

President's Message

CASA Conference in Saratoga Springs

I attended my first CASA Conference May 6 to May 9 in Saratoga Springs and was quite impressed by the professionalism of all of the presenters and my fellow CASA members. It was a great experience and I hope everyone gets to attend at least one; I know I will be attending another.

Some highlights of the week:

- Presentation on liability for foodborne illnesses. Did you know that there are 5000 deaths per year in the USA that can be attributed to foodborne illnesses (probably 500 in Canada)? There are also many that result in permanent disabilities. Patti Waller (an epidemiologist) from Marler Clark, LLP, PS gave a very interesting presentation on "Determining the Validity of a Foodborne Illness Claim".
- Dr. Nicholas Calderon, Associate Professor, Dyce Laboratory, Cornell University attempted to answer the question "Where have all the bees gone?" and gave a interesting history of the importance of bees to almost every facet of our lives. Recent concerns regarding colony collapse has people around the world looking for answers. This is a story we all should be following.
- Canada and the United States are both cosmopolitan nations with food offerings from every culture and country in the world. Steve Nattrass, Regional Food Specialist with the FDA presented information on inspecting procedures and problems with "Ethnic Foods in Retail Food Establishments". We were advised to appreciate cultures but to treat these businesses as any other business without special treatment or too harsh treatment.
- I was able to introduce Peter Gabriele; he is apparently not the former lead singer of Genesis but is the Technical Director of Armark Authentication Technologies. He presented information about "Food Chain Security and Anti-counterfeit Technology". It was fascinating.

We will be continuing our interesting meetings in Niagara on June 19. Hope to see you there.

Dan Plunkett

CASA -NFC Meeting - Buffalo Water Authority Tour

Come join us in a fun and educational training event tied in with our June 2008 meeting!

Niagara Frontier Conference **BUFFALO WATER AUTHORITY TOUR/MEETING**

WHEN: Thursday, June 19, 2008
10:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Buffalo Water Authority
2 Porter Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14201
(715) 847-1065

DETAILS: CASA MEMBERS: \$20.00CAD/USD per person
NON-MEMBERS: \$25.00 CAD/USD per person
Includes tour + lunch (see following page for lunch details)

DIRECTIONS:

FROM TORONTO, ON

- Take the QEW to Peace Bridge
- Turn slight right and then left on Baird Dr.
- Turn right on Porter Ave.

FROM HAMBURG, NY

- Take NY-75 (becomes Lake Shore Rd. E)
- Continue on Lake Shore Rd. E becomes NY-5 E
- Take I-90 North to Exit 9 toward Peace Bridge
- Turn right on Baird Dr.
- Turn slight right onto Porter Ave.

FROM NIAGARA FALLS, NY

- Take Robert Moses State Pkwy. S
- Merge onto I-90S
- Take Porter Ave. exit, Exit 9 toward Peace Bridge
- Turn right on Porter Ave.

R.S.V.P. by June 13, 2008

Dan Plunkett (905) 937-6347 OR plunkettd@inspection.gc.ca

DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS TO CHEF'S RESTAURANT

CASA-NFC June 2008 Training Meeting

Chef's Restaurant - www.ilovechefs.com

291 Seneca Street
Buffalo, NY 14204
(716)856-9187



LUNCH: *Choice of one of the following entrees:*

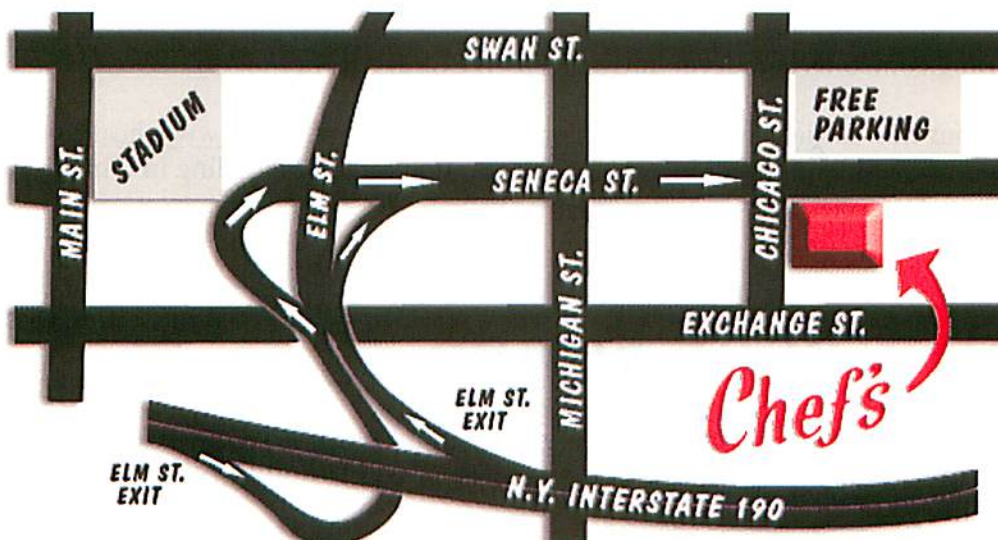
- Meat and cheese lasagna
- Pasta broccoli
- Spaghetti and meatballs

