



www.ottawafarmersmarket.ca
Phone: 613-239-4955
October 28, 2007

Today's Contests!

Today, there are three different contests being held. One is to be judged by you, the customers!

Best Carved Pumpkin

At the Information Booth you will be given a red kidney bean to drop into the carved pumpkin you think deserves a winning prize! The two top winners will receive a gift basket of market goodies and the top three a lovely ribbon!

Best Canine Halloween Costume

We have invited all of our little furry friends to dress up on this last day of Market in their finest Halloween gear. Many thanks to Berry's Pet Food on 2nd Avenue, the WAG shop (a posh shop for spoiled pets) on Bank St. south of Lansdowne and Eileen Bays-Coutts (a good friend of the Market and fellow dog owner) for being the judges for this first time contest.

Best Vendor Costume

Today is the chance for all Vendors and Market Staff to have the chance to win one of two **Sunday Brunches for Two** at Bearbrook Farm Resort. Several judges will go to all booths during the morning and decide which vendors have the best costume. Good luck to everyone! Many thanks to Bearbrook Farm for donating the prizes!

Mark your 2008 Calendar on Saturday, March 1st for

Seedy Saturday

Buy local seeds, learn about seed saving and trade seeds you've saved. Event takes place at Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, Britannia Park, 2805 Carling
10am-3pm

Admission is FREE

www.seeds-organic.com/seedy.htm

Did you Know?

Many different people have been involved in making the Ottawa Farmers' Market a success. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the "**Friends of the Market**" who have volunteered their time and efforts to help us out each Sunday, **Karin Mahoney** for her tireless picture taking, and **Sarah Trant** for her many press releases. Very special thanks to **Russ Lowe** for putting out at 6:00 a.m. and retrieving at 3:00 p.m. the numerous Market signs each and every Sunday.

Goodbye Until Next Season

It is hard to believe that the 2007 Season is already at an end. The frost is on the pumpkins, and the fields and greenhouses are empty of crops. Thanks to all of you, the producers have had a fabulous year, which brings me to a little synopsis of what the farmers do the rest of the year. I interviewed Gerry Rochon of Rochon Gardens in Edwards to find out what his winter is like, and this is what he told me:

"After Markets are over at the end of October, it is time to "clean up". We clean out the barns, the greenhouses, clean and oil all of the machinery and put it into storage for the winter. This takes 2-3 weeks. After that, everything needs to be winterized; greenhouses need to be taped if there has been any damage, all pipes have to be drained of water so they don't freeze, which takes a week to 10 days. We allow ourselves a two-week vacation to spend time with our family during the Christmas Holidays. Beginning in January and February, on sunny days (because there is no heat in them there barns) we repair equipment and greenhouses, service greenhouse furnaces and flower irrigation systems. Cold, bad, stormy days are spent in the house pouring over seed catalogues, preparing paperwork for accountants,

planning for spring field crop rotation and thinking of new seeds to try out. Winter months also bring a couple of conferences and/or trade shows to keep up on the latest technology and products available.

At the end of January the cycle starts all over again with seeding peppers and tomatoes in trays, 200 seeds per tray. These are put in the basement of the house (about 200 square feet of seedlings) under lights to begin growing. By the second week of February they are ready to transplant into bigger containers so a greenhouse is opened to house the by now much larger plants. At this time one family member must be home at all times in case of power loss or furnace trouble because if the greenhouse loses heat for more than a couple of hours the plants will freeze and the whole crop will be lost. All of the greenhouses are opened up on March 1st, the plants are transplanted into troughs, the flower baskets are started and the greenhouses are inspected as per Government regulations. The new season has begun."

Basket Draw Winners

The winners of our final baskets of "Market Goodies" for the 2007 season are:

John F. Mallon
Monica Pine

Thank you for your participation and we sincerely hope all the winners enjoyed their goodies!