**HISTORY OF THE BVFMA**

2001 – No minutes available.

-- Manager was Virgil Cambridge

-- $270 memberships & $4,723.34 stall fees & $573 canopy rentals

2002 – Only one meeting has minutes.

-- Participate in the Main Street Fair (approx. ½ the vendors who attended liked it).

-- Winter markets in Elks Hall.

-- Two indoor markets at Evelyn Hall with 14 & 13 vendors.

-- 13 – 27 vendors each Saturday.

-- $370 memberships & $4,890 stall fees & $337.50 canopy rentals

2003 -- Executive: Bob Chapman (P), Crystal Philpott (VP), Magdalene von Seydlitz (S), Tom Leach (T), Louise Jacobs, Ursula Yeker.

 -- Manager was Joan Rogers.

-- Start donating prize money to Fair to encourage more exhibits in flowers & veggies.

 -- Smithers Retail & Service Committee asked Market to move to Main Street.

 -- Rules were drafted.

 -- Two indoor markets at Evelyn Hall with 14 & 5 vendors.

 -- $360 memberships & $5,163 stall fees & $307 canopy rentals

2004 -- Executive: Bob Chapman (P), Ursula Yeker (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Nancy Duursma, Tom Leach, Martha Wertz.

-- Manager Joan Rogers @ $100/market ($2,200 for year).

-- Approx. 40 members

 -- Held a seminar to teach various skills.

 -- Average attendance was 21.6 vendors (overall, higher than 2003).

2005 -- Executive: Ursula Yeker (P), Virginia Pohl (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Bob Chapman, Nancy Duursma, Wade Zeiler, Joan Rogers,

Mark Fisher.

 -- Manager was Gail Jenne.

 -- Tom Leach, founder of the Market, passed away in early 2005.

 -- This is approx. 12th year of the Market.

 -- Ursula has made Market bags from the old canopy awnings.

-- First mention of Local Food Directory booklet.

 -- First mention of liability insurance.

 -- Proposed re-zoning of Central Park, which would exclude Market.

-- Ice Rink replaces tennis courts.

 -- Reduce manager’s salary to $80/market.

 -- Surveys done of patrons & vendors.

 -- Average of 23 vendors per Market (high 27, low 15), only 14 at single indoor market.

 -- $400 memberships & $4,960 stall fees & $700 canopy rentals

2006 – Executive: Ursula Yeker (P), Tracey Strong (VP), Megan D/Arcy (S/T), Bob Chapman, Mark Fisher, Nancy Duursma, Joan Rogers,

Hildo Hoek

-- Manager/Advocate was Laurie Barneveld. Salary $3,000 (23 markets).

-- Storage in train car for first time.

-- UNBC study done.

-- Second survey done of vendors.

-- Looking for a Market Advocate but funding not available. Manager currently paid $1,700 ($10/hr x 8hrs x 21wks). Decided to expand this position & salary to $3,000/yr.

-- Market’s Evolution (Scrapbook) to be created (Ursula may have this).

-- Logo contest held, vote is for Martha Wertz’ design.

 -- Average attendance was 26 vendors. Only 4 vendors at 1st indoor market in Elks Hall and 7 at Harvest Market in Evelyn.

2007 – Executive: Tracey Strong (P), Mark Fisher (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Sharie Wertz, Don Gillis, Nancy Duursma, Joan Rogers, Larry

Wiwcharuk, Ursula Yeker.

 -- Manager/Advocate was Catherine Macleod. Worked 12-16 hours/week (including Mkt). Salary $3,125.

 -- Approx. 45 members.

 -- Grow & Sell Workshop held in Aspen Banquet Room to encourage new vendors/farmers.

 -- Assist in planning the 100 Mile Diet dinner at the Logpile Lodge.
 -- Market shown in Northern BC Tourism video for olympics (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVxRs4WOTec>).

-- Had a display at the Fall Fair.

 -- Plan to initiate & pay for a study of poultry processing on Hwy 16 corridor.

