple Syrup is located 3km west of Port Stanley and has tapped 2,500 trees to produce high-quality maple syrup, fudge, and maple butter for all of you maple lovers out there! Stop by to purchase their maple goods and have a tour of their operations.

Make this March sweet with **Springwater Conservation Area's** Maple Syrup Festival. Enjoy wagon rides throughout the Springwater Forest. Tour the old-fashioned sugar shanty for demonstrations on maple syrup production. Purchase maple products or dine at their pancake house for a culinary delight which is operated by local community organizations.

Tap Into Elgin: Elgin's Maple Trail (Continued)



Pure maple syrup is 100% free of artificial flavours and additives, making it a natural sweetener. It can be used as a sugar substitute, as a glaze on meats or vegetables, in desserts, and of course, as a topping for a stack of fluffy pancakes.

Some of our local businesses even produce Maple products to tap into the maple season.

Quai du Vin Estate Winery makes Maple Wine, with locally sourced sap that is partially evaporated to preserve the golden colour and sweet aroma of maple sap.

Maple honey and maple honey spread can be found at **Clovermead Adventure Farm's** Honey Shop, just north of Aylmer, On.

Awaken your senses with the sweet smells of maple syrup by purchasing **Anything Used & Sparta Country Candles'** Sugar Shack candle. Get there soon, as this scent is a best seller in March!

Picard's Peanuts offers peanut lovers not only savoury treats but sweet maple caramel popcorn that will leave you wanting more.

With the days getting longer and the weather getting warmer, **Shaw's Ice Cream** is the perfect place to stop and indulge in their C-150 and Maple Walnut Ice Cream, which sources local maple syrup.

The possibilities are endless for your maple adventures in Elgin County. For more information about *Elgin's Maple Trail*, visit www.elgintourist.com/



Funding to Support Vibrant Local Events

Attention all Elgin County festival and event organizers! Elgin County is pleased to present the Festival and Event Partnership Program (FEPP) again in 2019. The program provides funding to qualifying local groups that take it upon themselves to develop vibrant festivals and events that showcase why life is beautiful in Elgin County's towns and villages!

In 2019, the FEPP will provide up to \$4,000 of funding to support qualifying festivals and events across the County. Elgin supports festivals and events because they are an important representation of the area's culture, attract visitors to the County, retain local spending; and enhance the quality of place within the community.

Festivals and events are eligible to apply for funding provided that they are located within Elgin County and meet the following goals:

1. Increase the amount of people that visit Elgin;
2. Increase the length visitors stay; and,
3. Increase the amount of money that visitors spend.

In 2018 the Off the Wall Art Show, Rosy Rhubarb, Bayham Beachfest, and Sparta Scarecrow Festival were successful in receiving funding.

A copy of the FEPP application can be downloaded by visiting the County of Elgin's Tourism website www.elgintourist.com.

Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 12, 2019 to qualify. If you have questions about this program, call Megan Shannon, Tourism Services Coordinator (519) 631-1460 ext. 164 or send an e-mail to mshannon@elgin.ca.



Quai du Vin Launches Exclusive Wine Club



Jamie and Kim Quai of *Quai du Vin Estates Winery* want to offer customers, old and new, with an exclusive experience. When their father Roberto Quai decided to take a step back from managing the family owned winery, this sparked the duo to embark on a new and delectable journey! With wine, food, shopping, and community at the forefront of the winery's future, Quai du Vin launched a Wine Club to showcase their wine to wine-lovers, near and far, with products that are exclusive to being a member.

After being asked numerous times by loyal customers if they would consider a wine club, and with the growing popularity of subscription boxes, Quai du Vin officially launched its wine club in February 2019. These shipments, called Q-ubes, are sent to members on a seasonal basis. These Q-ubes feature two unique bottles of Quai du Vin wines. With

the first bottle being a well-aged vintage that is no longer available on the shelf, or a bottle that has been handcrafted especially for wine club members, Quai du Vin leaves customers eager to receive their box. The second bottle of wine is hand-picked by the winemaker, to pair with an upcoming holiday or season.

