

## Scadding Marketplace will be a Friday night highlight

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With an eye to revitalizing a downtrodden stretch of Dundas Street and helping local vendors, Scadding Court Community Centre has launched a new weekly marketplace.

The summer-long marketplace will offer vendors a chance to showcase their wares Friday nights throughout the summer. With live entertainment in addition to the vendor kiosks, the Live Local Friday Market serves as a celebration of the community.

Scadding Court executive director Kevin Lee said the market will bring some added vibrancy to the neighbourhood.

"We've been working with our councillor, Adam Vaughan, who wants to promote economic development and bring life back to Dundas Street," he said. "Dundas is pretty depressed, especially from Spadina over to about Bathurst, where businesses are having a hard time surviving."

Scadding Court provides a year-round marketplace in a series of large shipping containers along Dundas Street. The Friday Night Market provides an additional chance for vendors to offer their goods, with an eye toward benefiting both the buyers and the sellers.

Lee noted the market aims to help open doors for some in the community who might otherwise not have a chance to sell their wares. Items on sale at the Friday, June 17 launch included everything from jewelry, to food, to bathing suits. Local retailers such as Monforte Dairy set up shop alongside independent local artisans.

"We have established businesses right next door to newcomers who might be having trouble finding work here, but who maybe ran a business back home," Lee said.

Because the cost of operating a booth is so low - vendors were charged \$10 to set up shop - goods were offered at low prices, which served as another boon to the community.

"It's not just economic development, but also making services and goods available for a low cost," Lee said.

Local performers will add some flair to the weekly market, imbuing the stretch of Dundas Street with a fun, festive atmosphere as local residents check out the goods being offered. In that way, the Friday Night Market will almost turn the area into a miniature street festival, though the primary draw will always be the vendors themselves.

Aline Chatterjee, of Scadding Court, noted the wide selection of items up for sale made the market an appealing destination. On its inaugural weekend, the market had 30 vendors offering up an array of goods.

"We had people selling bubble tea, a lot of food, crafts, plants, we had photographs for sale from a local artist," she said.

The Scadding Court Community Centre's Live Local Friday Night Market will take place Fridays from 6 to 10 p.m. at 707 Dundas St. W., near Bathurst Street. It will run weekly until Friday, Sept. 2.

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