 -- Average of 27 vendors (29 stalls) per Market (high 33/33, law 20/23).

 -- Manager’s report says they had to turn vendors away some weeks due to space limits.

2008 – Executive: Mark Fisher (P), Ursula Yeker (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Nancy Duursma, Joan Rogers, Larry Wiwcharuk, Alicen

Keamarden, Robin Hawes.

-- Manager/Advocate was Garry Rivard – salary $3,625.

-- 52 members

 -- $500 added to allow Manager/Advocate to hire an assistant when needed.

 -- Several jobs done by Manager taken over by Directors prior to hiring Mgr this year.

 -- Concern every year about Rule enforcement, so decided to have vendors sign off on a copy of the rules.

-- Parking is a problem – need to create a vendor parking area.

-- Issues with stall location for vendors & animal sales.

-- Tried an “Artisans’ Alley” (all artisan stalls along side with train) – moderate success, but only did it one day, so can’t really tell.

-- Aprons made & sold (cost $12 + taxes) (sold for $20).

-- Double-D-Lux is operating in the CPB area by this year.

-- Appear to be outgrowing the Central Park space, including power issues. Committee worked with Town to move some

infrastructure (eg. dumpsters) for more space.

-- Some regular customers have complained dogs are unhygienic. Dogs excluded.

-- Non-voting membership created.

-- First year of B.C. Coupon Program ($8,835).

-- First year of Local Food Directory

-- 23 vendors on May 10th. Average of 30 vendors/market in July & August. 10 Kids stalls rented (4 were repeats).

-- $1,070 memberships & $6,652 stall fees & $800 canopy rentals

2009 – Executive: Mark Fisher (P), Manfred Wittwer (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Alicen Keamarden, Arlene Huisman, Franzi Cody, Nancy

Duursma, Robin Hawes.

 -- Manager/Advocate was Garry Rivard – salary $4,600.

 -- 73 members

-- Fees increased ($20 to $25/member, $10 to $15/stall, remove 1st time vendor $5, $10 to $15/canopy, $2 to $3/small plug, children raised from 14&under to 16&under and don’t have to share a table)

-- Determine that insurance only covers members – all vendors must be members.

-- Website created by Carolyn Haywood.

-- Power problems led to generator purchase plan.

-- Strategic Planning session funding.

-- Special Days = Seniors & Kids

-- B.C. Coupon Program held again ($10,176) in partnership with Pregnancy Outreach Program.

 -- Winter markets held once a month in Oct, Nov & Dec. Broke even.

 -- $1,970 memberships & $12,661 stall fees & $555 canopy rentals

2010 -- Executive: Manfred Wittwer (P), Mark Fisher (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Alicen Keamarden, Arlene Huisman, Bob Chapman, Carli Heinrichs, Franzi Cody, Nancy Duursma

-- Manager was Aubrey Hunter – salary $7,160 (plan was for $20 x 14hr x 21 wks + 3 indoor x 10hrs x $20, with details of hours worked on invoices – 2 extra indoor mkts added)

 -- 93 members

-- New bylaws adopted at AGM (proxy voting, no need to “second” motions, change Sec to appointed from elected, add insurance, add organizational chart as Appendix)

-- Megan held an informal workshop for new vendors in conjunction with an event by Northern Root Community Garden, but only a couple of people attended.

-- Discussion at AGM about changing Market hours to 9-1, but no vote held as it was stated that other users of the CPB need the lot by 1pm.

-- Discussion at AGM – find larger venue for Winter Markets & change time to 9-1 (currently it is 10-2) – stalls to be pre-paid for the season & have to commit by end of August.

-- Significant growth this year – many ideas discussed to manage growth, but all shelved

-- Aubrey did not have to turn away any outdoor vendors, but did turn away from indoors

-- General need for better rule enforcement, especially on “pay in advance”

-- Trying for agreement with Town for use of Central Park lot.

 -- Seniors, Kids, Aboriginal, and Garlic as special days.

