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May 5, 2004. 09:03 AM

Guide to farmers' markets

So you want to buy local food?
 1st annual listings will help you

This guide was produced free, subject to space and editing, for markets that submitted listings by March 31. The markets have not been visited or reviewed. When describing a market's perks, it's assumed they have fresh fruit and vegetables.

For a bigger list of markets, see [Farmers' Markets Ontario](#). The Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association lets you search for farms and markets at [ontariofarmfresh.com](#).

Home Hardware hands out a great guide called Harvest Ontario that lists farms, markets, wineries and farm vacations. It's online at [harvestontario.com](#).

TORONTO

Distillery District:

Markets follow the Ontario harvest and run certain Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., including May 9 and 16, June 13 and 27, July 4 and 11, July 25, Aug. 1, 8 and 15, Sept. 5, 19 and 26, and Oct. 10. Details: 55 Mill St. (Lake Shore Blvd. E. and Parliament St. area), [thedistillerydistrict.com](#). Perks: Music and all-day breakfasts at the Farmers' Market Grill.

Dufferin Grove:

This year-round market runs Thursdays from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Details: Dufferin Grove Park rink house (across from Dufferin Mall), [dufferinpark.ca](#). Perks: Organics, meat, fish, game, prepared food, community oven bread and a weekly e-mail bulletin that previews the goods.

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Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. between May 25 and Oct. 26. Details: In front of East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave., 416-392-2664.

Etobicoke:

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. between June 12 and Oct. 16. Details: Etobicoke Civic Centre parking lot, 399 The West Mall (corner of Burnhamthorpe Rd.), 416-394-8837. Perks: 24 vendors who only sell fruit and vegetables.

Nathan Philips Square:

Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. between June 2 and Oct. 6 (excluding June 30). Details: Nathan Philips Square (Queen St. W. and Bay St. area), more info at toronto.ca. Details: Each of the 20 vendors must be a farmer, all produce must be from Ontario. No crafts allowed. Flowers, baked goods, honey, maple syrup, jams, cider, wandering performers and guest speakers on certain days.

North St. Lawrence Market:

Saturdays from 5 a.m. year-round. Details: St. Lawrence Market north building, 95 Front St. E. (at Jarvis St.), stlawrencemarket.com. Perks: Well-established and held indoors.

North York:

Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. between June 17 and Oct. 21. Details: Mel Lastman Square, 5100 Yonge St., 905-562-4372.

Parkdale:

Parkdale/Liberty Community Farmers' Market runs Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. between June 19 and Oct. 30. Details: Parkdale Town Square (corner of Queen St. W. and Cowan Ave.), parkdaleliberty.com. Perks: Multicultural meals, organic produce, entertainment.

Riverdale Farm Organic:

Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. between May 4 and Oct. 26. Details: Riverdale Park East in front of Riverdale Farm in Cabbagetown, friendsofriverdalefarm.com. Perks: Ontario growers and producers, local small-scale manufacturers, community wood-fired oven. Everything is organic and local except Fair Trade coffee and organic olive oil from one vendor's farm in Greece.

Sherway Gardens:

Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. between May 7 and Oct. 29. Details: Sherway Gardens Shopping Centre, 25 The West Mall, Etobicoke, sherwaygardens.ca, north parking lot across from door three. Perks: More than 15 vendors, with pies, preserves, cheese, deli meats, bread, flowers.

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Weston:

Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. between June 5 and Oct. 30. Details: GO train parking lot, John St., Weston (northeast of Lawrence Ave. W. and Weston Rd.), 416-249-0691. Perks: With 40 vendors, this market kicks off June 5 with entertainment, pony rides, petting zoo and yard sale.

York:

York Farmers' Market runs Thursdays noon to 8 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details: 7509 Yonge St. (north of Steeles Ave.), Thornhill, 905-886-9992.

GREATER TORONTO & AREA**Aurora:**

Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June 5 and Oct. 9. Details: Historic section of downtown Aurora. Perks: Tour Hillary House and Church Street Museum.

Burlington Mall:

Now in its 45th year, this market runs Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon between May 5 and Oct. 30. Details: Burlington Mall, Prospect St. side, burlington_mall.farmersmarketsontario.com. Perks: More than 40 vendors. Run by the Burlington Nelson Lions Club.

