



# News from Thyme Again Gardens

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## Where's Waldo?

We've expanded our locations. In addition to selling at our on-site Farm Stand and the Saturday Wellington Farmers' Market, we've joined the Wednesday night market in the parking lot of the Midtown Brewing Company. It always takes a bit to get a new market going, so we need you to come out and support the vendors (and of course, the brewery, who have waived vendor fees until the market gets established).

Just east of the stoplights at the main intersection in Wellington, [Midtown Brewing Company](#) is located in the former Midtown Meats meat packing facility. Owners Spike Lees and Mark Andrews have converted the space into a spectacular venue with an open-air feeling (when the large doors are fully retracted). There's a cozy corner area for children to play (while parents enjoy a sip from the bar). They've got a great selection of their own and other local beers, as well as a small but tasty nibbly menu (our opinion: the fries are hands-down THEEEEE best you'll get in the County!!).

So come out on a Wednesday night between 5pm and 9pm to check out the market, and show your appreciation for Midtown by buying a brew or two while you're at it!

## Update on Availability

**EGGS:** We are sad to say that the hens are STILL not laying worth a hoot. As a result, availability of eggs is at an all-time low.

**POTATOES:** New potatoes are here! Our red variety is Chieftan; they are a red-skinned white-fleshed heritage potato great for boiling and fries. Then we have a variety called Milva; these are yellow-skinned and yellow-fleshed. Similar to Yukon Gold, they are well suited as a salad potato. Finally, our specialty potatoes are AmaRosa Fingerlings. A red-skinned potato with red coloured flesh that holds its colour, it's great fried, boiled, baked or steamed.

**ZUCCHINI:** I had no idea there were SOOOoooo many varieties of zucchini. They are coming on strong now, so we'll have lots available. From Black Beauty to Cocozelle to Patty Pans to Scalloped, these versatile veggies make a great addition to any meal. We use them in breakfast, lunch and dinner dishes, and as a side or main for dinner. Zucchini Boats are one of our favourites!

**CABBAGE:** If you're into fermenting, then this is the time to buy your cabbages! Available soon!!!

**BEANS, BEETS AND CARROTS:** Unfortunately the deer have found Field 8, and have helped themselves to a healthy feed of the green tops from our beans, beets and carrots. We've tried to distract them with flashing lights, music, and even the sheepdog, but they are not deterred. I think they believe we have opened a disco especially for them, with Clyde as the bouncer!

## Welcome to Our New Family Members

As avid animal lovers, we just can't say no to a homeless waif. A few weeks ago we adopted Bob and Earl, homeless cats from the Ontario SPCA Barn Cat Program. Bob and Earl found adoption difficult, because they just couldn't figure out the proper use for a litterbox. Preferring to leave little packages everywhere but in the proper drop box, they found themselves returned to the OSPCA more than once. That's when the fabulous people at the OSPCA decided to repurpose them as barn cats -- meaning they would only be adopted out to a home that would keep them as outdoor or barn cats. There were a few tense days as we kept them in an enclosed area in one of our small barns --- just so they could get used to us, and to each other, and so they could learn that this would be their safe place -- the place they would be fed and watered, and where they understood we would always come for them. It didn't take long for them to warm up to us, and now they are venturing out on their own and returning to the barn at feeding time. Well, really, Bob is being adventurous, but Earl prefers to stay inside. Having come from an unfortunate hoarding situation, Earl is still a bit distrustful and prefers to burrow under, behind, or inside things so you can't find him! He'll go outside on leash, where he searches for a good place to conceal himself (he hasn't figured out that we only have to follow the leash to find him -- he seems so surprised when we find him). They are both great additions to the farm. It's only been a few weeks, but we already can't imagine life without these little bundles of joy.

We also took possession of 3 pairs of adult ducks who had not yet found homes. A pair of Blue Swedish, and two pairs of Black East Indies, these six little feathered friends provide us with loads of laughter. They are real chatterboxes, and we can usually find them when they take off in search of mischief, by listening for their incessant squawking. Except for that evening when we couldn't find them ANYwhere. It was the first time that we let them out of their enclosure to roam around unattended (we'd always made sure someone was close by when we released them, but we thought we'd give them some space). Well, I was off the farm (at the Midtown Market as a matter of fact), when Lorraine called to say the ducks had flown the coop -- she couldn't find them anywhere and she couldn't hear them either. And it was getting dark. Luckily, after she called me, she noticed the phone blinking -- we had a voicemail message! It was from our next door neighbour, saying she had some strange looking birds in her side yard, and it looked like they were trying to find shelter under her hedges. She wondered if we had new birds. Lorraine raced over there with Clarence in tow, and sure enough, our saucy sextet was attempting to find a place to hunker down for the night -- they clearly had lost their way home. When they saw Lorraine and Clarence, they jumped up, squawked with glee, and waddled towards them. With Clarence in the lead, and Lorraine bringing up the rear (and occasionally redirecting the parade), they trekked along the road and turned up our driveway. When they caught sight of their enclosure, they broke stride, hurried past Clarence and dove into their kennel. We haven't mastered their language yet, but I am sure there was some bickering about whose fault it was that they got lost in the first place, and likely some admonishing (from the females, of course) about why the males wouldn't stop and ask for directions! Seems some gender stereotypes transcend species!!!!