

Acton Farmers' Market blooms

Street fair atmosphere draws large crowd

Fresh high quality produce at good prices and a street-fair atmosphere drew a huge curious crowd to the official opening of Acton's Farmers' Market last Thursday on the south end of Willow Street that had been closed to traffic between Mill and Church Streets.

Afternoon and early even-

ing shoppers lined up to buy fat Strawberries and fresh rhubarb from Andrews' Scenic Acres and in-season organic veggies from Whole Circle Farms. Other nature-friendly merchants and artisans welcomed the large crowd, many who happily munched on free popcorn from Acton Optical and squeezed-on-the-spot fruit/

vegetable juice from Willow Lane Natural Foods.

"I think this is great and we couldn't have better weather and soon, even more will be in ripe and in season," enthused Acton shopper Cindy Day, who said the market will become part of her Thursdays.

Another shopper said the market "wasn't big enough,

yet" but said the idea for a market is fantastic and the Thursday afternoon/evening time slot is "brilliant." Susan Powell, an Economic Development Consultant with OMFRA – the Ontario Ministry of Food and Rural Affairs – had high praise for the Acton BIA and its partners for taking the initiative to start a market.

"This Town is happening – it's happening. Their vision of an afternoon market in Acton took shape, and look at the response to the whole shop local, shop downtown thing," Powell said, adding she is "so proud" of the Acton group for helping to brand Acton.

Before special guests officially opened the market – cutting rope and not a fancy ribbon – BIA manager Josey Bonnette thanked all of the participants, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Town and corporate sponsors, for their help in making the Market a success.

"This is awesome and we're so excited," Bonnette said as she surveyed the large crowd enjoying a hot, sunny afternoon.

Two inspectors with the Halton Health Department visited all of the booths that served food and all received a clean bill of health.



FUN ON WHEELS: Village Constable Moreen Smith (left) stopped to chat with Geneen Furzer, 3, her brother Graeme, 2, and friends Jack, 4, Bradley, 1 and mom Cindy Day at the Market.



REFRESHING JUICE: Fresh squeezed juice supplied by Louise McCarley of Willow Lane Natural Foods helped quench the thirst at the Market.



BOUNTIFUL BERRIES: Peter Runton of Acton (right) bought Strawberries and rhubarb from Scott Molley of Andrews' Scenic Acres at the Market.



MARKET OPEN: Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) manager Josey Bonnette welcomed all to the inaugural Acton Farmers' Market last Thursday on Willow Street South. Great weather, fresh produce and a street fair atmosphere were a hit with huge crowds.



ALL CLEAR: Everyone selling food at the Market, including Acton's Angela Tremblay (white hat) received a clean bill of health from Halton Health Department inspectors who checked for cleanliness, proper preparation and storage.