

## Market welcomes new farmers, producers ahead of peak season

**Feb. 22, 2021** – Applications are now open for farmers and producers to join the St. Catharines Farmers' Market for this spring/summer season.

“Niagara is renowned as a world-class growing region, so where better to feature the best of the region than right in the heart of downtown St. Catharines,” said Community and Market Coordinator Deanna Chakarova. “We really want to bring more farmers and producers right to where our local community is on a bustling market morning.”

As peak season approaches, the St. Catharines Farmers Market, which will run every Thursday and Saturday between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. in spring and summer, is ramping up its operations with additional vendors. They are especially seeking farmers and/or those that produce products containing locally grown ingredients, to ensure balance and diversity of products at the market.

Each week the market offers consumers direct access to local foods at the peak of their freshness and flavour, along with a wide variety of other items, including flowers, handmade goods, VQA wines and more. While the market operates year-round, spring and summer see the market bloom into its busiest season, packed full of local bounty – some harvested just before the market day.

“Seeing local growers and producers interact with consumers, feature their high-quality products and share their stories with the community is one of the best features of our market. It’s a vibrant place to be on market day,” adds Chakarova. “Our visitors want to talk to the people who grow their food, and they want to support local agriculture and the local economy.”

Applications and full details on the market, including a list of existing vendors, rules and regulations, selection criteria and market stall rental rates can be found online at [www.stcatharines.ca/farmersmarket](http://www.stcatharines.ca/farmersmarket). Applications are open until March 22.

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