

MARKET MUSINGS

By Jan Freedman

Saturday was a lovely sunny day at the Market, although the early morning was chilly and very windy.

As the day warmed up, more people began to arrive to enjoy another great day at the Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair. Happily, I was back after a two week absence because of a nasty bout of bronchitis.

Gradually, more produce is showing up each week and we saw the first of the strawberries as well. There was some aromatic young garlic, lots of mushrooms, and an abundance of potted herb and lettuce plants. Of course, there are still lots of rhubarb and asparagus available.

Now I'd like to introduce you to our new Market Intern. Her name is Alysha Dupuis, 23, and she was raised in a small family with one older brother. While she was young, she liked to help her grandparents in their flower and vegetable gardens.

Growing up in an active family with a very competitive brother, she found herself trying numerous sports. As a child, she played both tennis and soccer, but later changed to field hockey, ice hockey and softball, which she found more to her liking.

Today, Alysha remains active by participating in both an ice hockey league as well as a fast pitch softball league and is considering curling.

After graduating from King City Secondary School in 2010, Alysha was unsure of what career she wanted to pursue so she took an additional year of high school courses to explore her options. In 2011, she enrolled at Brock University working toward a Bachelor of Sport Management. In April of 2015, Alysha graduated with honours from her programme.

During her time at Brock, Alysha spent time working in the sport industry as a Level 1 gymnastics coach. However, in the summer of 2014, between her third and fourth year at Brock, she began working on a farm in King Township. Although she had enjoyed helping in her family's gardens growing up, she discovered a real interest in and love of farming that led her to change her focus and return to school. She applied to the Horticulture, Food and Farming Programme at Durham College which will begin in September of 2015.

Although she has not yet travelled widely, Alysha is interested in seeing more of the world. For eight days in December and January of 2010, Alysha travelled with six other young people to Cuernavaca, Mexico on a mission trip. The mission was based on assisting in a well needed cleanup of a church that was hoping to re-establish itself. The trip involved considerable sightseeing to an area not usually seen by tourists and afforded the group the opportunity to experience the culture first hand through making friendships with local residents. This trip has opened Alysha's eyes to the wonder of travel and other cultures and she is looking forward to new experiences and additional travel in the future.

Alysha's relatively new interest in agriculture led her to apply to the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair in the spring to be our Market Intern. She was the successful candidate and we welcome her to our Market family. You can find her each Saturday helping vendors and visitors alike and wearing one of the yellow safety vests. Please make a point of meeting her and welcoming her to our Market.

Our next Special Event is our annual Strawberry Festival on June 20. There will be amazing entertainment for the whole family, including performances by the Marquis Theatre during which children will be singing and dancing from 11.30 -12.30. We are also expecting the Aurora Community Band to perform. There will be face painting for the children, an assortment of strawberry treats and free strawberries on skewers as well as several more surprises. This is always one of most popular events so be sure to be there. See you at the Market!