



Ernest Korankye, left, and his team from VerFa joined the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce members on June 14 at Mountain Golf as a hole sponsor. There were activities at all 18 stops on the course for the enjoyment of players. (Contributed)



The team from Commercial Safety College in Masstown had a great time at the Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament held at Mountain Golf course on June 14. (Contributed)

Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. Gets \$950,000 Loan

On May 29th, the Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister responsible for ACOA, announced a repayable contribution of \$950,000 to help Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. expand, automate and adopt cleaner energy.

Founded in 2014, Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. specializes in cultivating 11 types of fresh mushrooms such as oyster and shiitake, and including exotic varieties like lion's mane, cinnamon cap and hen of the woods. Their mushrooms are sold in farmers' markets, and to restaurants and specialty retailers. The company also provides consultation services to other exotic mushroom farms in Canada and the U.S.

At its flagship farm in Great Village, the company grows and harvests exotic mushrooms for retail. Additionally, it supplies ready-to-bloom substrate - a wood-based nutrient block on which indoor mushrooms are grown - to clients across Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario and the northeastern United States. It's part of the vital agri-food sector that provides fresh, healthy food to Atlantic Canadians, while supporting farmers, contributing to food stability, and strengthening rural economies.

The company is building a second facility in Debert, Nova Scotia which will triple production of fresh mushrooms and substrate to keep up with customer orders. ACOA's support will help the company purchase and install specialized equipment at the new facility, such as an automated bagger, a high pressure steam boiler and robotic arms. The contribution will also help purchase solar panels, moving the company closer to its goal of using only renewable energy sources. The new facility will allow Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. to double its current workforce which will create new jobs in the community.

As announced in March 2024, Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. will receive up to \$1 million under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agricultural Clean Technology (ACT) Program - Adoption Stream to install solar panels and other clean technologies.

In the last two years, Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms received just over \$188,000 from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture through various pro-

grams to support food safety planning and equipment to make operations more efficient. They also received \$210,000 from Dalhousie University under the Clean Technologies for Agriculture Program for insulated cooler panels.

During the announcement, The Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister responsible for ACOA said: Rural agri-food businesses like Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. aren't just growing crops; they're nurturing communities, creating local jobs, and cultivating a sustainable future, one harvest at a time. By supporting projects like this one, your federal government is helping companies build and maintain green supply chains - moving Canada closer to its net-zero emissions goals while fostering prosperity for Canadians from coast, to coast, to coast."

Others said, "Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. grows fresh and healthy products for folks right across Atlantic Canada, while boosting the local economy. I'm so pleased that our government is supporting a business that is committed to using cutting-edge, clean technologies, and this new investment will help them expand production and make their operations even more sustainable."

- The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

"Our government is committed to growing local food production here in Nova Scotia. Innovative, agricultural businesses like Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms are exactly what we need to feed that growth. Mushrooms can be a tasty and nutritious part of our diets and we're proud to support sustainable companies like these that can play an important role in our province's food security and economy."



Greg Morrow, Nova Scotia Minister of Agriculture, added "It is critically important to have organizations like ACOA that promote and support business development in the Atlantic Provinces. Repayable funding and belief in our business from ACOA helps propel our business forward and create more opportunities for Maritimers."

Jason Giffin, President and Owner of Maritime Gourmet

Mushrooms Inc. says the company partners with local businesses to participate in a circular economy, supporting a local green supply chain. Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. grows its mushrooms on agricultural and forestry bi-products, such as sawdust from local timber mills. Spent mushroom compost is then sold to local farms and gardeners as a soil amendment.





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The yellow mountain rose

(peace in the valley)

*High upon the mountain
There grew a yellow rose
How it came to be there
No one really knows • Peace in the valley*

*But each year it appeared there
A truly welcome sight
A radiance of color
At dawns early morning light • Peace in the valley*

*Out amongst the rocks
With beauty there it grew
Just how long it would last
No one really knew • Peace in the valley*

*The scent from its petals
Was pleasing to ones nose
A mystery was though present
As to why it really grows • Peace in the valley*

*Some would climb the mountain
Just to gaze upon this flower
To ponder had this rose
Began from a higher power • Peace in the valley*

*For it defied natures norm
As to why it's really there
Had the good lord placed it
Just for all of us to share
Peace in the valley*

*To sit close to it
And gaze out upon the land
Made one think how small we are
Like granules of sand • Peace in the valley*

*For so much of ourselves
We really do not know
Like the beautiful yellow mountain rose
And why did it there grow! • Peace in the valley*

God bless and thank-you, Thomas A. Marshall (Ex-Navy)
From the stars before us to the stars that are yet to become

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