



Prince Charles (centre), was joined by his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, and Governor General of Canada Michaelle Jean(left) at a tree planting ceremony outside Rideau Hall on Nov. 12th. Maja and Willem van den Hoek, of Upper Economy, were in attendance. (Submitted photo)

Economy’s Willem van den Hoek Invited to Dine with Royalty

By Linda Harrington

Willem and Maja van den Hoek own That Dutchman’s Farm, in Upper Economy, where they produce award winning gouda and Dragon’s Breath Cheese.

Willem received an official invitation via email from the Governor General’s office inviting him to attend a banquet at Rideau Hall on Remembrance Day. The guests of honour were Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

The dinner invitation was for Willem alone but his wife, Maja, accompanied him on the trip. They paid for their own travel and accomodations to attend the affair.

Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall were in Canada for an eleven day tour, spending Nov. 11th in Ottawa.

Willem was pleased to see his Dragon’s Breath Cheese on the banquet menu. “It was featured with three other cheeses,” says Willem. “I didn’t let the guests at my table

know who I was, so I could see what their response would be when they sampled the cheese.” He says he was very pleased when they made favorable comments about the Dragon’s Breath. The guests were surprised after he let them know that he had produced the cheese.

The anonymity of guests was disappointing for Mr. van den Hoek. He says there were about 100 guests at the banquet and no one was introduced.

“I am an easy talker but I noticed some people standing around rather awkward and I felt bad for them. At the end of the meal they brought out the kitchen staff, who had prepared the meal, and I thought, ok, this is where they will introduce others, like me, who had their foods featured on the menu. But no, that was it,” he says. Willem feels they missed a big opportunity.

The guests were not identified with name tags, so it was difficult to know who was in the room. “I was seated at the table with Douglas Cardinal, a famous architect who designed the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and Ottawa Major Larry O’Brien. They were good company,” says Willem. “I know there were about a dozen ordinary folk, like me, in the room but

since we were never introduced, I didn’t know who they were.”

Willem was a bit disappointed he was not able to get to talk to Prince Charles but he was able to shake Camilla’s hand. He also enjoyed listening to the heir to the British throne’s speech about organic gardening.

Maja was invited to watch the royal couple plant a tree outside Rideau Hall on Thursday and Willem accom-

panied her. They were able to get a few photos at this event.

Maja and Willem enjoyed taking a tour of the Museum of Civilization, after their discussion with the architect the night before, and they also toured Byward Market, before returning home.

When asked if there was anything new planned, in the immediate future, for his cheese production, Willem laughed and said, “No, if it works, why fix it?”



Maja and Willem van den Hoek, of Upper Economy, travelled to Ottawa on Nov. 11th. Willem received an invitation to attend a Remembrance Day Banquet, held in honour of Prince Charles, at Rideau Hall. (Submitted photo)



Recent mild weather brings back memories of this fine little humming bird stopping by for a drink on a hot day in August. (Harrington Photo)



A close-up view of the menu from the Official Dinner held in honour of The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. That Dutchman Cheese was featured on the menu and Willem van den Hoek was in attendance. (Submitted photo)

November 11TH



F. B. Adams

We pause beside the monument
In spite of Autumn’s chill
To honour men who gave their lives
And the veterans living still.

This wind is chill, the day is cold
This day we honour them
A poor salute to all who served
Women as well as men.

We bow our heads in silent prayer
This loss is our gain
No matter why or where they served
They have not died in vain.

We lay a wreath and say a prayer
That soon all wars will cease,
And thank our God for all who served
That we might live in peace.

My Favourite Pet



Aaron Sharpe of Station Road, Londonderry and her two year old tri-colour Basset Hound, Charlie, will receive a \$20.00 Gift Certificate from Clarence’s Farm Services and the Shoreline Journal.



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