



The First Taste of Spring **Maple Syrup Festival**

Backyard Maple Syrup Makers' Contest 2024

About this event

Calling all backyard maple producers! Here is your chance to have your homemade maple syrup judged by an expert! Local, commercial maple producer, Rob Nadeau of Ruscom Maple Products (Lakeshore Ontario), will adjudicate submissions based on flavour, density, colour, and clarity.

At Ruscom Maple Farm, their maple sap is collected by bucket and boiled over a steaming fire, creating the delicious syrup leading to all their maple products, which are all made with only 100% pure maple syrup and with no added ingredients. The owners of this small Ruscom hobby farm are French-Canadian, continuing the traditions of their family members from Quebec and New Brunswick. They strongly believe in the conservation and the re-forestation of Essex County. As such, they have planted over 3,000 trees in 4 years. We are excited to welcome Mr. Nadeau as this year's maple syrup expert to judge the contest! For the audience, Mr. Nadeau will also offer tips on backyard maple making, and insider commentary on the judging process.

Contest Rules:

- All entries must be produced within the last year by the person entering the contest, and entries become property of the ERCA Maple Festival.
- All contestants must submit one 250mL clear glass containers of their maple syrup.
- All jars must be clear sided, like a plain, smooth sided mason jar, no pressed glass or ornate jars which may obstruct the judge's ability to score clarity. Glass maple kent jugs are also acceptable and are available for purchase at some local hardware/agricultural supply stores.
- All entries will be labelled by Homestead staff with unique codes prior to judging.
- All entries must be received on or before Wednesday, March 13th at 3:00pm. Please contact education@erca.org to make arrangements to drop off your samples.
- All entries must be accompanied by a card detailing: producer name, address, phone number, and email.
- -No points will be awarded for decorative containers, ribbons, etc.
- The contest will take place in-person at Holiday Beach Conservation Area on Sunday, March 17th at 3:00pm.
- The winner of the 2024 Backyard Maple Makers' Contest will receive: an award ribbon, a certificate, a \$25 gift certificate for the Maple Market, and recognition through the ERCA social media platforms.
- All contestants will also receive a completed score card outlining their marks in each category and any additional comments from the judge.