

## Bancroft Farmers' market opens new season



The Bancroft Farmers' Market got its second season off to a great start last Friday, on a perfect sunny day. Manager Ervin Weber noted that with 14 vendors, they were already up from the regular 12 from last year.

The market is a member of Farmers' Markets Ontario, which means that a majority of vendors must sell their own produce. This automatically sets a limit on the number of craftspeople who can set up a booth. "We have five artisans on our waiting list right now," Weber reports.

Once the summer rolls around, Weber believes more producers will want to join, thus allowing more crafts workers to take part. "As it is, we're off to a great start, and the vendors are in a great mood," he stated.

Most of those with booths on Friday are returning from last season, but there are a few new faces, Weber said; "it's a good blend of new and old."

The market continues through to Thanksgiving at Millennium Park (except for next weekend, where it will be held at the Cenotaph while the Relay for Life takes place).

As to the reasons for the popularity of such ventures, Farmers' Markets Ontario puts it succinctly:

"Shoppers love them because they can buy top-quality farm-fresh products directly from the person who produced them and can often find products they won't find anywhere else.

"Farmers love them because they're fun and let them connect with consumers who love what they sell and appreciate their hard work. The markets help farmers keep on doing what they love to do, so that Ontarians can keep on enjoying fresh local food."