



A Tomato Ambassador Like No Other

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kept her exploring the world every winter, returning to South Marysburgh, and her garden, each summer to earn enough money to keep her going.

Finally, though, her wandering feet wandered no more and in 1999, she pur-

chased a farm on Morrison Point Road and started the now iconic Vicki's Veggies.

The idea of growing heirloom tomatoes grew out of a trip to a conference focused on organic farming. She was drawn to the wide variety of tomatoes that were grown from heirloom seeds.

"The different colours,

shapes and sizes were fascinating and super tasting," recalls the person who as a kid didn't like tomatoes. She collected seeds and started growing a variety of shapes, sizes and colours, "trying

to make a rainbow of them". But she lacked a "black one". That changed when a worker discovered a black coloured tomato in the fields...a rogue. That tomato plant spawned her signature variety which she called, in honour of her life-long home, "Black Crick".

"There's a story behind every tomato," Vicki says,

talking about the immigrant practice of sowing seeds into the hems of skirts to carry them safely to new continents. Having those seeds would often mean the difference between thriving or going hungry in their new homeland. Reviving the practice of using heirloom seeds keeps alive that long tradition. She grows 170 varieties of tomatoes at Vicki's Veggies.

"They're all breathtakingly beautiful. I want to eat them all," she chuckles. Fortunately, so do her customers.

What's the most popular variety she sells? Green zebra takes centre stage, she says.

Though tomatoes are her bread and butter crop, Vicki's has more to offer. Local produce, condiments, sauces, herbs, flowers...all find room on the shelves of her stand at 81 Morrison Point Road at Black Creek, South Bay.

Art Extravaganza for PEC's South Shore Joint Initiative Kicks Off June 10

The South Shore Joint Initiative is launching an art extravaganza on June 10 to support their work to preserve and protect the County's South Shore, much of which is part of South Marysburgh.

The event which is open to the public takes place at Burley Hall, Cressy Glenora United Church, 3442 - 3444 County Road 7 from 2 to 5 p.m.

The South Shore Joint Initiative (SSJI) Art Extravaganza provides an opportunity for artists to support SSJI and to display and sell a piece of their work.

Approximately 30 local artists have provided pieces of their work representing the shoreline, nature or biodiversity of Prince Edward County. Pieces are in a range of mediums and are available from \$300 to \$500.

SSJI plans to return 30% of the sold price to the artist and issue a tax receipt for the remaining 70% of the sale price. Art will be offered for sale in local businesses, at the Wellington Farmers' Market at the Eddie starting on June 24 and online on the SSJI website.

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