

Excellence in Community Development Alan Syliboy Art Studio

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.

We invite Deputy Mayor, Wayne Talbot, representing award sponsor Town of Truro to please step forward.

As an established Mi'kmaq artist, Alan Syliboy's creative journey has been nothing short of inspiring. His work is deeply rooted in the indigenous Mi'kmaq, through the medium of acrylic and mixed media, he explores themes of family, searching, spirituality, struggle, and strength, capturing the essence of Mi'kmaq heritage.

Alan's artistic evolution is a testament to his resilience and determination. Over the past three decades, he has devoted himself to his craft, allowing his unique artistic vocabulary to blossom. His commitment to sharing and celebrating Mi'kmaq heritage has bestowed these symbolic icons with mainstream recognition, rekindling community pride.

The grand opening of Alan Syliboy Art Studio, the home of "The Daily Drum," on June 1, 2023, was a momentous occasion, uniting the community in celebration. The adjacent Alan Syliboy Performance Centre promises to be a hub for artistic expression and cultural exchange. Alan's contributions extend beyond his artwork, as his music and performances have enraptured audiences both near and far. He describes the opening of the studio as a "dream come true" and is pleased to have been offered an opportunity to have a prominent space to display his work by the Millbrook First Nation band council to expand from a small, private home studio.

In addition to his visual art, Alan's foray into the world of music and his continued dedication to preserving Mi'kmaq culture through various mediums are awe-inspiring. His band Alan Syliboy and the Thundermakers have done countless performances sharing their heritage and culture on stage contributing to an increased awareness through drumming and song. Alan's art studio not only serves as a creative workspace but also as a retail outlet, eliminating the need for intermediaries and allowing him to engage directly



Alan Syliboy accepts the Excellence in Community Development Award from invite Deputy Mayor, Wayne Talbot, representing award sponsor Town of Truro. (Submitted)

with the public.

Alan's journey is a testament to the power of art in bridging cultures and preserving heritage. His impact on the indigenous community and the broader artistic landscape is immeasurable, and we commend his dedication to sharing the beauty and depth of Mi'kmaq culture with the world. Alan Syliboy is a true luminary in the realm of indigenous art, and his influence continues to shine brightly.

Please join the Chamber and Town of Truro as we congratulate Alan Syliboy, for receiving the 2023 Excellence in Community Development Award. We ask Alan Syliboy to please step forward.

Exporter of the Year

Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc.

The Exporter of the Year award acknowledges outstanding Truro or Colchester County businesses that excel in exporting beyond Nova Scotia. Qualifications include substantial international growth and a substantial impact on the local economy.

We invite Matthew Berrigan, representing award sponsor Invest NS to please step forward.

Founded in 2014, Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. emerged from the passion and vision of Jason, a visionary entrepreneur, and all-around fun guy who ventured into the challenging yet exciting realm of cultivating exotic mushrooms. Located in the heart of rural Nova Scotia, they have consistently focused on producing the freshest and most unique exotic mushrooms available today.

What sets this remarkable enterprise apart is its holistic approach to sustainability. By utilizing agricultural and forestry by-products, such as virgin sawdust from local timber mills, they have embraced the principles of the circular economy. Not only do they grow their mushrooms on this

substrate, but they also upcycle their spent mushroom compost as a valuable soil amendment for local farms and gardeners.

The dedication to export is evident in the company's impressive achievements, with a 20% increase in exports from 2022 to 2023. Their commitment to Nova Scotia-made content and their expanding markets across the Maritimes, Newfoundland, Quebec, British Columbia, and the Northeastern United States is truly commendable.

In their journey towards excellence, Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. has embraced innovation through new production facilities, integration of automated equipment, and the installation of solar energy solutions. Their commitment to quality and customer satisfaction is evident in their "same-day harvest and shipment" policy, ensuring their products reach customers in optimal condition.

Furthermore, their role as an employer of choice in the area is admirable, offering competitive wages, healthcare benefits, loyalty bonuses, and product samples to



Jason Giffin, Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc accepts the Exporter of the Year award from Matthew Berrigan, representing award sponsor Invest NS. (Submitted)

their employees.

Jason's passion for mushrooms and his willingness to share knowledge with students and the community demonstrate his commitment to not only growing his business but also enriching the community's understanding of his craft.

Please join the Chamber and Invest Nova Scotia as we congratulate Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms, for receiving the 2023 Exporter of the Year Award. We ask Jason Giffin to please step forward.

Small Business of the Year

Appleton Chocolates

The Small Business of the Year Award celebrates exceptional businesses with 1-20 full-time employees, highlighting their unwavering commitment to excellence within their field. Recognizing independently-owned businesses of at least 3 years, it acknowledges outstanding accomplishments in areas such as Research & Development, Company Growth, Customer Service, Products & Services, Market Development, Sales & Marketing, and Community Service. This award symbolizes the entrepreneurial spirit that thrives within the Colchester County business community.

We invite Alana Hirtle, representing award sponsor CBDC NOBL to please step forward.

Appleton Chocolates Ltd began their journey in a small cabin in rural Nova Scotia, rooted in a commitment to local sustainability and the utilization of exclusively locally sourced ingredients to craft one-of-a-kind chocolate truffles. For the past 8 years, Tatamagouche has been their cherished home.

Appleton Chocolates Ltd take immense pride in maintaining the highest quality standards, enabling them to not only

compete in the Nova Scotia Tourism industry but also stand tall among quality chocolatiers across Nova Scotia and Canada.

Their dedication to preserving the artisanal aspect of their production process is unwavering. They believe in the art of handcrafting their chocolates and consider machinery as a complement rather than a replacement, ensuring that the heart and soul of their creations are lovingly preserved.

As Appleton Chocolates look to the future, expansion is on their horizon. Their next step is to establish a second location that will focus on truffle production and process enhancement, allowing their current shop to diversify its offerings.

Committed to their employees, paying above minimum wage and providing them with an array of delightful products to take home. In fact, they're in the process of developing an employee-created product line, giving their team the opportunity to showcase their creativity.

Appleton Chocolates' consistent commitment to quality, local sustainability, and their community sets them



Michael and Heather Foote, Appleton Chocolates accept the Small Business of the Year Award from Alana Hirtle, representing award sponsor CBDC NOBL. (Submitted)

apart. They are unquestionably an asset to the Village of Tatamagouche attracting thousands to their seaside location annually. They actively support community fundraising events and causes, donating a portion of our proceeds to initiatives like the local minor hockey community. Additionally, they annually open their doors on Christmas Eve to offer free, high-quality hot chocolate made with local milk, spreading warmth and joy to their neighbors.

Please join the Chamber and CBDC NOBL as we congratulate Appleton Chocolates for receiving the 2023 Small Business of the Year Award. We ask Michael and Heather Foote to please step forward.

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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