Includes: salad, bread and butter, coffee/hot tea/soda pop, and a cannoli dessert

DIRECTIONS FROM BUFFALO WATER AUTHORITY

2 Porter Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14201

- Start off traveling Northeast on Porter Ave. to Dar Drive
- Turn right onto Niagara Street
- Turn right onto Virginia Street
- Merge onto I-90 South via the ramp on the left
- Take the Elm Street exit, Exit 6
- Take the Seneca Street ramp, follow the road slightly right and arrive at Chef's!



Please visit www.ilovechefs.com/directions.cfm for more routes.

Information Corner

The Canadian Food Labelling Initiative

<http://www.healthycanadians.ca/> - Government of Canada

Canada's food supply is increasingly global in nature and many Canadians are seeking clearer information about the foods they buy. Recognizing this, the Government of Canada is taking action to improve the labelling information on food products and to help Canadians make better purchasing decisions.

Following the launch of the Healthy Canadians website on October 24th, 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Canada's Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan on December 17th, 2007, with the goal of ensuring Canada's product safety standards are second to none.

As part of the Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan, the Government committed to reviewing the policy on the use of "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims on food labels and advertising.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered on this commitment on May 21, 2008, by unveiling the new *Canadian Food Labelling Initiative* together with Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The new *Canadian Food Labelling Initiative* improves the definition of "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" on food labels and advertising, to ensure that Canadians can be more clear about the food products they purchase.

"When Canadians go to the grocery store, they want to be able to clearly identify which foods are truly Canadian. The new Canadian Food Labelling Initiative gives them the information to be able to choose from the high quality Canadian foods produced by our farmers and processors." - The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Prior to implementing these new guidelines, the Government is asking Canadians to submit their views, before June 11, 2008, using the interactive form in the following link:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB227NRM4454Z>

To help you evaluate our new initiative, the Discussion Paper located at <http://www.healthycanadians.ca/> outlines the proposed new guidelines and important information on food labelling in Canada and around the world.

Food Safety 2008 Forum

This year's Food Safety Forum is fast approaching! It will be held in Toronto, Ontario on June 09, 2008. Go to the following link to register or view additional information on what will take place at the forum this year.

<http://www.foodsafetyforum.ca>



Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting and Food Expo

The Society for Food Science and Technology is holding their annual meeting and food expo on June 28 to July 01, 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more details, please visit the following link:

<http://www.am-fe.ift.org/cms/?pid=1000487>



NASFT Fancy Food Show - New York

Into specialty foods? This is the event for you! The National Association for the Specialty Food Trade is hosting the NASFT Fancy Food Show on June 29 to July 01, 2008 in New York City, NY at the Jacob K. Javits Center. For more information on this event, please visit:

<http://www.specialtyfood.com/do/fancyFoodShow/LocationsAndDates>



Ethnic and Specialty Food Expo 2008

This year's Ethnic and Specialty Food Expo will be held at the International Centre in Toronto, ON. For more information, please visit the following link:

<http://www.ethnicandspecialtyfood.com/>



We Need Your Interesting Articles, News, and Events Here!

Have something interesting you'd like to see appear in the next edition of the Niagara Frontier Communicator?

Send your personal or business articles, news stories, events, or CASA updates to paraszcuktm@inspection.gc.ca and it could appear in our next edition!

We can't wait to hear from you!

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send their contact information and e-mail address to Tara M. Paraszcuk at paraszcuktm@inspection.gc.ca and have them include "CASA-NFC Newsletter" in the subject line.