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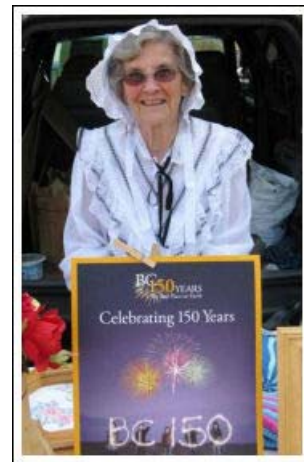
BC150 Festivals Celebrate Community

September 2008

Sher Hackwell loves B.C., the province she has always called home, and she is passionate about the importance of farmers' markets. She was a perfect fit for a job that promotes both.

Hackwell, the BC150 market coordinator for the BC Association of Farmers' Markets, has spent the summer facilitating BC150 "festival" events across the province.

"Farmers' markets are perfect for BC150 celebrations because they are natural community gathering places, a place you can go where people know you by name," she said. "This has been reinforced in every community I have visited."



Lake Country Farmers' Market
Photo courtesy of Sher Blackwell

Markets were invited to celebrate the food, people and culture of their communities by hosting festivals throughout the 2008 market season. While some of the events have already taken place, there are still a couple of BC150 celebrations to look forward to.

On Sept. 27 the Ladner Village Market will host a BC150 Moonlight Market that will honour the Fraser River. This one-night-only market will light up the street and bring back encore performances from favourite vendors and entertainers.



Cedar Farmers' Market

On Oct. 10 the Two Rivers Farmers' Market Fall Fair in Lytton will celebrate BC150 with traditional Aboriginal cuisine and local home grown foods. The fair will also feature local entertainment, drumming by the Siska Indian Band and demonstrations of traditional gathering techniques.

BC150 events have proven very popular in communities across the province. Chef Wade Magnant barbequed 150 shish kebabs of buffalo, vegetables and bannock at the Prince George Farmers' Market on August 2. The market marked BC150 with a birthday cake and displays of historical farming photographs.

Clearwater's Strawberry Festival on

Photo courtesy of Sher
Blackwell

July 5 celebrated both B.C.'s birthday and the area's strawberry-growing heritage. It was organized by the Clearwater Farmers' Market and Clearwater Ski Club, and featured strawberry eating and baking contests.

"While BC is young by international standards, BC150 is a perfect to remind us of all we have built and achieved throughout the years," said Hackwell.

The BC Association of Farmers' Markets represents vendors who make, bake or grow the products sold at the market, from farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, specialty cheeses, eggs and seafood to jams and artisan products. For more information, visit the [BC Association of Farmers' Markets](#).

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