

Waugh River Stables Wins Legacy Award



Waugh River Stables, Tatamagouche has been chosen as the 2021 Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce Legacy/Rising Star winner. Pictured above are Matthew Mossman, Chamber President; Sherry Martell, Executive Director and winners Heather Morrison and Hector Randall. (Submitted)

Submitted by Sherry Martell

(Unfortunately, due to a conflict in scheduling and need to attend to a fast growing business, Heather Morrison and Hector Randall of Waugh River Stables were unable to attend the Chamber's Small Business Awards ceremony).

After pausing Chamber Small Business Week Awards in 2020, the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce is investing in the development of local business by providing funding for a fourth Legacy Award Investing in Entrepreneurs.

The vision for the award is to assist a start-up business, a Rising Star, located within Truro and Colchester region. To be selected, applicants must demonstrate how their business is unique to this region, as to not compete with current members, and how in time it could be developed into a thriving scalable operation.

The Chamber is continuing its commitment to offer financial support of \$2,500 and a Chamber membership, as well as to seek in-kind partners to offer mentorship and serves to benefit a new growing enterprise.

It is with great pleasure today I introduce our Legacy Award partners who have committed to providing more than 12 hours of mentorship, along with products and services allowing us to offer this generous award.

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After a two month-long call for submissions, a finalist was selected by a panel of judges from the Chamber.

The business selected this year is Waugh River Stables, a new business unique to the Tatamagouche area, owned by Heather Morrison and Hector Randall.

Heather, an accomplished equestrian and a life long resident of Nova Scotia, found her way to Tatamagouche about 12 years ago where she put down roots near an established horse farm.

It had always been her lifelong dream to share her love of horses by providing horsemanship skills to groups of all ages. Her dream was realized in January of this year, when she and her partner Hector Randall, opened the doors of Waugh River Stables in The Falls, near Tatamagouche. Collectively they share more than 40 years of knowledge working with horses.

In its first nine months in operation, the business has offered services such as trail rides, horse boarding and riding lessons. There is also an event-hosting venue onsite creating more opportunities.

This award will assist the new business with implementing programs specifically designed for children by teaching the core values of horsemanship and animal care. They also plan to create programs for therapeutic riding for children with special needs which would include classes and camps.

It is my greatest pleasure to present this Fourth Legacy Award, Investing in a Rising Star on behalf of the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce and its membership to Heather Morrison and Hector Randall of Waugh River Stables.

Sherry Martell ACE (She/Her) is Executive Director, Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, 105B Walker Street, Truro, NS, B2N 4B1 and can be reached at ed@tcchamber.ca 902-895-6328

Jamieson's General Store Awarded Excellence in Community Development award



Truro Mayor Bill Mills presents the Truro sponsored Excellence in Community Development Award to Jenna Jamieson of Jamieson's General Store at the Truro & Area Chamber of Commerce small business awards ceremony on October 21. (Rees Photo)

offs, she launched her online platform in three days with 20 items. In the first 35 hours, she received 96 orders.

At the peak of the first business shutdown, Jamieson's delivered 160 orders a week across three counties. She now offers more than 600 items, from 70 local suppliers, many of which are based in Truro and Colchester County, along with other Nova Scotia-made products. In the beginning, she and one employee handled the orders but her support staff has now grown to up to nine, depending on the time of year.

She initiated Random Acts of Kindness boxes which are

delivered free of charge to community members who could use "a little extra kindness."

A perfect fit for the Excellence in Community Development award, some of Jamieson's suppliers have shared that through her efforts, they were able to remain in business and provide income for their families during very tough times. In addition, she provided a much-needed service to ensure families challenged by COVID-19 restrictions received fresh produce and other necessities. Another nominee describes the business as, "Jamieson's is kind of a dream for rural Canada."

With an eye on future growth, Jenna is in the early stages of planning an expansion to offer more local and local Nova Scotian products.

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Taking Action to Increase Housing, Protect Tenants

Affordable, safe housing is crucial for a healthy society, quality of life, attracting new residents, social equity and growing the economy. Nova Scotia needs to build more housing and the Province is taking steps to get more homes built quickly. The Province will introduce interim residential rent-cap legislation to protect tenants once the state of emergency ends. This will limit residential rent increases to 2 per cent per year and will be in effect until December 31, 2023, while more supply is built.

The government will spend nearly \$35 million to support over 1,100 new affordable housing units across the province.

Employers say they're having trouble finding enough skilled tradespeople. The Province will work to recruit and retain more apprentices, and review the training ratio for apprentices to create more opportunities for them and ease the skilled labour short-

age. The government will also eliminate the provincial portion of personal income tax on the first \$50,000 of annual income for construction trades workers under the age of 30.

Increasing student housing is another important way to help relieve the overall community housing shortage. The Province will build new residences at three NSCC campuses and create a province-wide student housing strategy.

The Province is identifying a list of provincially-owned properties that can be used for housing. Staff will work with community groups, municipalities and others to get projects underway on these lands as quickly as possible.

The Province will also meet with municipalities across the province to discuss other possible measures that will support affordable housing, such as better regulation for short-term rental units and flexibility in taxation to encourage development.

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