

Report from the Chair SJFM AGM 2013

Hello.

This past year the St John's Farmers' Market experienced something new and amazing. A small bit of stasis. While it will not (nor should not) last, it was a very good thing. Here is why: After years of vision and building and growing and scrambling and incorporating and Co-operate-ing and marketing and making, baking, growing or eating lots and lots of waffles and samosas and sticky buns and turnips (and even -finally- tomatillos! Yeehaw!) and pickles and jellies, The Market is fully established. Our market - YOUR market - Is now a fully realized community hub for fresh local foods and innovative quality craft. Thank you for this. Thank you all also for especially supporting our farmers through this entire process. Local farmed goods are at the very heart of why we are all here and It was a heart warming sight indeed when the sun was shining on table after table after table of gorgeous fresh produce (and coolers full of local meats).

This does not mean that the SJFM is not still evolving. There are many challenges and positive changes ahead for the Market as we continue to grow our vendor base and our consumer pool. We are still looking for a permanent physical home that can meet all of our needs and accommodate our ever increasing popularity over the long term. We continue to engage with the province to make sure we meet all health and safety regulations and to be in a position to help and guide our vendors in navigating current and future regulations as well. We will have a new Market Manager this year and new volunteers and, hopefully, a few new board members. With excitement of the new, also comes a parallel appreciation of the “old”. I would like to take a moment and thank our manager of the past two years, Terry Smith, for all her hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank all the many many volunteers who make the market possible every week. I sincerely hope you all return for the 2013 season. I know this isn't an Oscar's speech, but I must also thank one of our out-going board members, Lori Greene. She has been with the Market since its inception and, I feel sure, will be with it still in many ways in the years to come. She deserves a break and much appreciation.

How else are we changing? You tell me. You, the Co-op Membership and the Community at large will ultimately give the future SJFM it's vision and direction. Think about what you want in 2 years. In 5 years. In 20 years. It can happen. It is happening. Be an active part of it and eat well along the way.

Emily Martin, Interim Chair/Vice-Chair SJFM board