

PROVINCIAL FIRST TAPPING CEREMONY HELD AT KINCARDINE

A good group of people gathered on a beautiful crisp winter's morning at Kincardine's Victoria Park on Tuesday, February 19 to celebrate Ontario's provincial first tapping ceremony. The crowd included invited politicians, media, and local syrup producers. Nick Bereznick, president of the Grey Bruce local explained that the OMSPA Summer Tour is being held this July 17-19 based in Kincardine, and likely 200 participants from across Ontario and some from Quebec and nearby states will be attending. Brian Bainborough traveled the furthest, from Barrie, and was able to share the importance of the maple syrup industry from a provincial perspective.

Huron County Warden Jim Ginn remarked "I don't care about groundhogs. This (tapping a sugar maple) is the first sign of spring". Kincardine Mayor Anne Eadie welcomed everyone to Kincardine, and was pleased that Kincardine will be the host community for the summer tour. She encouraged everyone to come for a few extra days at either end of the tour to explore and enjoy all that the surrounding area has to offer.

Nick made sure that the sap buckets and "wee tapping hammer" were appropriately decorated with the official Kincardine tartan, which is an important part of the town's Scottish heritage. The ceremony was immediately followed by hot coffee and home-made maple treats at a conference room in the adjacent town library. This venue also provided a great opportunity to discuss the summer tour further and Ontario maple in general.

Photo Cutline: Local dignitaries pose beside the first sugar maple tree symbolically tapped in the province at Kincardine, Ontario signifying the start the 2019 maple syrup season. From L to R: Brian Bainborough, Kincardine Mayor Anne Eadie, Huron County Warden Jim Ginn, and Nick Bereznick.