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CHEPACK'S COUNTRY MARKET



"Some day we're going to sit down and write a book." So says Bud Chepack about his family farm market operation that can trace its roots back to the early 1950's when, it is believed, the Chepacks were the originators of the roadside corn stand.

The Chepack family first sold corn on Sheppard Ave. and Birchmount Rd. When Birchmount Rd. was paved, the stand was moved to the farm lane which is now next to the current entrance to the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course.

The Chepacks established Chepack's Country Market at Ninth Line and 19th Ave. 35 years ago, setting up a pick your own operation and a retail outlet in a barn built in the late 1940's. Crops included 100 acres of sweet corn, 50 acres of strawberries, 50 acres of tomatoes, 25 acres of raspberries and five acres of blackcurrants.

"We had three daughters, and along with my wife Myra, they

all helped out on the farm," says Bud. But the girls eventually developed interests of their own, leaving Bud and Myra with a scaled down farming operation. "These days, we grow a little corn, but it's mainly a market now."

Today, the popular market specializes in farm fresh veggies and fruit, strawberries and a selection of mouth watering baked goods, home made preservative-free dinner entrees, specialty jams and condiments, and, of course, ice cream cones for those hot summer days. Bud's banana bread and homemade pies are out of this world, not to mention the world's best runny butter tarts! There are also local crafts and antiques.

Chepack's Country Market is located at Ninth Line and 19th Ave. and is open seven days a week during the summer season. Call 905-640-1819.

APPLEWOOD FARM

Applewood Farm has been in the Passafiume family for almost thirty years. It began as one of the first pick your own strawberry and apple farms in Stouffville. True to it's name, Applewood Farm remains the most popular spot in the area to pick fresh strawberries or spend a breezy afternoon picking apples. To this day Applewood Farm is a great destination for young and old to enjoy a little bit of the country, close to the city.

Over the years things have changed. The city has gotten a little closer, the trees a little taller. Despite the changing times one thing has remained the same; Applewood Farm has a commitment to quality, ensuring that you have access to the freshest fruit available. Never has this been more true than with the addition of the winery.

Applewood Farm Winery opened it's doors in September of 2000. The winery has a warm and comfortable atmosphere. There is a large

tasting bar where you can sample award winning wine and chat with the wine maker. Applewood has a delicious selection of wines that are made from fruit harvested right on site.

Pumpkin season runs from September 15th until Halloween. Come out on weekends, bringing along the whole family to experience an old fashion wagon ride to and from the pumpkin patch and apple orchard. The kids can also enjoy close contact with animals at the petting zoo and wander through the seasonal corn maze.

So whether you are in search of fresh fruit, delicious wines or simply want to get out and enjoy what the season has to offer, Applewood has something for everyone.

Applewood Farm & Winery is located minutes from the 404 on McCowan Road, which allows for easy access from the city as well as surrounding areas.

905-642-4720 • www.applewoodfarmwinery.com



REESOR FARM MARKET

Reesor Farm Market was begun by Jay Reesor back in 1985 with sweet corn as the main crop. It was sold freshly picked, off a farm wagon at the side of the road. The market still offers freshly picked corn from mid-July till the end of September, but our family run farm offers much more these days.

On our farm we grow strawberries, sweet corn, peas, beans, zucchini, pumpkins and squash. Look for picked and u-pick raspberries at our farm market next year. We also offer other locally grown fruits and vegetables. We have always sold only "Grown in Ontario Produce" which helps our customers eat locally and supports other Ontario farmers. We also have plenty of fresh baked goods at our farm market from our Stouffville

store, Reesor Farm Kitchen.

Our farm has had lots of challenges over the years including insect pests, years when the rain just does not want to fall (like 2007), or like 1992 when the rain wouldn't stop falling. But our farm has had our share of successes as well. It is very gratifying to visit with a long time customer who makes a special effort to buy a dozen fresh sweet corn, or take home a freshly baked pie.

Even though we have branched out from the days we began with a wagon parked at the side of the road, we still do our best to provide fresh, local, fruits, vegetables and baked goods to our neighbours!

Reesor Farm Market is located at 10825 Ninth Line, Markam 905-640-4568 • www.reesorfarm.com

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