

## MILTON PUBLIC MARKET MEETING HEARS RESIDENTS' CONCERNS

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Town residents looking to get more information about the Milton Public Market recently attended a public meeting held by the organizer at a downtown brewery.

Some were there to voice their concerns about the market's impacts on neighbourhoods around the Milton Fairgrounds — where the market will be held from May to September. Chief among the concerns: Parking and garbage problems.

"Every year we have issues with parking when there are events ... (people) trespassing on our property, clogging up Robert Street when they can't get in and out (of the fairgrounds)," said one resident.

Philip Suos, Milton Public Market founder and managing editor, responded by saying that he doesn't

foresee any parking issue due to how the market will be set up. "We have a consistent parking that's available here that no other festivals or events have," Suos said of the dedicated free parking space in the fairgrounds for market goers.

Suos added the area can accommodate more parking spaces than Ontario Place, which offers 1,300 spaces.

Representing Halton Agricultural Society, which owns and operates the fairgrounds, Vincenzo Carito said they are working with town staff on plans to alleviate congestion on Robert Street and Thomas Street during events.

"It doesn't just affect the neighbours. It actually discourages people to attend the events," Carito said. "Ideally, seasonal no-parking (ban) would be the best option."

He also hopes for more policing or bylaw enforce-

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**-founder Philip Suos**

ment — especially for those who obstruct fire routes.

When it comes to the "massive amount of garbage" that people often leave behind after visiting the fairgrounds — a topic raised by another resident at the public consultation — Suos said a cleanup crew will work within the fairgrounds and surrounding neighbourhoods.

On the issue of noise generated by past events, which one resident notes "is just

ridiculous," Suos explained there won't be any outdoor stages on the Milton Public Market.

"If anything, it'll be really light music or local talents performing — more busker style if anything. So the (sound) projection is kept within the market itself," he said. Suos also tackled questions from business owners and vendors.

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reason. We don't want to compete too much with the Milton Farmers Market ... We want to push the dinner crowds to downtown Milton and beyond," he said.

From a vendor standpoint, they will have around 250 vendors on site ready to go.

"We've had over 600 applications already since the press release," he said, with more than 220 applicants coming from local businesses.

The organizer — who also runs the Mac and Cheese Festival and the street holiday market — plans to "curate the experience" and limit vendors offering similar products to just "two to three." And to keep the market fresh, there will be a rotation of vendors every other month or so.

Milton Public Market founder Philip Suos shows off the layout of the market to an audience of about 30 people at Orange Snail Brewers on Thursday, March 21. Addressing the audience earlier at the

event, Coun. Sameera Ali said Milton Public Market would benefit entrepreneurs in the community.

"The new Miltonians felt like they had no platform to promote themselves because the downtown market is really saturated," she said. "(The market) is giving them an opportunity to put a face to their business ... to promote themselves and let Milton know that they're here."

Ward 3 Coun. Rick Di Lorenzo commended the organizer for pushing the initiative forward, while Mayor Gord Krantz said: "The majority of us are supportive of what's being advocated in here." He suggests those who still have concerns — including parking — to get in touch with the town hall staff.

The Milton Public Market starts May 25 until Sept. 15 and runs every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. In addition to featuring a mix of retail and food vendors, there will be weekly workshops.



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