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Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> will mark the first official Farmer's Market event at Nanaimo North Town Centre. Market Fresh, a Farmer's Market is based on the make it, bake it, grow it belief, sprouted as a way to offer consumers local produce and products directly from the growers and farmers in the community.

The bell will ring promptly at 10 am and the market will be open for sales. Customers are invited to enjoy the plethora of local produce and natural goods. Over 20 vendors will offer everything from bedding plants, baked goods, meat, seafood, jams and jellies, fresh cut flowers, honey, organic coffee and more!

Festivities will kick off at 11:00 am under the Market Fresh tent near Sears and Montana's restaurant.

Performing on the Market Fresh stage will be:

- 11-12 Daisy the Cow and Farmer Vicki from Island Farms
- Noon to 1 Peter Batt Jazz duo
- 1 to 2 Nanaimo Recycling Exchange interactive composting workshop

The Wave 102.3 FM radio station will be on site doing live cut ins and announcing Market Specials and prize giveaways courtesy of our in mall retailers!

"We are so excited to be able to host the Nanaimo North Farmer's Market. We have had such a great and positive response from our vendors and members of the community," says Carlene Patenaude, Marketing Director, "The Nanaimo North Farmer's Market was put together so that we could aid in providing a way to get fresh and local food directly to the consumer and provide the farmers more choices for days and times to sell their products."

The Nanaimo North Farmer's Market is a venue that will provide the consumer this direct access they are looking for and also to assist in filling the need for a variety of healthy, nutritious, and fresh food in the community. Nanaimo North hopes that this will be a popular location to showcase the ever increasing number of Nanaimo and Island farmers and their unique contributions to the community.

Working with the BC Association of Farmer's Markets, Nanaimo North will be hosting BC150 Celebrations including a BC Day ceremony as well as working with local non profit organizations to put together displays and other seminars surrounding culture, people, heritage events that are part of what makes up our province today. A non-profit component, seminars and workshops will round out the Farmer's Market offerings every Saturday.

Market Fresh at Nanaimo North Town Centre will run every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>.

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