

Bountiful harvest at Acton's Farmers' Market

'Where fresh meets friendly'



FLOWER CHILD: Acton's Jayla Kentner sat very still as YMCA rep. Patti Resth painted a pretty flower on her cheek during the Market. — Ted Tyler photo

Rain didn't dampen Farmers' Market fun

Despite a light, persistent rain, the first Acton Farmers' Market of the season was a success last Thursday as a festival-like atmosphere took over on Willow Street south as shoppers searched for fresh, good deals, munched on popcorn and enjoyed musician Vladimir Gorodkin playing his tsimbalay.

For Acton native Tammy Kester, with sons Jake and Luke in their double stroller, the market is all about good food and good prices — and she likes the socializing. "I come for the fresh fruit and vegetables and the free popcorn for the boys. It is a social thing for me and my mom to get out and see everybody," Kester said.

"We hear that the prices are good, said Josey Bonnette, manager of the BIA - hosted event, now in its fourth season. "(Alphonso Piazza of) Teresa's Garden is my anchor guy from Milton, and he does a lot of Farmers' Markets and he really tries to keep his prices competitive," she said. This season, he is joined by his

sister, Joanne Piazza, who offers homemade bread, scones, muffins and other baked treats.

In a misting rain, Acton's Ashlyne Agnew bought "a bunch of scones" and explained why she stopped at the Market. "I grew up out west, and I always went out to Farmers' Markets with my parents and my grandparents," Agnew said.

New to the Acton Market this year are Sharp My Knife, a mobile sharpening unit, Elisa's Gluten Free Goodness, and fresh pork and beef from Heritage Land and Livestock. They join Market favourites including Angie's Kitchen, Busy Liz's Farm Shop and Smerek Family Garden, to name a few of the 38 vendors at the kickoff event.

Also on hand manning information/awareness booths were staff from the MS RIDE which takes place in Prospect Park in August, and staff from Halton Hills Hydro offering coupons for energy saving devices and conservation information.



REALLY THIRSTY? Acton's Walter Hazzard, 9, helped his friend Angel Stratton, 10, from Cambridge, sell lemonade to thirsty shoppers. — Frances Learment photo



MARKET MUSIC: Willow Street resounded with the Dr. Zhivago-like sounds of a tsimbalay played by Vladimir Gorodkin who serenaded Acton BIA manager Josey Bonnette. — Frances Learment photo



ALL CLEAR: Halton Public Health Inspector Kym Bousefield (left) checked out the baked good offered by Joanne Piazza, and vegetables for sale by her brother, Alfonso Piazza from Teresa's Garden, while shoppers Josh Corbett and Ashlyne Agnew decided what treats to buy (it was scones) at the Acton Farmers' Market. — Frances Learment photo



EVERYBODY DANCE: The enthusiasm, great choreography and unison of the Everybody Dance Club makes the Robert Little School troop a crowd favourite all over Acton, including at the Market. — Ted Tyler photo