



Masstown Market's Eric and Laurie Jennings welcomed Federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay and Cumberland Colchester MP Bill Casey to the Market on June 29th as the Minister made a stop on his Nation-wide Growing Canadian Agriculture tour. (Harrington Photo)



Laurie Jennings, Federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay, Cumberland Colchester MP Bill Casey, Jonathan Millen and Brandon Millen display the new logos for Masstown Butcher and Masstown Creamery. (Harrington Photo)



Brandon Millen, Jonathan Millen, Federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay, Laurie Jennings, Curtis Millen, MP Bill Casey and Eric Jennings pose for a photo in front of Masstown Butcher display cases. The Millen's will be supplying locally raised pork and beef to Masstown Butcher. (Harrington Photo)

## Federal Agriculture Minister Visits Masstown

By Linda Harrington

The federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay was on a cross Canada tour beginning June 25th in La Prairie, Quebec then out to the Maritimes before heading out west, ending in Abbotsford, British Columbia on July 17th. The Nation-wide Growing Canadian Agriculture tour provided opportunities for the Minister to talk with farmers, processors and industry leaders, as well as participate in rural agricultural events.

The tour provided the opportunity to highlight strategic federal agricultural investments and programs - including those recently launched under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership—and how they will help to build an even stronger and more innovative sector for Canada.

In the afternoon of June 29th, MacAulay arrived at Masstown Market along with Cumberland Colchester MP Bill Casey. Earlier in the day they had visited Millen Farms, Little Dyke.

Eric Jennings, founder of Masstown Market, greeted the Minister upon his arrival and accompanied him on a tour,

along with Eric's son and Market co-owner Laurie Jennings, over across the road to the new Masstown Creamery and Masstown Butcher. MacAulay was impressed by the success of the agricultural based businesses of the Jennings family, noting what started as a small \$1000 building has grown into a multimillion-dollar operation. "This is what can happen," he said. "It can't happen like this way everywhere, but with the foresight of the Jennings family, the Masstown Market has become a destination certainly in the Maritime provinces and people that come through the Maritime provinces."

On the Nation-wide tour MacAulay has been visiting multiple agri-based businesses.

"There are many ways you can diversify or make sure you value add to the product and of course that is vitally important too. We want to make sure the farmer, or at least the country, gets everything out of the agriculture sector that it can," he said adding, "My job is to make sure the farmer receives their proper remuneration for what they do. The men and women who work on farms work very hard."

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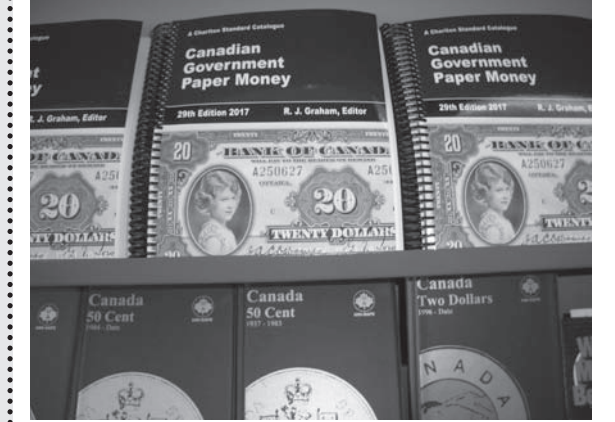
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