 -- Electrical solved with additional outlets on train.

 -- Dixieland Band a huge success at Seniors’ Day.

 -- Parking still an issue.

 -- Registered letter to Double-D-Lux.

 -- Marketing an ongoing issue.

 -- Only 3 Indoor Winter Markets

 -- Purchase tables & chairs for central seating area.

 -- Much debate about fruit truck – decided not to allow it at Market.

 -- Plan to give out Market bags – one free with each weekly draw.

 -- Aprons & bags for sale.

-- Board decided to provide support to Wet’suwet’en rather than a financial break & they sold fish at the Market this year

-- $2,310 memberships & $17,825 stall fees & $510 canopy rentals & $732 plug fees

2011 -- Executive: Manfred Wittwer (P), Mark Fisher (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Bob Chapman, Carli Heirichs, Arlene Huisman, Kala

Hooker, Alicen Keamarden, Nancy Duursma, Joe Hug

-- Joan to coordinate music

-- 6 committees (Constitution, Community Liasion, Marketing, Education, Infrastructure, Special Events) PLUS committee on

assigning stalls (due to concerns voiced at AGM)

-- 82 members

-- Manager was Aubrey Hunter – salary $7,945

-- Market space was expanded towards the Fire Hall

-- Special Days: Kids’, Seniors’ and Aboriginal

-- Concerns voiced at AGM about Market growth & safety

 -- decided to amend Rules to allow items we can’t grow here & to limit boundaries of Market

-- Brochure printed

-- Booked into Smithers Trade Show – vendors reported that “location was poor with very little customer traffic”

-- Need to get user agreement with the Town reiterated again

 -- Indoor markets to be every 2 weeks Oct-Dec and every 3rd Sat for Jan-April (had 40+ vendors for Xmas & 20+ in New Year)

 -- November – we support the renovations to the Central Park Building & site

 -- Vendors: averaged 42.6/outdoor, 32.4/indoor

 -- Counted 503 people going downtown after leaving the Market over a 4 week period (avg 125/week)

 -- $2,225 memberships & $16,265 stall fees & $345 canopy rentals & $875 plug fees

2012 -- Executive: Manfred Wittwer (P), Kala Hooker (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Arlene Huisman, Alicen Keamarden, Nancy Duursma,

Joe Hug, Lesley Jackson, Ursula Yeker, Bob Chapman

-- 106 members

 -- Manager was Dmitri Cody – salary $10,300

-- Town informally suggested moving the Market to a new location – AGM attendees were not keen, although acknowledged that

parking at CPB is an issue

-- Introduced limits on businesses selling at the Market.

-- Parking generally an issue -- vendors were asked to park by hockey arena.

-- A presentation (or two?) made to Town on behalf of Market

-- Our coupon program abandoned when Province decided to continue their program

-- Local Food Day at Muheim School was very successful – hot breakfast, farm tours & workshops.

-- We had a Business Open House to encourage more understanding with Town & local business owners.

-- UNBC Study completed (follow up on 2006) & presented to Town – much data on Market’s contribution to the community

-- Fire Hall siren can not be turned down.

-- Central Park building declined to put in an ATM (no space)

-- We asked Town to remove some cement barriers from the CPB lot & they agreed.

-- Special Days: Aboriginal, Kids, Seniors

-- Marketing efforts were increased this year.

-- We gave 19 booklets of Gift Certificates to 4 schools in November (value $475)

-- Regional District asked us to move new Market signs to private property as MOT does not want them on the right-of-way

-- President noted that it was a record year for number of vendors, but we need to work on profitability if want vendors to return

-- Indoor Markets (St. Joseph’s School Gym): 4 in Oct, two in each of Dec – April; approx same # of vendors (26)

-- Outdoor Markets: 29% increase in stall spaces, average of 47 stalls/market, had 50 vendors on June 9th & 50 stalls (some doubles) on June 23rd, and 56 stalls on August 11th.

