

A Brief History

In 1835, Covent Garden Market had its beginning when a patent for a public fair or “mart” was issued. In 1845 the market found a permanent home when city business owners donated land near Richmond, King and Dundas St. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays were the days the farmers arrived to sell their wares. The inside main floor was strewn with sawdust and the shoppers could choose meat from many different butchers. Outside, buyers and sellers mingled, bargaining over wares ranging from boxes of trinkets and wild raspberries to kitten litters.

Until well after World War 1, the Market was, without question, the business and cultural heart of the city. But the advent of automobile began to take its toll on the time-honoured tradition of visiting the Market. In 1955, a group of nine businessmen formed the Covent Garden Building Inc. to replace the old Market building and in 1958 the new building was finished. It contained four levels of parking along with an area on the main floor for the traditional Market.

Facilities / Services

Market Kitchen Labatt Lounge and the Mezzanine Hall are available for rental. Located on the mezzanine level.

Please call the *Market Administration Office* at 519 439-3921 for information.



In 1998, it became apparent that a new building was once again needed. With much public fanfare, the new Market was opened in October 1999.

Thousands of London citizens attended the unveiling of the newest version of a much-loved landmark.

With its fresh produce, gourmet foods, public square, Outdoor Farmers’ Market, Rotary Ice Rink and regular family programming, Covent Garden Market continues to build on its long and rich traditions as one of London’s centres of commerce and community.

Throughout the year, the Market offers a range of events on the public square and mezzanine, including music, festivals and community events.

Hours of Operation

Mon through Sat: 8am-6pm

Sunday: 11am – 4pm



Market Stats

The new Market Hall is 47,500 square feet, with 29,000 square feet (sq ft) of leasable area.

The 20,000 sq ft second level mezzanine is open to the market in the centre and contains 9,000 sq ft leasable for art culture and community projects. The public square, “Rotary Market Square“ (Talbot Street – west facing) is approximating 30,000 sq ft.

Total costs of construction for the new building (including the public square, tenant improvements and transition costs) = \$20 million.

There is room for 47 permanent tenants, 41 on the main floor and 6 on the mezzanine.

More than sixty farmers and local business’ participate in the Market’s twice-weekly seasonal Outdoor Farmers’ and Artisan Market on Rotary Market Square. Approximately 100 small artisans, community partners and business people have participated in our Temporary Day Vendor Program. Call the Market Administration Office at 519 439-3921 for rental information.

Art and Entertainment

Buskers perform in designated areas throughout the Market. As well, there are plenty of events planned indoors and outdoors throughout the year.

Parking

60 minutes free* weekdays

2 hrs on weekends * with validation