

Brent Warner, Executive Director, Farmers' Markets Canada

Brent Warner is the Executive Director of Farmers' Markets Canada, a new organization trying to stimulate and move forward with farmers / markets across Canada. He also runs his own agriculture production and marketing company that works with individual farmers and governments to assist the farming industry across North America. Brent was the Industry Agritourism and Marketing Specialist with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for 27 years and the longest serving board member (15 years) of the North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA). His career spans over 30 years of working with farm families across North America. Due to the rapid change affecting agriculture worldwide, Brent is in demand as a speaker and has been invited to share his insights and energies on family farm survival from Hawaii to Prince Edward Island and stretching across North America from California and Boston, to the North West Territories.

Darrell Komick, General Manager, Calgary Farmers' Market

Currently Darrell is the General Manager of the Calgary Farmers' Market New Generation Coop. The Calgary Farmers' Market was established on July 3, 2004. Today over 1.35 million shoppers visit the Calgary Farmers' Market. In 2007, the Calgary Farmers' Market was voted "best planned market on the continent" by the North American Farm Direct Marketing Association. The vision of the Calgary Farmers' Market is to develop a network of Markets so that by 2020, 30% of the fresh food sold to Calgarians comes from the regional food system. By November 2010, the Calgary Farmers' Market will move into a new location that will increase the vendor and shopper capacity by 50%.

Debby Claude, Manager of Operations, Saskatoon Farmer's Market

Debby has been employed as the Manager of Operations with the Saskatoon Farmers' Market Co-operative (SFMC) since 1997. During this time the search for a permanent home for the market was initiated. Much political lobbying with city hall and provincial government officials was undertaken. To further support the cause it was necessary to form allies with many community partners thereby educating citizens on the benefits of a Farmers' Market to a community. In December 2005, three levels of government came together to redevelop Saskatoon's river bank, River Landing and the Saskatoon Farmers' Market was part of that development. Doors opened to the new permanent home for the SFMC at River Landing May, 2007. She is also a founding member and current executive member with the newly formed Farmers' Markets Canada. Debby has recently formed a new alliance with other Saskatchewan farmers' markets to bring all together for a purpose built marketing consortium.

Robert Chorney, Executive Director, Farmers Markets Ontario

Robert T. Chorney, one of the founders and currently the Executive Director of Farmers' Markets Ontario has a broad business background. For 19 years, he was an executive with the Co-operators, Canada's largest all-lines insurance company; 7 years in the travel and tourism industry; and 5 years as a Market Development Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, where he guided the renaissance of Ontario's Farmers' Markets. Bob has helped organize some 100 new farmers' markets and he has consulted to farm, government, business and community groups across all of Canada and in many parts of the United States. He has been a featured speaker at several international Direct Farm Marketing Conferences.

He is the co-author of "Sharing the Harvest", the first-ever Canadian How-To handbook on how to build Farmers' Markets and how Farmers' Markets build community!