Erin Mills:

Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. between June 3 and Oct. 28. Details: Erin Mills Town Centre, erinmills.ca, northwest parking lot, 5100 Erin Mills Pkwy. (at Eglinton Ave.), Mississauga. Perks: Vendors who can provide cooking information, gardening goods, flowers, deli meats, bread, baked goods, pies and cheese.

Georgetown:

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. between June 19 and Oct. 9. Details: Main St. S., downtowngeorgetown.com. Perks: Producer-based market, organic meat, elk, venison, market chef.

Markham:

Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. between May 8 and Oct. 9. Details: Robinson St. in Markham Village (two blocks north of Highway 7, east of Markham Rd.), markhamvillage.com/farmer.html. Perks: Honey, cheese, eggs, breads, baked goods and crafts. Special weekly events and entertainment. Market of the Year winner in 2003, according to Foodland Ontario and Farmers' Markets Ontario.

Newmarket:

Wednesdays from 2 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. between May 8 and Oct. 9. Details: Timothy St. (east of Main St. at Doug Duncan Dr.), visit newmarketfarmersmarket.com. Perks: Live music, monthly horse-drawn wagon tours of downtown Newmarket, children's activities.

Oakville Civitan:

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. between May and November. Details: Hopedale Mall (Zellers parking lot), 1515 Rebecca St., civitan.on.ca/oakville. Perks: Run by the Civitan Club of Oakville as a fundraiser for 24 years. Expect up to 20 vendors offering food, baked goods, bedding plants, flowers and woodcrafts.

Oshawa:

Oshawa Centre Farmers' Market runs Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. between May 7 and Oct. 29. Details: Oshawa Centre east parking lot. More information at oshawacentre.com.

Square One Shopping Centre:

Fridays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. between June and October. Details: Square One Shopping Centre, Highways 10 and 403, Mississauga, northeast parking lot, shopsquareone.com. Perks: More than 150 farmers. Run by the Mississauga Central Lions Club as a fundraiser.

Streetsville:

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. between June 12 and Oct. 30. Details: Streetsville Centre Plaza, 128 Queen St. S., Mississauga. Perks: Vegetables, fruits, flowers, preserves, pastries, meats and cheeses. Run by the Lions Club of Streetsville.

Village Market:

Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. year-round (except Dec. 25). Details: Lower level of Toronto Waldorf School, 9100 Bathurst St. (north of Highway 7), Thornhill, villagemarket.ca. Perks: 28 regular vendors, including six farmers. Organic food, usually local, milk, yogurt, beef, chicken and salami.

ONTARIO**Almonte:**

Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon between May 22 and Oct. 9. Details: Library parking lot.

Bala:

Mondays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. between June 28 and Sept. 6. Details: Precambrian Shield parking lot by Bala Falls. Perks: Maple syrup, honey, jams, dressings, flowers, smoked meat, baked goods, woodworking, handmade crafts and toys.

Barrie:

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. year-round. Details: Barrie Hall (outside and inside), Collier & Mulcaster Sts. Perks: Celebrating 159 years.

Beaverton:

Fridays from 2 to 6 p.m. between May 21 and Oct. 8. Details: Behind Beaverton Town Hall.

Belleville:

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. year-round. Details: Market Square, near Memorial Arena behind City Hall, quinte.on.ca. Perks: Up to 35 vendors, with emu, bison, turkey, candy.

Brantford:

Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. year-round. Outdoors between May and October. Details: Icomm Dr. (at Market St. S.), downtown Brantford. Perks: Open since 1848. With 49 indoor stalls, Wagner's Schnitzel House breakfasts/lunches, some third-generation growers, Husul's kielbasa, local candy vendor, fresh roasted nuts.

Cambridge:

Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. year-round., plus Wednesdays from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June until September. Details: Corner of Ainslie and Dickson Sts., 519-740-4690, ext. 4252. Perks: Operating since 1830. Entertainment, demonstrations, up to 54 farm produce vendors plus others selling meat, cheese, eggs, bread.

Guide: Part 2.

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