-- $2,550 memberships, $18,025 stall fees, $810 canopy rentals, $639 plug fees

2013 -- Executive: Manfred Wittwer (P), Kala Hooker (VP), Megan D’Arcy (S/T), Lesley Jackson, Ursula Yeker, Bob Chapman, Amanda Forstbauer-Bourrie, Jonathan Knight, Marlene Thimer, Lyn Nugent

-- 79 members

-- Manager was Dmitri Cody – salary $10,320.

-- AGM discussed need to improve vendor parking to give room for customers

-- Stall fees increased by $5/market at AGM (to hire bookkeeper, Admin assistance, possible infrastructure costs in future) (Average table fee at other Markets is $28) with 2 free markets if pay in advance for whole season (1 free if pay 10), if pay 4 weeks in advance, can hold your spot

-- Starting in March, the Provincial Assoc was supposed to be looking into issues around insurance – never resolved.

-- Lots of community contact – attended Town Council & Chamber meetings, Central Park Bldg Committee, etc.

-- Lengthy follow-up meeting building on the Strategic Plan.

-- Several problems with potholes/water at outdoor location – Town never repaired.

-- Cancer Care Cookbook using BVFMA as the theme

 -- BC Coupon Program run with Pregnancy Outreach & Salvation Army (~100% return rate)

-- Received “Imagine” grant – put money towards school workshops & farm tours – did two school workshops/tours/breakfasts &

gave them gift certificates to the Market, two postponed to 2014

-- Received two large signs from Regional District & two sandwich boards

-- Further marketing efforts including work on website.

-- Double-D-Lux continues to be mentioned in passing by Town Councillors who seem confused that it is not part of Market.

-- Revised old sandwich boards with metal & magnetic signs.

-- Special Days: Aboriginal, Kids, Seniors, Centennial (Smithers 100th)

-- Central Park Building renovated: outside changed extensively, wheelchair doors & washroom

-- Board drafted new Rules, new definitions of “Make”, “Bake” and “Grow”, plus an application process for vendors

-- Directors examined safety issues at several meetings and rules/duties revised accordingly.

-- CICK builds stage with $500 from BVFMA -- which allows a new layout (70 stalls!), but needed to relocate some vendors

-- Plan to move Board of Directors from working board to governance board, plus more documentation to assist new Directors

-- Had to find new indoor location (St. Joe’s no longer available) – only option was Curling Rink

-- Failure to follow the Rules & disrespect for Manager were issues this year.

-- Indoor Markets (Curling Rink): weekly in Oct, Nov & Dec; 3rd Sat in Jan; 1st & 3rd Sat for Feb, Mar, April; plus May 3rd -- venue

small, many customers confused/absent, sales slower (seem slower in Town too, so may be economy) – avg vendors approx 25,

with far less interest in Xmas markets (10 fewer vendors per market)

-- Outdoor Markets: 4% increase in stall spaces (avg 49); 56 stalls on July 13 & August 8

-- $2,500 memberships, $26,660 stall fees, $630 canopy rentals, $837 plug fees

2014 -- Executive: Kala Hooker (P) (until hired as Coordinator in March), Lyn Nugent (VP and Treasurer *pro tem*), Anastasia Ledwon (appointed Sec), Marlene Thimer (BOD Sec), Manfred Wittwer, Jonathan Knight, Lesley Jackson, Amanda Forstbauer-Bourrie, Maurice Gauthier, William Elliott (appointed), Virginia Pohl (appointed)

 -- New Rules & Application form approved at special General Meeting in January.

 -- Job Descriptions/Duties formalized for Directors, Manager, and Coordinator.

 -- Coordinator hired in March – salary $10,720

 -- Members agreed to sponsor youth if they couldn’t afford cost to attend (list of participating vendors held by Manager)

 -- Website moved to control of Board, reworked for greater impact & accuracy

 -- Safety:

 -- Insurance:

 -- Taxes:

 -- School Workshops/Tours:

 -- Marketing: