

Farmer's Market Chemaniacs must boil water

moving to FDC

Groups applying for funding for permanent market

BY SARAH SIMPSON
CITIZEN STAFF

From The Mound to the train station to The Mound once more. Then to the Sun Valley Mall just south of town. Next up: the B.C. Forest Discovery Centre.

The Duncan Farmer's Market is on the move... again.

But could it be for the last time?

The odds are good says the market's past president, Steve Miller.

"The Forest Centre is looking into a partnership with the farmer's market. It'll be like an agri-forestry tourist attraction and jointly they are looking for funding and maybe do some construction to make it into a really good and permanent farmer's market," he said.

A number of agencies are working together to apply for funds to finance the project but even if the money doesn't come through by March, the marketeers are intent to move.

"The fallback position would be to put the tents up in front of the Forest Museum building and then see what happens from there," said Miller. "It could be a development off Drinkwater Road or it could be a further development of the area of the Forest Museum."

The market will continue to run from its Sun Valley Mall location until Dec. 22 but because of the shrinking space in that area, the group felt the move was necessary.

"Basically the rental of what used to be

the Honda dealership to the plumbing store — it just didn't leave us enough room to operate there," said Miller.

With the new mall (Cowichan Commons) now under construction, and the historical ties between forestry and agriculture, the BC Forest Discovery Centre was deemed the ultimate solution.

"We're thinking that sort of the centre of Duncan may shift a bit north, or if not, at least that there will be a lot of traffic when the new mall gets into operation," said Miller. "It could be a really fantastic thing," he added. "That's if the funding comes through."

At the Duncan Farmer's Market annual general meeting two weeks ago Miller stepped aside to take a break and former vice-president Helma Stewart took over as president.

She's also excited about the move.

"We are ecstatic," she said Monday. "It will bring back the ambience."

Stewart noted having easy access from the highway, turning lanes and traffic lights are all bonuses the new location will provide but it is the return to the town's roots that excites her the most.

"We feel very strongly that this Valley was started on farming and forestry so it seemed like a natural to get back together again. That's basically what we're working into, and with great enthusiasm. We're really looking forward to doing that. It's going to be so lovely. We're very very excited."

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Attention Chemainus water system users: a boil water advisory is in effect for your area.

A result of the recent spate of foul weather, the District of North Cowichan, in consultation with the Vancouver Island Healthy Authority, has decided to issue the advisory as a precaution because of the decrease in water quality they believe may pose a risk to public health.

"What happens is we have a surface water supply in Chemainus — it's supplied by a creek and a lake — and so when the heavy rain hits, it stirs up the sediments in the creek and we get what's called high turbidity," said John MacKay, municipal engineer for the District of North Cowichan.

That means the water in the system gets all mixed up with clay and sand and silt — the dirty stuff — and turns cloudy.

Officials advise it's best if people boil their water for at least two minutes before drinking, cooking or brushing their teeth. Unboiled water is still safe, however to do laundry with and to bathe in.

MacKay said he's unsure about how long the boil water advisory will last.

"It's really weather dependent," he said. "Typically, in the past four we had last year, they were about a week but it really depends on the weather."

Not sure if the advisory applies to you?

MacKay said the Chemainus water system's northern boundary is Dogwood Road, while Ashcroft Road is roughly the southern boarder of the system.

If you are unsure as to whether you are affected by the order, please visit www.north-cowichan.bc.ca or www.viha.ca or telephone North Cowichan's Operations Info line at 746-3106 (option 9) or VIHA at 746-1414.

Storms keep RCMP hopping

North Cowichan/ Duncan RCMP had at least 19 calls dealing with weather-related car crashes over the weekend.

"They were all the same thing and they were from all over the Valley," said North Cowichan/ Duncan RCMP Cst. Susan Boyes on Tuesday morning. "They were all situations where drivers lost control of their vehicles in the weather. It's a good reminder that people must adjust their driving according to the weather."

No serious injuries were reported.

—Sarah Simpson

SARAH SIMPSON-CITIZEN

This truck, in the ditch by Valleyview Centre, was just one of many.

