

MARKET MUSINGS

By Jan Freedman

You can tell that spring has truly finally arrived. The forsythia bushes are glowing bright yellow, the blue bells cover some lawns, and the tulips and daffodils wave their pretty heads in many flower beds.

Each day brings more buds on the trees and the first leaves will be open in the next few days.

By the weekend, some trees will be in full leaf just in time for the opening of the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair's outdoor season.

As most of you have surmised, the Market will be configured slightly differently this year because the Schoolhouse Lofts are due to be occupied sometime this spring. For that reason, our farmers and some food vendors will be on the east side of Wells Street only, but from Mosely to Metcalfe, and the remainder of our vendors will be located in the Town Park along the pathways.

Most of your favourite vendors will be returning along with some exciting new people.

Here are the farmers you will find this season:

Willowtree Farm, the Abbott Family Farm with their beef, Nature's Rainbow and their heirloom tomato and pepper plants, plus wide assortment of seeds, Oakridges Finest with his chemical free vegetables and fruit plus some fruit pies this year, Pioneer Brand Honey, Coopers CSA Farm who add their artisanal chicken this year, Pefferlaw Creek Farms with their Ontario Maple Syrup, Summerside Farm with his beautiful greens, Kind Organics with their sprouts and salad blends, Highmark Farm, Howard's Farm with eggs, butter, cheese, meats and Hurst Bakery products, and our Chair, Andy's 19th Avenue Farm.

We will have Pillitteri Estates Winery back this year as well.

New farms will include Sylvester Martin with Ontario Maple Syrup for the month of May, a garlic farmer, Old Spokes Farm formerly known as Symbiosis Farm, and a dairy called Sheldon Creek Dairy which is very exciting.

Our food vendors will include Cosmos Smoked Meats, Catharina's Kitchen, Jan's Country Pantry, Nicolle's Cakes, Nutmeg Bakeshop, Green River Coffee, Primal Pizza, Sasha's Sweets, Gabriel's Café, The Family Kitchen, Speakeasy Fine Foods and La Brehandaise with their crepes and frites.

New this year is a gluten free bakery called Guilt Free Goodness who joined us at the last Indoor Market to much acclaim.

Among the artisans this year will be Cathy's Crawly Composters, Captain Ted's Knick-Knack-a Tory, Davis Pride Crafts, Eurasia Jewellery Design, Green Leaf Design, Kibo Natural Body Care, SDD Flags and Banners, Sweet Scrubs N'Stuff, The Bear's Den, Heartsease Co., Limitless Jewels, and Eva Nagy. Returning to the Market are Carrie Eastwood's Carrie's Creations and David Heard with Hat Promotions/ Creepy Tours.

New to us will be Adrienne Quilts, Michelle Zikovitz with woven baskets and baby blankets, and Catherine DeVos Holistic Nutrition.

Our Community booths so far will be the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario who will host tea in the park, the Aurora Cultural Centre, the Aurora Public Library, the Aurora Historical Society and the Optimist Club of Aurora. I will let you know when these groups will be having special events at the Market.

We have reduced the number of Special Events days this year in an attempt to make them more ?special? and to bring you great entertainment. These are the Special Events dates for this season:

May 7: Grand Opening, music by Jazz 2

June 25: Strawberry Fest

July 23: Family Day

August 20: Community Corn Roast

September 17: Apples and Honey Fest

October 1: Culture Days/Culinary day

October 8: Customer Appreciation Day (last day of outdoor season)

See you at the Market!