



BC Farmers' Market Awards name the Best of the Province

For over three weeks in February, farmers' market organizers, growers, small-scale food processors, vendors, and community leaders came together virtually to connect and learn from interactive workshops and networking events.

March 2, 2021 (VANCOUVER, BC) – The BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) celebrated the best of B.C. with its eighth annual [BC Farmers' Market Awards](#) at their first ever virtual conference. Adding a new category of Farmers' Market Champion to recognize an outstanding advocate for farmers' markets, the awards ceremony celebrated individuals and organizations that made exceptional contributions to the B.C. farmers' market sector in 2020.

"To highlight one market, or even one person, in this particular year was a daunting task for the judges. In truth, everyone deserves an award for the creative ways in which Farmers' Markets in BC successfully navigated the myriad of requirements and restrictions that the 2020 season presented. From hand sanitizers and masks to crowd control and traffic flow, it was a season to remember. Congratulations to all of our market members, managers, vendors and volunteers for rising to the challenge. The judges have cast their votes, but you are all winners!" said awards judge, Jon Bell.

A panel of leading professionals in the sector, including Jon Bell, Sechelt farmer and former BCAFM president; Wylie Bystedt, former BCAFM president and president of McLeese Lake Farmers' Market; and Georgia Stanley, former BCAFM membership coordinator. The judges selected the following as the best of BC farmers' markets in 2020, from nominations received throughout the province:

- Farmers' Market of the Year (Large, 61+ vendors): [Esquimalt Farmers Market](#)
- Farmers' Market of the Year (Medium, 21-60 vendors): [Main St. Station Farmers' Market \(Vancouver Farmers' Markets\)](#)
- Farmers' Market of the Year (Small, up to 20 vendors): [Nicola Valley Farmers' Market](#)
- Farmers' Market Manager of the Year: Frances Callaghan ([Kelowna Farmers' and Crafters' Market](#))
- Farmers' Market Vendor of the Year (farmer): [Farmer's Larder](#) (Garrett Grimshire, Nicola Valley Farmers' Market)
- Farmers' Market Vendor of the Year (non-farmer): [Road 9 - Audrey's Breads](#) (Audrey Enixon, Osoyoos Farmers' Market On Main)
- Farmers' Market Volunteer of the Year: Lisa Severn ([Pemberton Farmers' Market](#)) and Paul Dort ([Creston Valley Farmers' Market](#))
- Partner of the Year: [LUSH Valley Food Action Society](#) (Comox Valley Farmers' Market)
- Municipality of the Year: [District of West Vancouver](#)
- Farmers' Market Champion: [Columbia Valley Community Economic Development](#)

Now in their eighth year, the BC Farmers' Market Awards recognize and celebrate the work of all those involved with making farmers' markets thrive as venues where communities, farmers and artisans can connect through locally grown and made items.

"I grew up working in the tobacco, cucumber and ginseng fields of Norfolk County Ontario. But it wasn't until fall 2017, when I met Heather O'Hara at an Economic Development

Practitioners' Network event in Creston, where I realized that farmers markets ARE business incubators. They always have been and they always will be.

Some of the Columbia Valley's largest and fastest growing businesses started making in kitchens, basements, garages and started selling at farmers markets. And we are working hard to support the current and next generation of vendors to meet their goals, while also supporting food security, the environment, social inclusion, workforce development and economic development in 2021 and beyond. We know that the BCAFM will continue to be a strong leader and dependable partner along the way," says Farmers' Market Champion Award winner, Ryan Watmough from the Columbia Valley Community Economic Development Team.

The Farmers' Market Awards recipients were announced virtually at the 22nd annual BC Farmers' Markets Conference, organized by the BCAFM. A list of all of the winners are available on the BCAFM [website](#) and the awards video on [Facebook](#).

The BCAFM is a registered society that represents over 145 farmers' markets across BC. Its mission is to develop, promote and strengthen the capacity of farmers' markets in all regions of the province. Visit www.bcfarmersmarket.org to learn more or find a farmers' market near you.

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About the BC Association of Farmers' Markets:

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Webpage: bcfarmersmarket.org/events/bcafm-conference/

Tickets: available for purchase on [Whova](#)

Facebook: facebook.com/BCAFM

Twitter: [@BCFarmersMarket](https://twitter.com/BCFarmersMarket)

Instagram: [@bcfarmersmarket](https://instagram.com/bcfarmersmarket)

Hashtag: #BCAFM2021

For more information or media pass request:

Jasmine Noble, BCAFM Communications & Creative Lead

jasmine@bcfarmersmarket.org

(office) 604-734-9797

(cell) 647-975-5175