

St. Marys Farmers' Market Association
Box 1537, St. Marys, ON, N4X 1B9

April 17, 2018

To St. Marys Town Council:

Request to the Town of St. Marys from the St. Marys Farmers' Market
re. permanent building with washroom facilities and storage at the site
of the St. Marys Farmers' Market – Jones St. Parking Lot

The St. Marys Farmers' Market plays a key role within the St. Marys community – both by serving the residents of the Town and by bringing people to the Town from the surrounding community and beyond.

After 25 years of service to the community, the St. Marys Farmers' Market Association is coming to the St. Marys Town Council with a significant, but mutually beneficial, request. The Market wants to improve the facilities at our current location – the Town-owned Jones St. Parking Lot.

Specifically, the Market is approaching Town Council to request support from the Town to erect a 200 square foot permanent building in the Parking Lot. This building would have 100 square ft available for a fully accessible washroom and 100 square ft available for storage space with water access, for the market to use to store market canopies, signs and other market related tools and equipment. Based on communication with Town staff, we understand that the cost to run services to and to construct such a building would be in the range of \$105,000 to \$120,000. If Council is willing to provide support to this project, the St. Marys Farmers' Market is prepared to initiate a fundraising effort to raise a portion of the funds required for this project.

The St. Marys Farmers' Market Association is asking Council:

- 1) If you are willing to have a permanent building erected within the Jones St. Parking Lot;
- 2) If you are willing to allocate some resources, in-kind and cash, towards this project and if so, to what level;
- 3) If you are willing to support the Market in any grant applications it may make to foundations or other potential donors, including acting as “Qualified Donee” on behalf of the Market, as required;
- 4) If such a building is erected, is the Town is able to provide ongoing, routine maintenance of the washroom.

The Market is aware that the Town has identified a number of strategic priorities in its recent Strategic Plan update. The Market believes this request will help the Town address some of these strategic priorities including:

- it provides an investment in an additional public washroom in the Town core, one that is close to the pathway, one that does not require climbing the hill to the Town Hall and one that would be available for use during downtown events like the Heritage Festival;

- the Town is working to strengthen tourism to the Town and Farmers' Markets are seen as playing a key role in promoting Tourism in smaller communities. Having just celebrated our 25th Anniversary, the St. Marys Farmers' Market should be seen as a market that is highly likely to remain within the community for many years to come;
- Town businesses are facing some challenges in attracting employees. A strong, thriving Farmers' Market can be an attraction for working families looking for healthy, local food;
- Downtown revitalization is an identified priority for the Town. A farmers' market plays a key role in bringing and keeping shoppers to the downtown and provides a weekly gathering place for the community.

The St. Marys Farmers' Market is grateful for the ongoing support the Town of St. Marys has provided to the Market. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which we believe will strengthen the market and help ensure the Market continues to be a vital part of the St. Marys community for years to come.

Respectfully,



Ann Slater,
Chair, St. Marys Farmers' Market Association

St. Marys Farmers' Market Association Board:

Ann Slater, Chair

Lynette Geddes, Vice-Chair

Simon Fraser, Secretary

Joel Ceresne, Treasurer

Cherie Thompson

Becky Seaton

Barb Taylor

Melanie Arnhold