Q-ubes also contain tasting notes from Quai du Vin's winemaker, Jamie Quai. "The winemakers' notes are an extension of the back label description. Details on production, insights into the growing season, and suggestions on how to make the most of the special wine in their Q-ube" noted Jamie Quai. In addition to the tasting notes, suggestions on delectable food pairing, and recipes from local chefs are also included to further insinuate Quai du Vin's commitment to their community.

Quai du Vin Launches Exclusive Wine Club (Continued)



Community is an important cornerstone to Quai du Vin. When Q-ubes are ready, Wine Club members are encouraged to attend a Pick-Up Party at the winery. These parties bring wine lovers together to chat with other like-minded individuals, and of course encourage members to enjoy Quai du Vin wines. These parties also allow wine club members to taste a piece of Elgin County, with local food pairings served. For individuals that are unable to join in on the party, Q-ubes are mailed directly to their front door to enjoy from the comfort of their own home. Memberships are available through a one-time Gift Subscription for 3 months, including one Q-ube; a 6 month subscription, including 2 Q-ubes; or, a 12 month subscription, including 4 Q-ubes.

The exclusivity of the membership continues for members, as they are able to attend special events that are only offered to them. Wine Club members receive a membership card which entitles them to discounts in the store. With a limited quantity of Q-ubes available, don't miss out in being a part of the exclusive Wine Club.

Jamie and Kim are excited for what 2019 will bring for Quai du Vin Estate Winery. The winery is in for another busy year ahead with the Summer Sounds Delicious concerts, Winemaker's Dinners, weddings and the growth of their Wine Club! For more information about Quai du Vin Estate Winery or their Wine Club visit their website www.quaiduvin.com or follow them on Facebook.

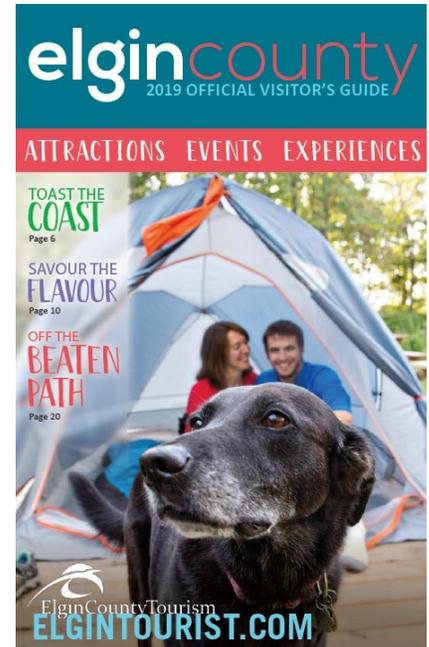


What's New With Economic Development & Tourism

Tour Guide

The 2019 Elgin County Official Visitor's Guide is now out! With endless adventures awaiting you around every corner in Elgin, pick up your copy to help plan your next Elgin County Escape. Guides can be found at our main Administration Office (450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas) and at various tourism attractions across the County.

Featured on the front cover is Sugar the Rescue Dog enjoying the peace and serenity at **Solitude Nature Reserve's** free wilderness camping area. Get off the beaten path this spring and discover Elgin's natural beauty come to life with vivid greens and the bright blue serene waters of Elgin's Lakeshore.



Staffing

With some of our staff off on mat leave, we thought we should introduce you to the current faces of Elgin County Economic Development & Tourism. This dynamic team is here to help you with all of your business' needs. Feel free to reach out by calling (519) 631-140 x168 or emailing info@elgin.ca.

Alan Smith – General Manager of Economic Development

Kate Burns Gallagher – Economic Development Coordinator

Jessica DeBackere – Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Megan Shannon – Tourism Services Coordinator

Abby Heddle – Economic Development Assistant



What's New With Economic Development & Tourism (Continued)

Upcoming Tradeshows

Staff have been busy over the past few months promoting Elgin County's excellent tourism attractions at various tradeshows across Ontario. Visit us at the following shows to pick up the latest maps, brochures, swag and of course our 2019 Tour Guide!

St. Thomas Home Show

March 29th – 31st

Joe Thorton Community Centre

Go Wild Grow Wild

April 6th

Western Fair Agriplex

