

Savour the Southeast will have lots to offer

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The Savour the Southeast festival that has quickly become a popular annual event and a key fundraiser is just around the corner, and one of its organizers, Josh LeBlanc, says that everything is going well so far and he is looking forward to the festival.

The event on May 5 at Affinity Place begins at 7 p.m. LeBlanc encourages people to preorder tickets or at least show up very early to get a ticket at the door.

Overall LeBlanc noted that planning for the festival is going well and there is going to be something new this year with some professional chefs.

"Planning is coming along well, so are sponsorships and we have lots of vendors registering, we had our cutoff date to register today (on March 29). I have counted up our applications and we are going to have 62 booths this year, and we had the same amount of booths last year,"said LeBlanc.

"We are starting the chef showdown this year. That is something that is new to the festival. The way it works is we will be bringing four up-and-coming chefs to the province, who will be in Estevan during the festival,"he added.

All four of the chefs will be creating a product throughout the day and at night they will be there to serve what they have made. They have been instructed to make about 1,000 portions and LeBlanc believes that those supplies will run out quickly.

The money raised from the festival will be going to a charity that LeBlanc believes is very important for the community and the southeast corner as well.

"This year we are going to donate to the Envision Counselling and Support Centre. They operate in and outside of Estevan and we are happy that to be able to donate money to them,"said LeBlanc.

"I think they provide some very important services to the communities they serve. We decided to go with an organization that is more southeast-focused and not just something that is in Estevan. A lot more people can be helped by spreading that donation around into a few communities,"he added.

LeBlanc noted that the aim this year was not just to look at Estevan for a donation but expand outward from the city.

"We are appealing to a wider demographic this year and we are providing services towards that demographic so they can come out and enjoy the festival as well,"said LeBlanc.

"In prior years we had people show up at the door and they were able to get some \$45 door tickets, but since we are catering to a larger area, people who want door tickets should really buy in advance or show up very early to purchase their ticket,"he added.

LeBlanc said there is going to be a lot of craft breweries there and a good variety of different types of alcoholic drinks and food at the festival.