

Farmers Market coming every Friday

By Shelly Wiebe

Connecting through the Tuesday morning library program where they take their young children each week, Stephanie Zakel and Karla Falk discovered they both had similar interests including gardening and local food.

"Often our conversations would lead back to the Farmers' Market that used to be down at the dock and agreed how great it would be if it started up again," says Stephanie.

After making a few phone calls to the right people, the two discovered that there was no current plan in place to have the market there again this summer. Unwilling to stop there, Stephanie and Karla went one step further.

"We just started calling anyone we knew or thought would be interested and now we have a list of confirmed vendors, both new and returning and lots of buzz and interest picking up," said Stephanie.

With similar passion for the local community, they joined forces with Betty Chanyi, who was conducting her own personal mission to get the market back in Port Rowan.

"It's the three of us working together. Betty has been great to work with because she is such a cheerleader for this idea and knows how important it is," says Stephanie.

The Twilight Market is planned to start in June and run through until August every Friday afternoon/evening from 3 pm until 7 pm.

"There is a lot of good produce that comes to head at end of Sep-



Karla Falk and her two daughters Rory and Ilsa; Stephanie Zakel and her two sons Kaleb and Ethan; along with Betty Chanyi have put plans together to hold a farmers' market in Port Rowan every Friday afternoon-evening from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

tember so if we have a good interest throughout the peak summer months and we are sustainable in the community will we consider remaining open in the fall as well," Stephanie reported.

The idea of having a Twilight Market came from local farmer Greg Boyd, who owns Heritage

Lane Produce. Greg is also the coordinator for both the Tillsonburg and Simcoe Farmers Markets so his suggestion comes from experience.

Organizers believe the 3 pm to 7 pm time slot gives everyone in the community a chance to visit and stock up on local produce, includ-

ing tourists coming through on their way to the cottage or campground.

Resurrecting the Port Rowan Farmers Market is no small task. Taking time away from their families, both Stephanie and Karla have demonstrated what small town living is all about but say they enjoy

working hard for the betterment of the community. They are hoping for support from the community to make the market a success.

For anyone interested in joining the farmers' market as a vendor or volunteer, please phone Stephanie Zakel at 519-586-2520; Karla Falk at 586-9532 or Betty Chanyi at 586-7175.