

Farmers' market opens a week early

'It's a nice social event,' says vendor

BY PATRICK MCALPINE
Special

The Markham Farmers' Market opens its doors for the first time this season Saturday, May 11.

The market, at the intersection of Robinson and Main streets, features vegetables, fruit, dairy products, honey, jams, garden nurseries and more, prepared by growers and specialists in or near York Region.

Churches and community groups are invited to organize fundraising bake sales at the market for free.

"We also have a new baker who, I'm told, makes cinnamon buns to die for," says market co-manager Judi McIntyre of the Markham BIA.

To the north, the Stouffville County Market has operated year-round (on weekends) for at least 20 years. It's on

10th Line north of Stouffville Road.

Activities being planned for Markham's opening day include performances by a York University jazz band called The Michael Cado Trio, and a demonstration by town historian Lorne Smith on some of Markham's historic farming implements.

The atmosphere created by customers and vendors is what makes the market experience enjoyable, says Peggy Seaver of Vinegar Hill Orchard, who has participated in the market since it opened three years ago.

Ms Seaver sells pumpkins, squashes, corn and other vegetables, but specializes in the 32 varieties of apples her orchard grows.

"It's a nice social event," she adds.

The market kicks off a week earlier than last year in a bid to pick up business from Mother's Day shoppers. This year, Mother's Day falls on Sunday, May 12.

Events slated for later in the year include gardening demonstrations, Dog Day at the market, a chili contest and Martha Stewart Day.

The market operates on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



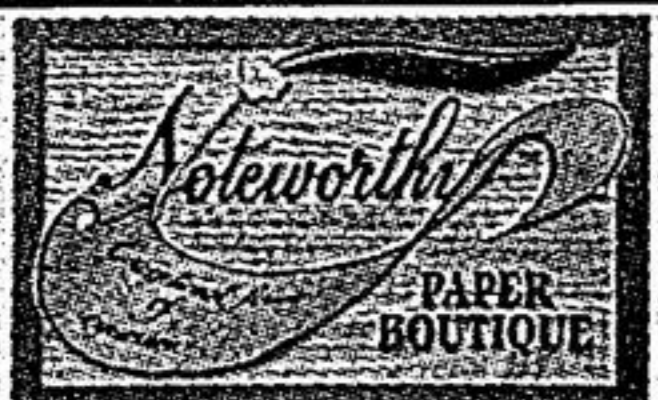
Bread, fruits, flowers and vegetables are among the items available at the Markham Farmers' Market, which is slated to open next weekend at Main and Robinson streets in Markham Village.

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AIR CONDITIONING STARTUP TIPS

1. Check to ensure the POWER IS TURNED OFF at the thermostat and hydro panel for the outdoor condensing unit or use the disconnect switch at the unit.
2. Take off the winter cover from the air conditioner and check that there is no debris blocking the sides of the unit that could restrict or block air flow.
3. Wash the unit down with a garden hose and let dry thoroughly.
4. Look over the unit to see if there are visible signs of damage, such as the bent fins or kinks in the piping.
5. Check or change the furnace filter — a clean air filter will extend the life of your unit and provide good air flow throughout the years.
6. Check the drain (from evaporator coil in furnace) and make sure it is clean and if blocked then flush it out.
7. Turn the power back ON at the hydro panel or disconnect switch at the unit.
8. WAIT 24 hrs.
9. To TEST the air conditioner, switch the thermostat to cooling and adjust the thermostat to a low temperature that will cause the unit to start.
10. After a couple of hours operating, you should notice the air from your vents are cooler than the room temperature.
11. Check the piping at the evaporator coil (on the furnace) and the outdoor condensing unit for frost buildup.
12. If there is not any frost build-up, adjust the thermostat to your desired temperature.
13. If there is a frost buildup or you do not have any cooling then call: 1-866-GTA-HVAC for a certified professional to look at your unit. (1-866-482-4822)

* If you would like a copy of these TIPS to affix to the side of your furnace, please email us splitsystems@rogers.com and leave your name, address and postal code.

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