

Andrews wins Premier Award

A local farm was recognized by the McGuinty government Thursday for being a local agri-food innovator.

Andrews Scenic Acres, located on 10 Sideroad, between Third and Fourth Lines in Halton Hills, was one of 14 regional winners of the Premier's Awards for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence honoured at the ceremony in Ancaster.

"These awards recognize and reward outstanding agri-food innovations developed by producers, processors and agri-food organizations," said Ted McMeekin, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "Through this program, we are helping to foster a culture of innovation that brings new prosperity to Ontario farms."

Andrews Scenic Acres was the only recipient from Halton Region. They received a \$5,000 prize and have a chance to win a provincial top prize of \$75,000 later this year.

"Innovation has been the philosophy of this farm since 1980 when Lauraine and Bert Andrews began their adventure," it was stated in a press release on the awards from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "First, there is the 100-acre Pick Your Own berry farm that has everything from blueberries to raspberries to black currants. Then, there is the fruit winery that produces award-winning amber, black raspberry and black currant wines, and recently added home-produced grape wines to the shelves."

An on-farm market sells not only berries, but also root vegetables and cut flow-



Ontario Minister of Agriculture Ted McMeekin (right) presents an Innovative Award for Excellence to Bert and Lauraine Andrews of Andrews Scenic Acres on 10 Sideroad in Halton Hills.

Photo by Doug Penrice

ers fresh from the fields. There are numerous cost and energy-saving production innovations including an underground winter storage area for dahlia bulbs.

A total of 50 regional awards are being handed out across Ontario this summer. From those winners, five recipients will be chosen and awarded with a Premier's Award (\$75,000), a Minister's Award (\$50,000), and three Leaders in Innovation Awards (\$25,000) at the Premier's Summit on Agri-Food in October.

Since 2007, 285 awards under the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence program have recognized innovations from producers, processors and agri-food organizations.

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Sweeney MacArthur, Erin MacKinnon (Photo by Aron Goss)



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Find it on the homepage of rosetheatre.ca

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Dingwall in CNE talent competition

Singer Raeanne Dingwall, 19, of Georgetown will be among the competitors in the 2012 Canadian National Exhibition's 26th Annual Rising Star Talent Competition.



RAEANNE DINGWALL

Performers aged 6-21 from around Ontario will compete in the event which is open to any type of amateur performer including comedians, dancers, singers and more.

The competing age groups are broken into two divisions: Junior (aged 6-12) and Youth (aged 13-21). A panel of judges determines who quali-

fies to compete at the CNE by reviewing DVD and YouTube submissions submitted to the CNE in May.

The competition will run until August 31 at 7 p.m. with the preliminaries and semifinals on the Variety Stage. The finals will be held Sunday, Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at The Bandshell.

The top three finalists will be awarded with cash prizes, while the first place winner will win the chance to represent the CNE at the Canadian Youth Talent Competition in Winnipeg in November.

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