

## MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release- March 24, 2016*

### **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Signature Event: Pioneer Maple Days**

The Drummond/North Elmsley 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee invites you to explore the Township on the weekend of April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and learn about (and sample!) Lanark County's most iconic product.

Maple sap was first collected and used by the indigenous people who lived in the area before settlers began to arrive in the early 1800s. Life was challenging for the early settlers in Drummond and North Elmsley and they learned to utilize all available natural resources. One of the resources was the sap which could be gathered by tapping the native maple trees on their property in the early spring. This provided both a source of food for their families and also a product they could sell or barter for other needed items in years when they had a bountiful maple syrup harvest.

On this weekend three of the Township's maple syrup producers have teamed up to offer a Pioneer Maple weekend on their properties where visitors can learn more about maple syrup making and life on a rural property as it was in times past. Activities such as wagon rides, maple syrup production and taffy on the snow and other events will be available at the various maple syrup producers. Don't forget to buy a 200th themed souvenir maple syrup bottle!

Doors will be open at **Temple's Sugar Bush** (1700 Ferguson Falls Road) Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; **Oliver's Maple Works** (158 Lakewood Lane) Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and at **Coutts Country Flavours** (1230 Port Elmsley Road) Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Together with the open houses, **Bethel United Church** (1502 Rideau Ferry Road) will to host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the door (Adults: \$10, Children 6-12 years: \$5 and under 6 years: free.)

"This is all about the community coming together", explained Drummond/North Elmsley Deputy Reeve and Lanark County Warden Gail Code. "I can't credit enough the volunteers at Bethel and each of the sugar bushes, who are already so busy at this time of year, to work together and

offer this amazing event. I encourage the whole family to come out and see how this craft was done in the past. There will be something for everyone to learn."

### **About the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

2016 is a great year to visit Drummond/North Elmsley as the Township, and its neighbours in Perth, Tay Valley and Beckwith will be celebrating their 200th anniversary, commemorating the 1816 founding of the Perth Military Settlement. This Military Settlement, along with two others in Eastern Ontario, opened up Perth and the surrounding townships for the settlement of veterans from numerous British regiments as well as families from Scotland, Ireland and many other places. Drummond/North Elmsley and its neighbours are working on a diverse roster of events throughout the year to recognize the past and promote the present.

Further information on these and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary may be obtained at [www.dnetownship.ca](http://www.dnetownship.ca) or by phone at (613) 267-6500.

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