



Veggies on Wheels



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"Veggies on Wheels" (edited by Wolfgang W.) generally appears around the beginning of every month.

Dear Pfenning's Food Box Community,

It's cold out there

As we move into the second month of the year, my first urge is to **thank all of you** very considerate and thoughtful **early morning Food Box recipients** for heeding our recently sent out request to safeguard your deliveries from the freezing, very cold temperatures last Wednesday morning. We were dealing with temperatures of around -20° C – enough to cause some frost damage to your delivery, especially fruits and veggies. As suggested, most all of you left out a blanket or sleeping bag for me to wrap your orders in – and were happy to find them safe and sound a little while later when you brought everything inside.

THANK YOU for accommodating us with your deliveries! Feel free to do the same on any very cold delivery morning that may be coming up before winter is over.

Shadow or not shadow, that's the question

If you are familiar with the film **Groundhog Day**, you will appreciate the feeling that befalls me when I feel traditionally compelled to draw our attention to that annually so very much observed day which will take place on the first Wednesday of February – if this is even on anyone's radar at this time. As every year, all eyes not indulging in a more noteworthy pastime will be focused on the apprehensive rodent and its reaction to seeing its own shadow... or not. Apparently, this will be Wiarton Willie's 66th annual prediction – brought to you this year virtually by the organizers (South Bruce Peninsula) in keeping with current public health guidelines. If we can trust a recent study, performed by students of environmental studies at the University of Waterloo, looking at Willie's prognostications over the past 22 years, we will be surprised to learn that the famous groundhog's predictions are only 32 percent accurate, even less than randomly guessing. Looks like we can all make our own educated guess on whether spring is just around the corner or winter is here to stay for another six weeks.

Let Love speak

Instead of lamenting Willie's poor prediction rate, we may all want to focus more on the uplifting **Valentine's Day** event coming in the middle of this month. No guessing game here, only love and affection to be looking at. Traditionally, Valentine's Day is celebrated with, well, lots of love, flowers and chocolate. While you will have to provide your own love and we don't have any flowers to speak of, we could be of assistance with chocolate. Should this be inspiring, you can find **Chocolate** in all sorts of varieties in our online Catalogue **Snacks** department. You can go as healthy, dark and sugarless as you want – in keeping with your loved one's preferences, of course.



Seeds? Now? Shortages?

Just the other day we received our annual **Garden Seeds** shipment. Talk about early! Farmers all around are planning what to grow in the coming season, and seeds are being or will be ordered very soon, especially in light of possible supply shortages. Good to know that our Garden Seeds for the upcoming growing year have already been looked after. You won't find them in our Catalogue just yet (look for them later in the month). It is really too early to start hampering seeds. All the fields are sleeping and planting season doesn't start for another two to three months, so we have plenty of time to devote all our attention to the planning phase. Still, it won't be long before vegetable farmers in our climate zone will get the greenhouse seedlings started so they are ready when May rolls around. If you are thinking of starting your own seedlings, you can safely do so in your greenhouse or window sill sprouting set-up – whatever works for you.

This brings on the question that may have been on many people's minds: Will we be running into any **food shortages**? Customers visiting the Store have been telling us about empty shelves in supermarkets and of many items that are hard to get or simply not available. So far, we seem to be in the fortunate position of not having run into this predicament just yet. It must be said that we give preference to as many locally-produced items as possible. This certainly helps to minimize any supply woes that may arise when it comes to having products shipped in from farther away. In that case, we have also seen that certain items may not ship as readily as expected. But when it comes to our local supply situation, we must say that we can be thankful to see it more or less unaffected by any bottlenecks at this time. Once again and probably more than ever before, we can appreciate the value of favouring local production. The concept of **securing regional food security** and **supporting the local farming and food producing economy** has suddenly become so much more than just an abstract notion.

With all that said, we remain realistic and – in view of recent public occurrences that cannot be ignored and may have an effect on the supply chain – anticipate the possibility of certain items being delayed or in short

supply during this month. We have been doing all we can to make sure that we will not have to deal with any severe shortages. Whatever the case may be, local produce – mostly root vegetables and greenhouse produce, as is to be expected at this time of the year – will still be readily available for all of us.



Have a fabulous month of February,
Wolfgang