

2022 *Truro & Colchester*  
**CHAMBER**  
*of Commerce*

*Small Business Awards*

**Meadow Brook Farms  
 Receives the Agriculture/Agri foods Award**



An unidentified MNP staff member substituted for Greg Mosher to pose for photo taking session of award sponsor, MNP LLP, presentation session of the 2022 Agriculture / Agri foods Award to Joe and Lorenda Ebbett of Meadow Brook Farms, Tatamagouche. (Chamber Photo)

where you could see upwards to 15 people on site in one day working to get things down.

Today Ebbett's Meadow Brook Farm cares for 200 head of cattle, produces 3,000 chickens and 800 turkeys annually, has a meat cutting shop, a poultry abattoir and a retail farm market shop.

Their farm market offers fresh meat products, home-cooked ready to heat and eat meal options, fresh baked goods, as well as many other local goods and specialty foods.

They have listened to their customer's needs and proactively worked to innovate and add new services and products.

They are once again in expansion mode. Construction is already underway to create a farm market in the Village of Tatamagouche to move from their current 1,000 sq-ft space to a new 9,000 sq-ft space.

Over the last 20 plus years they have been involved in many activities that promote an awareness of agriculture in the community and have served on both provincial and national boards related to agriculture and economic development, as well as supporting a number of local causes with volunteer time and product donations.

Please join the Chamber and MNP LLP as we congratulate Joe and Lorenda Ebbett of Meadow Brook Farms for receiving the Agriculture / Agri foods Award.

*This award recognizes an individual, group, an organization or business where the principles of running a successful agricultural or related operation are applied and result in a thriving and environmentally friendly endeavor. The enterprise must derive more than 50 per cent of its annual revenue from agricultural related activities.*

In the summer of 1999 Lorenda attended the local farmers' market with excess beans from her garden. She soon realized there was a great demand for fresh vegetables, homemade pickles, preserves and baking, as well as fresh farm eggs and meats from their farm. At that time, customers were showing an increased desire to have a relationship with the producer of their food.

It became the business' goal to produce naturally grown meat products and to promote healthy eating. Over the last 20 years the business has grown from Joe & Lorenda fulfilling the daily farm tasks to a place

**Big River Café Nabs  
 2022 New Small Business of the Year.**



Kamie Branch and Renae Verboom of Big River Café, Stewiacke, accept the 2022 New Small Business of the Year from George Oberpreiler of Community Credit Union, Truro & Amherst. (Chamber Photo)

their nomination as "the friendliest owners" the pair strive to serve high quality food and beverages such as locally roasted coffee, locally blended tea, select baked goods from surrounding bakeries and in-house baked goods, as well as breakfast sandwiches, parfaits, wraps, and a variety of crafted sandwiches.

In addition to the café, they have united their community by organizing popular monthly vendor markets, and opened an ice cream canteen in Dennis Park across the street which operated from July-September.

While the pair has had great early growth in clientele their dream is to expand into an indoor location to increase their offerings and extend their season.

They are looking forward to connecting even more with our community and for community members to connect with each other over a warm beverage at the café.

The owners make supporting local a priority and say that supporting Big River Cafe means supporting over 20 other local business in NS.

Please join the Chamber and Community Credit Union as we congratulate Kamie Branch and Renae Verboom of Big River Cafe as the 2022 New Small Business of the Year.

*This award recognizes a Truro or Colchester business operating for more than one year and less than two years that has gained an expanding positive reputation. The business must have shown innovation and offer unique products or services that go the extra mile in the local marketplace.*

Big River Café was launched just over a year ago, in downtown Stewiacke, during the pandemic with just take-out window service in a cute, tiny shop with just outdoor seating arrangements. Doing this enabled them to build a strong customer base during the pandemic.

The idea to start the business was fostered by two Stewiacke women, Kamie Branch and Renae Verboom, during their children's play dates. Described in

**Kabitenyos Filipino & Asian Variety Store  
 nabs Newcomer Business Award**



Jason Steele representing award sponsor, Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity presents the 2022 Newcomer Business Award to Rhon Canalin owner, Kabitenyos Filipino & Asian Variety Store Inc. Prince Street, Truro (Chamber Photo)

Rhon had always wanted to own his own business and he had a passion for cooking authentic Filipino and Asian foods. However, he found it challenging to find all the necessary ingredients locally.

The couple set out to fill a void in the local community of international food offerings by launching their very own authentic Asian foods store.

Currently, they are selling a large variety of items from whole frozen fish and seafood, sausages, Asian condiments, assorted spring roll wrappers and dumplings, a variety of other specialty groceries, drinks and desserts, and one of their best sellers is Pork & Chicken Steamed Buns.

Plans are currently in the works to open a take-out counter introducing authentic Filipino cuisine to patrons. They also recently launched a website to customers can purchase online and benefit from free delivery with certain size orders.

Please join the Chamber and Truro Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity, as we congratulate Kabitenyos Filipino & Asian Variety Store Inc. and owners Rhon Canalin and Janice Flores for receiving the 2022 Newcomer Business Award.

*A new award this year is the Newcomer Business Award. This award recognizes the contribution to the local economy by a business that has opened in Truro or Colchester County by an individual who has moved to the community in recent years and who is not an original resident of this region.*

In an effort to introduce the vibrant, rich culture of the Philippines to residents of Truro and surrounding area, RHON CANALIN & JANICE FLORES opened Kabitenyos Filipino & Asian Variety Store Inc. on Prince Street in 2020

The couple immigrated to Nova Scotia about 11 years ago and worked in a local fast-food restaurant.

**Colchester**  
 be centred here.

**The Municipality of Colchester  
 Congratulates all winners of the  
 Truro & Colchester  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 2022 Small Business Awards!**

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