



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2018 #18-03

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Maple Ridge Council Renews Operating Agreements with Arts Council and Haney Farmers Market Society for Three Years

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, January 30, Maple Ridge Council renewed the operating agreements for the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council Society for The ACT Arts Centre and the Haney Farmers Market Society who operate the Haney Farmers Market. The three year term provides these community organizations with greater financial stability allowing them to further develop their capacity and leverage additional funding through grants and sponsorships.

“These two organizations, with their volunteer boards, are an important part of our vibrant downtown,” said Maple Ridge Mayor Nicole Read. “2018 marks the 15th Anniversary of The ACT Arts Centre and the 14th Anniversary of the Haney Farmers Market. These two organizations are at the heart of numerous community celebrations and collaborate on events such as the annual Earth Day, Canada Day and National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations. Our community benefits greatly from the energy and passion of these two organizations and their volunteer boards.”

Ms. Curtis Pendleton is starting her role as the new Executive Director of the Arts Council as the three year lease and operating agreement renewal begins. In her appointment announcement Ms. Pendleton said “I am thrilled and honoured to be leading the ACT Arts Centre in its continuing service of excellent arts programming for Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, and beyond. The ACT Arts Centre is not only a jewel of the region, it also plays a vital role in bringing communities together through sharing, promoting and celebrating the richly-varied and incredibly vibrant artistic life of British Columbia and Canada.”

The Arts Council is a partner with the City of Maple Ridge providing arts programs and cultural experiences that allow citizens to express their creativity in a variety of fields. In addition, the ACT Arts Centre offers a full calendar of paid and free events for the whole family. The ACT Art Gallery has a number of curated exhibits throughout the year that feature the talents of local

and regional visual artists. For details of arts programming and events go to the ACT website at theactmapleridge.org.

Eileen Dwillies, Executive Director of the Haney Farmers Market Society, notes, “The growth of our market is a testament to the energy and enthusiasm of our board, the incredible vendors and our many Maple Ridge neighbours who make a stop at the Market as part of their Saturday routine. The market hosts an average of 45,000 people annually and there has been some incredible spin off benefits to the local economy. Partnerships and collaborations with local restaurants and food producers have helped foster an enthusiastic and loyal food culture in our community. There’s a strong sense of family in what we have created and we look forward to building on the strong foundation we have built in the last 14 years.”

The Haney Farmers Market Society will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, February 19 at the Maple Ridge Public Library and the market will return for the Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 21. The official start to the Haney Farmers Market 2018 season is Saturday, May 12. The Market will continue to be held at Memorial Peace Park and run from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm each Saturday until November. Citizens can get details on the AGM and the upcoming market calendar at haneyfarmersmarket.org.

For more information about the partnerships between the City of Maple Ridge and the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council and the Haney Farmers Market Society please contact Yvonne Chui, Recreation Manager Arts & Community Connections, by email at yhui@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-467-7415.