

The 25th annual Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival returns with an exciting lineup of chefs and competitions!

Charlottetown, PE, June 23, 2022 - The Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival will feature a variety of celebrity and local chefs, oyster shuckers, fishermen, junior chefs and bartenders competing for over \$22,000 in cash prizes. Festival-goers will experience the largest shellfish celebration in the smallest Canadian Province, with 3 days jam-packed with live competitions, Eastlink kitchen parties, celebrity chef culinary demonstrations and indulge in the world's best shellfish.

"We are incredibly excited about the Garland Canada International Chef Challenge chef lineup at this year's Shellfish Festival", says Liam Dolan, Chair of the Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival. "For the first time, two local chefs from Prince Edward Island are competing. We are anticipating a fast-paced competition and look forward to welcoming chefs from across Canada and the United States."

"The Government of Canada is committed to the recovery and growth of the tourism sector, which is driving economic development and creating jobs in all regions of the country. The 2022 PEI International Shellfish Festival marks a quarter-century of positive contributions to our economy; showcasing the Islands culinary excellence, outstanding entertainment, and unmatched hospitality. After two long years, it is more exciting than ever to welcome residents and visitors back to celebrate our Islands culture and take part in the 25th Anniversary of the PEI International Shellfish Festival."

- Sean Casey, Member of Parliament for Charlottetown, on behalf of the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Official Languages and Minister responsible for ACOA"

Chefs competing for the \$10,000 cash prize are:

- Edgar Gutierrez, Chef and Owner, Kanto Eatery; Edmonton, Alberta
- Carmen Ingham, Executive Chef, Wickaninnish Inn; Tofino, British Columbia
- Samantha Medeiros, Chef de Cuisine at La Palma and Casa La Palma; Toronto, Ontario
- Kyle Puddester, Chef and Owner, Fork; Mobile, Newfoundland
- Imrun Texeria, Chef and Owner, Wanderlust by Imrun Texeria; Toronto, Ontario
- Jamie Power, Executive Chef, Blue Mussel Cafe and Slaymaker & Nichols Gastro House; North Rustico & Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
- Jaeyoung Park, Junior Sous Chef, Boulevard Kitchen & Oyster Bar; Vancouver, British Columbia
- Ruby Gatt, Chef and Owner, Caffe Un Po' Di Piu; Montreal, Quebec
- William Kresky, Chef de Cuisine, Richmond Station; Toronto, Ontario
- Andrew Smith, Executive Chef, Red Shores Racetrack & Casino; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
- Leia Gaccione, Chef and Owner, South + Pine American Eatery; Morristown, New Jersey
- Michael Roszell, Chef de Cuisine, Quaaout Lodge; Chase, British Columbia

Competition judges include Ned Bell, Owner and Executive Chef, Naramata Inn; Naramata, British Columbia; Paul Lillakas, Private Chef; Toronto, Ontario; and Nuit Regular, Co-Owner and Executive Chef; PAI Northern Thai Kitchen, Toronto, Ontario.

“The Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival is a beloved tradition for both Islanders and visitors. We can’t wait to welcome chefs, shuckers, fishermen and mixologists from across the country and the United States to showcase their talents and enjoy their delicious delicacies,” said Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture Matthew MacKay. “Congratulations on 25 years of fun, food and lasting memories. We look forward to celebrating this iconic festival for many years to come.”

The Junior Chef Challenge competition returns for competitors between 15 and 18 years of age. The festival is accepting applications now for those who love to cook and are comfortable cooking with shellfish, are outgoing and confident to compete in front of a live audience. The deadline for applications is July 7, 2022.

Other exciting competitions include:

- Irish Point Oysters Shucking Championship, September 16th and Raspberry Point International Oyster Shucking Championship, September 17th
- Mott’s Clamato Best Caesar in Town, September 15th and 16th
- Tie One On Mussel Industry Competition, September 17th
- PEI Potato Chowder Championship, September 17th and 18th

“We’re delighted to see the return of the PEI International Shellfish Festival, an event that showcases everything there is to love about Charlottetown,” said Charlottetown Mayor Philip Brown. “Building on 25 years of momentum, this festival will provide an opportunity for Islanders to enjoy vibrant entertainment and exceptional culinary talent at both the local and international level.”

Early bird pricing is available until July 31, 2022, or while supplies last. Tickets prices are \$10 per Friday and Saturday afternoon only pass, \$40 per Friday and Saturday all day pass, \$10 per Sunday all day pass and \$70 for the weekend pass. Tickets are selling fast. Shellfish bucks can be pre-purchased online now and used through tap at all vendors.

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Backgrounder: The Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival is brought to you by the PEI Aquaculture Alliance and the PEI Shellfish Association. The Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival takes place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island at the Charlottetown Event Grounds on September 15th to 18th, 2022.

The Government of Canada, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), is providing a \$135,000 contribution to support the 25th PEI International Shellfish Festival.

Schedule of Events: <https://peishellfish.com/schedule-events/>

Online Media Kit: <https://peishellfish.com/online-media-kit/>