

# Farmer's markets good for economy, culture

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How do we feed ourselves? It is a question that has been possibly the most basic question asked by any civilization and community in our history.

How you feed a city is a sheer mind-boggling operation when you stop and examine it. Throughout history the city has looked after the country side and the country side has looked after the city.

This is ever so apparent in the topic for which I wish to speak of: farmers' markets.

In preparation for the upcoming political campaign I, along with some friends of mine, drove literally from one side of this country to the other. One of the many things that we enjoyed was the local farmers' markets, such as the one on Granville Island in Vancouver.

They were amazing places at which we were able to interact with the locals and try the local goods. Luckily for those of us who live in Ward 5, we have one in Carp. The farmer's market in Carp has recently opened for the season, allowing

us to once again get the best of local produce and goods.

As I have been campaigning over the past little while, it has become clear to me that there are people who are against farmers markets and concurrently, the money that has been given to certain markets by the City of Ottawa.

I am speaking of the media reported \$111,500 (approximately three quarters of the operating cost for the market) given to the Ottawa Farmer's market in Lansdowne Park. I believe this to be a good thing for several reasons.

The first is that it promotes local economics. When you purchase an apple from a supermarket that was not grown in the area (usually much south of us) the bulk of money flows away from the community. This in an essence becomes a wealth consumer. Contrast this with



purchasing of local goods, from family farms they become wealth generators in our community. My support is contingent on the vendors indeed being from reasonably close, say a two hour or 150 km distance from the market location.

The second is the issue of the rural/urban split I hear so much about. With more urban farmer's markets with rural people at stands selling their products, rural concerns can be communicated to urban dwellers.

The third thing is food is a shared necessity. When there are problems in supply lines with contamination or other such issues it is essential that we have the ability to feed ourselves from sources where we can ask the people who grew/raised it how it was treated. The final

aspect for supporting it is it is fresh food and builds a sense of community.

Why is this important to you, you may ask. The subsidization of farmers markets within the urban city should not be given preferential treatment. If any of the rural farmer's markets (like the one in Carp for example) need some form of financial assistance it should be as easily forthcoming as it was for urban farmer's markets. As taxpayers we are paying for that \$111,500 so primarily glebeites/puffy-vest people/ "MEC clothing wearing people"/whatever other slang term you have for people in the core, to access fresh produce from our local farmers. It should be just as important for us to access fresh food from our neighbors.

Alex Aronec is a candidate in the ward 5 municipal race.

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Shannon O'Brien, Leslie Osborne

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### CARLETON LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

#### 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Goulbourn Municipal Building, 2135 Huntley Rd. Stittsville

Guest Speakers:

**Mary Campbell, Mayor, McNab/Braeside**

(Provincial Regulations and their impact on small municipalities)

**Deborah Madill, Communications Director, Ontario Landowners Association**

(How the Ontario Landowners Association is growing and making a difference)

**Elizabeth Marshall, Secretary, Ontario Landowners Association**

(Why you need to apply for your Crown Land Patent Grant)

For more information, call Tom Black, President, CLA  
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Visit our website at [www.carletonlandowners.com](http://www.carletonlandowners.com).

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Refreshments  
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