

2022 *Truro & Colchester*
CHAMBER *Small Business Awards*
of Commerce

Cobequid Consulting recognized with Exporter of Year Award



Garnet and Alexia McLaughlin owners Cobequid Consulting pose with the Small Business Exporter of the Year Award in front of display banner for NSBI, award sponsor, at ceremonies held on Friday, October 21. (Chamber Photo)

The Exporter of the Year award recognizes a Truro or Colchester County business that has demonstrated excellence in exporting outside Nova Scotia, and has achieved noticeable growth as a result of entering expanded markets, while creating employment, and contributing to the local economy.

Cobequid Consulting is a family run business, based in Economy, specializing in the creation of uniquely captivating outdoor playscapes for children of all ages and is the only business of its kind in Atlantic Canada.

While they are distributors of top quality, international playground equipment, their passion for nature and belief that children benefit from experiencing a mixture of structured and unstructured play has led them to focus on creating playgrounds that are either made almost entirely of natural products or a hybrid

of natural and traditional playground equipment. The company started in the woods of Nova Scotia in 2004 building backcountry trails with hand tools. As they moved into parks, building more accessible trails, they wanted to bring their passion for nature into the community playspaces that they were connecting with trails.

Grass-roots and community driven, about 30 per cent of their business is related to Export reaching markets across Atlantic Canada.

During the past year, the business has experienced a 40 per cent growth in Exports with about 70 per cent of the overall product made right here in Nova Scotia.

With a compliment of 12 employees, the business is always evolving with new ideas, product development, sustainability, and value adding raw materials. They are expanding into a new property to help manage their ever-growing inventory and machinery to develop new products.

In the coming months they are planning to increase their manufacturing and export market through a web-based platform to reach an even larger market.

Please join the Chamber and Nova Scotia Business Inc. as we congratulate Garnet and Alexia McLaughlin as the 2022 Small Business Exporter of the Year.



Several barns in the area had damage, including this one in Central Onslow. (Harrington Photo)

Small Business Hurricane Relief Program

Small businesses struggling in the aftermath of hurricane Fiona can now apply for support through the Small Business Hurricane Relief Program. Applications and information on eligibility are at: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/small-business-hurricane-relief-program>. Business owners with questions can call 1-888-428-2256 or email SBHRP-APP@novascotia.ca.

The program will provide a one-time grant of \$2,500 to eligible small businesses to help offset the cost of unanticipated closures. Those without power or access to the internet can visit an MLA's office or Access Nova Scotia centre to apply online.

Types of eligible businesses include: restaurants and licensed drinking establishments; fitness, recreational and leisure facilities; independent retailers; wholesale operators; manufacturers; personal services; repair services; accommodations; independent gas retailers; some self-regulated and unregulated health professionals; live performing arts venues; construction and private daycares. Active charities may also apply.

To be eligible, businesses must have stopped operating due to the impacts of hurricane Fiona for at least five days between Friday, September 23, and Friday, October 7, when they would have been open

otherwise. The program is expected to cost up to \$10 million. In the wake of the storm, the government also previously announced more than \$40 million in assistance to help Nova Scotians and organizations cope with the costs of hurricane recovery.

Additional Resources: Information on storm recovery assistance: <https://novascotia.ca/hurricane-fiona-support/>

Toll-free information line for people with questions about provincial storm recovery supports: 1-888-428-2256 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Crystal Blair Recognized Again with Excellence in Community Development Award



The Excellence in Community Development Award, sponsored by the Town of Truro was awarded to Crystal Blair, owner of Angel's Diner on the corner, newly opened in Great Village. Mayor Bill Mills presented the award to Crystal's husband Rob Blair. (Chamber Photo)

The Excellence in Community Development Award is designed to recognize a business, community organization or social enterprise that has made significant and notable contributions to their community (cultural, social, environmental and/or economic) and one that serves as a catalyst for positive action, exhibiting the highest standards of leadership.

Angels' Diner on the Corner is located in Great Village, residing in the basement of the repurposed former St. James United Church, now known as the Great Village Arts & Entertainment Centre.

Owner, Crystal Blair, best known as the "Trucker's Angel" has put her apron back on to do what she loves

to do, serving food made with love. At the young age of 15, Crystal began her career in the restaurant business as a waitress.

During COVID lockdowns she became a hero to all Truckers, offering them a place to eat and access to free showers, until she was forced to close the Glenholme restaurant due to staff shortages.

Now in a new location, and just mere minutes from her home, opening Angel's Diner on the Corner, in the church has been an emotional and magical experience.

Offering a homestyle cooking menu modified to eliminate the use of a deep fryer and its highly sought after homestyle baking; Angel's Diner hopes to continue to be an asset to the small town of Great Village; and to help keep its home within the beautiful church, that has been part of the community heritage for over 140 years alive with music, laughter and good food.

Please join the Chamber and the Town of Truro as we congratulate Angel's Diner on the Corner and Crystal Blair for receiving the 2022 Excellence in Community Development Award.



The bakery roof at Masstown Market was blown off by the hurricane force winds of Fiona. (Harrington Photo)



The steel roof on the Masstown Market bakery building peeled right off during hurricane Fiona. (Harrington Photo)



Great Village & District Fire Brigade responded to a vehicle fire Oct. 18th at supper time, Hwy 4 in Glenholme. Lot of billowing black smoke. No injuries were reported. (Harrington Photos)



The torrential rains and high tides of Fiona caused major flooding at the Elm River camp ground in Lower Debert. (Harrington Photo)