

ACTON FARMERS MARKET RETURNING TO DOWNTOWN CORE

MELANIE HENNESSEY
 mhennessey@metroland.com

The farmers market in Acton is getting back to its roots under new ownership.

The popular weekly event has been rebranded the Acton Downtown Farmers Market and is relocating from the Bethel parking lot to Willow Street North, in front of the historic Acton Town Hall Centre.

The Downtown Acton Business Improvement Area previously operated the market for many years on Willow Street South before discontinuing it in 2017. At that time, Angela Tremblay of Angie's Kitchen then spearheaded organiz-

ing a new market, which opened at Bethel as the Acton Farmers Market on 7.

Tremblay is now handing over the reins to Downtown Acton BIA general manager Tyler King, who has plans to create a new and improved market experience for local residents.

"The market will be getting a facelift this year," said King. "We are already set to have a great variety of local vendors offering a range of fresh seasonal produce and unique retail offerings."

Those who stop by can expect to find a variety of fresh veggies, bread, honey and more.

While low attendance led to the BIA board discontinuing the downtown market in 2017, King has a

game plan to make sure history doesn't repeat itself.

Among his intentions are signage installations along Main and Mill streets coming into town that will make it easy for drivers to locate the parking lots near the market.

"There is parking immediately across the street, which is connected to the GO bus stop. This will allow better accessibility for seniors and residents on the other side of town," he said.

"Long story short, people know where Acton is - there is a constant stream of vehicles passing through it every day. You literally can not miss it. And all of these people need to eat."

King also feels the new



Downtown Acton BIA photo
 Downtown Acton BIA general manager Tyler King is taking over the farmers' market from Angela Tremblay of Angie's Kitchen and relocating it to Willow Street North.

location featuring the beautiful Town Hall Centre in the background will be more enticing for market-goers.

"When the market was last downtown it was on the south side of Willow

Street, which did not have a particularly flattering backdrop," he noted.

Before coming to Acton, King previously built the Collingwood Downtown Farmers Market from a small six-vendor gathering

to a vibrant affair with more than 65 vendors, giving him a playbook of sorts to consult as he builds the local market.

"At the end of the day, I think people innately want to support local businesses, they want to eat healthier, and they want to know what they are consuming and where it comes from," he said.

"I see lots of opportunity here that the market will bring to the downtown community - to give another reason why it is still worth the drive to Acton."

The Acton Downtown Farmers Market will kick off June 6 and run weekly on Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m. until Thanksgiving weekend.

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