

Shediac will have a market in 2018

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Shediac, NB – The Town of Shediac wishes to advise the public as well as the numerous vendors who exhibit their products at Pascal Poirier Park each Sunday that Shediac will have a Sunday market in 2018.

Over the past few days, a lot of information was circulated via mainstream media as well as social media concerning a possibility that the Shediac Sunday Market would suspend its operations due to a dispute between the operator, i.e. Stepping Stone Productions Inc., and the Town of Shediac, that owns Pascal Poirier Park where the Sunday Market takes place.

Over the past weeks, the market operator, i.e. private business Stepping Stone Productions Inc., made several requests to the Town of Shediac and the acceptance of these requests by the Town of Shediac was conditional to the opening of the Sunday Market in 2018 according to the operator.

Following investments totalling more than \$1.2 million in 2016, the market operator was advised to not allow vehicles to drive on the main pathway. A lot of people use this pathway that runs right past the children's splash pad. Numerous infrastructures are also set up along this pathway, i.e. bike racks, benches and trees. The Town felt it prudent not to allow the circulation of vehicles to protect the infrastructure and those who use the pathway, young and old alike.

Realizing this was not an ideal situation for the Sunday Market, the Town of Shediac secured a 3rd entrance from Comeau Street (installation of new red barricades that open and close) for vehicles taking part in the Sunday Market. This was done in 2017, and the operator was notified of the change in September of 2017, giving him sufficient time to make changes to his site plan.

The operator, Stepping Stone Productions Inc., also requested upgrades to the power and hot water systems. The Town had already invested more than \$100,000 of taxpayers' money to improve the electrical system at Pascal Poirier Park in order to better meet the needs of Stepping Stone Productions Inc. The Town could permit improvements, but because they would solely benefit the market and not any other users of Pascal Poirier Park, the Town feels the cost of these improvements should be covered by the Sunday Market operator.

The Sunday Market is in its last year of a 10-year contract with the Town. It is therefore prudent not to proceed too quickly with major financial investments and wait until a new contract is signed. In the current contract, the park is made available to Stepping Stone Productions free of charge. The company also has free access to the park's electrical system, not to mention many other benefits.

The Town of Shediac is not interested in operating the market on its own or changing operators. However, we recognize the importance of the market, and if Stepping Stone Productions Inc. decides that it is no longer interested in operating the market, the Town will make every effort to find a company that would be interested in running a market at Pascal Poirier Park.

The town of Shediac is a very popular destination in the summer months, which significantly impacts the Sunday Market. The upgrades made in 2016 at Pascal Poirier Park also represent a major asset for an

event such as a market. We are very pleased that this type of market is so successful in the area and we will make every effort to make sure Shediac has a Sunday Market for many years to come.

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