

Truro & Colchester CHAMBER of Commerce

2023 Chamber Awards



Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce Gala Awards winners, Liam Giffen, Olivia Giffen of Coldstream Clear, Colchester County pose with Mayor Christine Blair, & Award Sponsor representative Michael Walker of Community Credit Union. The thriving business was selected winners in the Business Excellence Award category. (Contributed)

Business Excellence Award 2023 Coldstream Clear Distillery

The Community Credit Union Business Excellence Award recognizes a business that has exhibited visionary leadership; achieving growth by introducing new products or ideas, expansion or exportation of goods or services and valuing employees and safety in the workplace.

The business is actively involved in the community through fundraising and partnerships in support of organizations or individuals working to better the community. It establishes partnerships and supports the local business community with leadership while actively looking to the

future, focused on long-term results and job creation.

What started as a hobby business in Stewiacke about eight years ago, has flowed into becoming a leader in the beverage and alcohol industry across Atlantic Canada and is now reaching further with product being carried at Ontario's LCBO stores.

Coldstream Clear Distillery is a family-owned business with parents and founders, Robert and Elaine Giffen, working along side their three children Liam, Olivia and Riley and about 85 employees.

The business has experienced exponential growth

since its inception, carrying on a long-time family tradition of distilling, a story told on the label of their signature spiced rum about Simon Giffin, Halifax's first distiller in 1749.

The business was initially started as a craft Vodka distillery and has expanded its range to include 10 types of spirits. A true turning point in their growing success was tapping into the development of ready-to-drink products, of which they now offer a complement of 13, and a new lager is soon to enter the market.

Along with the flagship store at Mastodon Ridge in Stewiacke, their footprint has now reached Dartmouth and Antigonish and they have moved the head office and main production to Truro.

During its exponential growth since inception, the company has maintained a focus on innovation and expansion to meet consumer demand. The company bought an 11,000 square-foot building in the Truro Industrial Park in 2018.

This increased production and enabled more efficient packaging reaching an processing average of 200 cans per minute.

They have already outgrown this space, and are once again in expansion mode increasing to more than 48,000 square-feet. This will house the new brewing line as the company prepares to launch its Lager.

Even the pandemic didn't slow down the company's growth as they adapted and changed to meet new demands. They were one of the first alcohol companies in the province doing home delivery with up to five trucks on the road across Nova Scotia, a service which still continues today.

They pivoted to manufacture hand sanitizer at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and supplied countless first responders and businesses with this key protection to fight the virus.

They are focused on environmental stewardship with every piece of packaging is recyclable, from bottle and cans to can toppers and boxes.

They say the secret ingredient to their success isn't just what is found in the bottles and cans but is their employees, a dedicated, extremely passionate team where everyone strives to be their absolute best.

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is pleased to honour Riley Giffen & Coldstream Clear Distillery with the 2023 Community Credit Union Business Excellence Award.



Award Sponsor representative Tyler Wheeler of BDC, and Town of Truro Mayor Bill Mills congratulate Robin Young, Jeans Flowers & Gifts, Truro, after she was presented the Business Person of the Year Award at the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce Gala Awards ceremony. (Contributed)

Business Person of the Year Award 2023 - Robin Young

The BDC Business Person of the Year Award acknowledges a founder, owner, CEO, president or manager who has achieved significant success in their business by showing strong leadership skills and business acumen, contributing to the growth of the business.

This year we are pleased to honour the contributions of small business owner, Robin Young, owner of Jeans Flowers and Gifts.

Robin's love for flowers began when she was a teen in high school. She would spend weekends, evenings, and summers in her parent's flower shop in Shubenacadie. Taking what she learned from her parents, Robin worked a couple years in Edmonton, gaining even more knowledge in floral arranging and business management.

Upon returning to Nova Scotia in the early '80's, she bought her parents' flower shop and then a few years later went on to purchase Jean's Flowers and Gifts;

where she has been its sole owner for 37 years.

Robin is extremely knowledgeable when it comes to floral arranging, having taken a floral design course in Holland, passing the exams with distinction, from there went on to teach floral design at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

On every occasion, happy or sad, and all the important milestones in between, Robin and her staff have delivered beautiful flower arrangements for generations and every branch of her customers' family. Robin's commitment to her community often goes undetected, helping when and where she can without hesitation. Her passion for flowers has blossomed into a well-known, and trusted family-oriented business.

Tonight, the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is pleased to recognize Robin Young with the BDC Business Person of the Year Award.



Dr. Ernest Asante Korankye, Founder, Group President & CEO of Asante Logistic Group and VerFa Agrifood, guest speaker at the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce Gala Awards ceremony poses for a photo with Sherry Martell, Executive Director. (Contributed)



Potential Landscape Regulations Halted

By Maurice Rees

Another item on the February 9th committee meeting was to deal with potential development of a Landscape Bylaw. After a short discussion, Councillor Patton, moved and received council's endorsement that Colchester not proceed with development of a Landscape Bylaw.

The purpose of this item was to seek direction as to the instructions of Council with regard to regulating grass height or other landscaping matters within the Municipality. In the staff report, it was noted in their review of other municipalities in Nova Scotia, the Town of Antigonish has instituted a grass height restriction that applies within Town boundaries. HRM

S-300 By-law Respecting Streets, which applies only to the downtown core area of HRM, requires property owners to maintain grass at 6 inches or less in the area between the sidewalk and the curb.

The report also touched upon the diversity of properties within Colchester between residential and commercial uses of property along with other distinctions such as agricultural, forestry or resource uses. In addition, with the diversity of properties in Colchester County, including urban or rural locations, overall property sizes, and the varying building setbacks from public roads, applying a single minimum standard may lead to very different impacts.

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