



Ontario Home Economics Association

Ask a Professional Home Economist

For Immediate Release

Home Economics in a Changing World

Professionals from Across Ontario to Gather at University of Guelph

By Emily Richards, P.H.Ec.

GUELPH, ON - *Home Economics in a Changing World* is the theme of the 2011 Annual Conference of the Ontario Home Economics Association (OHEA) to be held at the University of Guelph on Saturday, March 26, 2011.

What better place to hold such a conference than in Guelph, where Macdonald Institute was once the premier Home Economics school in North America. Opened in 1903, Mac Institute was co-founded by Adelaide Hoodless and Sir William Macdonald. Initially, it featured instruction for young women in nature study, manual training, domestic science and domestic art. Later, it produced leaders graduating with a four year degree in Home Economics. U of G is a perfect backdrop to showcase the history of Home Economics and its sustaining relevance in today's changing world.

Today, the discipline of Home Economics has more diversity and scope having morphed from its domestic science image into a more outward focus on health, nutrition, financial literacy and concern for the environment. Today, the subject is called 'Family Studies' in the high school curriculum and 'Human Ecology' at the university level.

The conference is sponsored by several industry leaders: Bernardin, BMO Harris Private Banking, Ontario Pork, California Walnut Commission and Gay Lea Foods - companies that hire Professional Home Economists for their diversified expertise.

The University of Guelph has long been a major player in the Home Economics field and continues to be a strong force with deep roots in the rural community and government. It sets high academic standards in areas of food, health, home and the environment - all integral elements of Home Economics. Gathering Professional Home Economists from across the province under one roof is another show of strength.

Keynote speaker Laura Featherstone, Instructional Leader with the Toronto District School Board, will set the tone for the day. *'We can no longer assume skills, and knowledge will be passed on to children by parents, grandparents and extended family.'*

Therefore, it is important to recognize the importance of Home Economics and Family Studies curriculum being taught in schools.”

Other conference speakers include:

- Sue Sturdy - fibre artist and 2010 artist in residence at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts;
- Bruce McAdams of Garden2Table - a student run food program connected to OAC and the University of Guelph;
- Sculptor Nancy Cuttle, whose work has explored the social, political and economic events that impacted the movement of women in and out of the home.

The event will also showcase local exhibitors, artisans and information for delegates. OHEA’s 32nd AGM will be held at 1 pm, while a post conference tour of the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre will wrap up the one day event. More details available at www.ohea.on.ca

OHEA gratefully acknowledges its generous sponsors: Bernardin, BMO Harris Private Banking, Ontario Pork, Gay Lea, California Walnut Commission, Deb Campbell, P.H.Ec., Ottawa Home Economics Association, Ottawa Council of Women, Quaker Oats, Waterloo/Wellington Home Economics Association, Troll Bridge Creek, Nothing But Nature Inc., Thyme to Cook, Amy Snider-Whitson, P.H.Ec., Dairy Farmers of Canada, Kraft Canada, Miele, Donna-Marie Pye, P.H.Ec., Ontario Turkey Producers, Emily Richards, P.H.Ec., O’Shea’s Farm, Egg Farmers of Ontario, Robert Rose Publishing, Canadian Guild of Knitters, Portions Distinctive Meals & More Inc., Ontario Farm Animal Council, WoWButter, Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Emily Richards, P.H.Ec. is a Guelph-based Professional Home Economist with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics specializing in Food and Nutrition. As a cookbook author, she develops and tests recipes for families, magazines, cookbooks, food companies and grocery stores. She is a member of the Ontario Home Economics Association.

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The Ontario Home Economics Association, a self-regulated body of Professional Home Economists, promotes high professional standards among its members so that they may assist families and individuals to achieve and maintain a desirable quality of life.

For further information or to speak to a Professional Home Economist, please contact:
 Ontario Home Economics Association,
 14 Totten Place, Woodstock, ON N4S 8G7
 Email: nancyohea@rogers.com Website: www.ohea.on.ca