



Masstown Market owners Eric and Laurie Jennings gave Liberal Leader Iain Rankin, Colchester North Candidate Merlyn Smith and MLA Karen Casey a tour of the Masstown Lighthouse Fresh Fish Market during a campaign stop on July 20th. Fish Market Manager Claire Ford shared information with the group about the locally sourced products available. (Linda Harrington Photo)



NS Liberal Leader, Premier Iain Rankin made a campaign stop at Masstown Market on July 20th and was joined by Colchester North Candidate Merlyn Smith and MLA Karen Casey for a freshmen break as they met Market owner Laurie Jennings. (Linda Harrington Photo)

LAWNS, GARDENS AND OUTDOOR LIVING

Wild Blueberry Challenge 2021 Winner

AKSO Marine Biotech Inc., based in Hackett's Cove, Halifax Regional Municipality, is this year's winner of the Wild Blueberry Solutions Challenge. The prize, announced on June 16, includes \$126,000 to help grow sales, pursue new export markets and develop new products.

"There are some fantastic products now on the market made with Nova Scotia's wild blueberries, and the sector has enormous potential for further growth," said Agriculture Minister Keith Colwell. "Our department supports this challenge to help innovative companies develop new prod-

ucts and increase their income from Nova Scotia's wonderful wild blueberries."

AKSO makes Nova Sea Atlantic sea cucumber capsules, a dietary supplement. The fine powder in the capsules provides the health benefits of sea cucumber extract, infused with Nova Scotian wild blueberries. Years of study have shown anthocyanins in wild blueberries can improve memory and brain health, protect the cardiovascular system, reduce blood pressure, help maintain healthy blood sugar and help with visual acuity. The blueberries also improve the product's taste, colour and

shelf-life.

The Wild Blueberry Solutions Challenge is a competition among Nova Scotia companies to develop innova-

tive value-added products and packaging solutions. It is a joint initiative between the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia.

Recycling a Community Legend

By Janet Maybee

For decades Glenholme welcomed travellers with a famous sign, Glenholme General Store, the source of anything a tourist or local resident might need: phone cards, live bait, lotto tickets, ice and of course plenty of snacks. Jim and Mary Leggate got into the business after several decades in farming, familiar to them from their Scottish roots. Mary explains they chose this province because of the legend that Scotland had a terrible earthquake and a piece of it had drifted across the ocean to become New Scotland. "I didn't want to live anywhere else in Canada but Nova Scotia."

With the possibility of opening a store in mind Mary was excited to find this house for sale in what she felt was a great location just off the highway. "I thought it would be a pretty busy spot," she recalls, an ideal place to set up a store where she could expand her passion for recycling stuff others might have abandoned. Mary is determined to keep everything possible out of landfill and has created some amazing art objects and useful gear, which became (along with donations and roadside finds) part of the stock in the little store. "I have an eye for that kind of thing" she says. "And I think every little village should have its own store!"

And theirs was a popular landmark and social centre. In later years the store was operated by Bruce McAloney until he made the sad decision to close two years ago.

That same advantageous location attracted the attention of Sean Foley. He is the NDP candidate in the current provincial election and was looking for the best spot for a campaign office. On the Saturday morning when the writ was about to drop he knocked on Mary's door. "I had never met him but when Sean walked into my door I knew he was a go-getter" she says. "I trust my instincts... you just get a feeling about somebody that he is honest and means business." They made a deal that Sean would clean out the store and use it for the campaign, and then Mary could have it back in good shape. The two new friends worked together for the rest of the day to pack everything into storage sheds nearby. Serious scrubbing and painting followed the next day and the transformation was dramatic.

Sean was amazed at Mary's energy and perseverance; she worked along with him, laughing and having fun, until 9:30 that first night and was cleaning windows when he arrived at 7:00 the next morning. "I have the utmost respect for Mary" says Sean, "and I'm really grateful for her friendship."

What will happen to the Glenholme General Store next is still undecided but it will survive. Family comes first, she says. Mary's daughter may take it over, and if that doesn't happen she might offer it for rent to someone with a good plan. "There is so much potential for this space, perhaps a tea room for tourists or meetings, or another General Store." The Leggates have set a fine community tradition in place and it's ready for recycling.

New Program to Develop and Adopt Clean Technologies

Farmers and agri-businesses in Atlantic Canada and across the nation are finding new ways to make their operations more sustainable. To help them continue towards a low-carbon economy, the Government of Canada is supporting the research, innovation and adoption of clean technologies, including a priority focus on advancing precision agriculture.

On June 16th, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, the Member of Parliament for Kings-Hants, Kody Blois, announced the new \$165.7-million Agricultural Clean Technology Program is now open to applicants. MP Blois spoke during a virtual visit at Elmridge Farm, a third generation vegetable farm specializing in naturally-grown produce.

This new program provides farmers and agri-businesses with access to funding to help develop and adopt the latest clean technologies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance

their competitiveness. It will prioritize projects in three areas including precision agriculture, which employs technology to improve the sustainability, efficiency and productivity of agricultural operations.

The new program has two funding streams: The Adoption Stream will support the purchase and installation of proven clean technologies and solutions that show meaningful reductions in GHG emissions and The Research and Innovation Stream supporting pre-market innovation including research, development, demonstration and commercialization of agricultural clean technologies.

Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until funding has been fully committed or otherwise announced by the program. For more information about eligibility and to apply, visit Agricultural Clean Technology Program: Research and Innovation Stream or Agricultural Clean Technology Program: Adoption Stream.

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