

Stokdijk's Entering Fourth Generation



Stokdijk's was the host for announcement of the Dept of Agriculture Student Bursary program. Shown above are four members of the family, Timothy and Kimberly and Nicholas and David between them. (Rees Photo)

By Maurice Rees

Stokdijk Greenhouses, Ltd., Beaverbrook, Colchester County was the location Agriculture Minister, Keith Colwell chose to announce the student bursary program. Colwell was accompanied by Darrell Samson, MP, who was representing area MP, Bill Casey who was unable to attend.

Stokdijk's began in the 1950's after Willem Nicolaas and Anna Marie Stokdijk left The Netherlands for Canada arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax with their three children and a few belongings to begin a new

life in North America. Willem settled his family in Beaver Brook, Nova Scotia, where he began Stokdijk Greenhouses, Ltd. Willem was well-known for his integrity, innovation, and high quality produce.

Upon his retirement, the business was sold to his son, Peter Stokdijk, who continued his father's strong tradition of innovation with numerous updates to technology and equipment. In November 2010, Timothy Willem and Kimberly Stokdijk took ownership of Stokdijk Greenhouses, Ltd. Now they along with their children: Nicholas Willem,

David, Andrew, and Lillianna operate this multi-generational tradition of high quality greenhouse produce for the families of the Maritimes.

The Stokdijk family works hard to keep up with current best practices for food safety, farm safety, environmental sustainability, efficient food production, and business management. In 2012, Tim and Kimberly Stokdijk were the BDC Young Entrepreneur Award Finalists for Nova Scotia, one of only 9 finalists nationally.

The Stokdijks also participate in many industry groups and initiatives including: membership in the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, where Kimberly serves as Vice President; CanadaGAP Certification (on farm food safety) program; membership in Horticulture Nova Scotia; membership in Farm Safety Nova Scotia; membership in Canadian Agricultural Safety Associ-

ation; and active support of both Feed Nova Scotia and Colchester Food Bank.

The farm's mission is actively applied through daily practices on the farm and participation in these organizations and is being passed along to Timothy and Kim's four children, Nicholas Willem, David, Andrew and Lillianna now work as students in the family operation.

The Beaverbank operation produces: cluster tomatoes which are available March-November and often are in the supermarkets within 1-3 days of picking. Cherry and roma tomatoes are vine-ripened and have very great tomato flavour. Cherries and Romas can last up to a couple weeks.

English cucumbers are available March-November often in your supermarket within 1-3 days from picking. Mini cucumbers are crispier and have a slightly sweeter flavour than the larger variety. Minis are popular as a fresh, healthy snack on the go.

Tomatoes and cucumbers

were the original products, but now there is large demand for peppers. Sweet peppers come in a range of colors, including: green, red, orange, and yellow. There are several varieties of hot peppers, includ-

ing: jalapeño, habanero, serrano, hot hungarian wax, Fresno, and a mixed pack. Peppers range in heat with hot hungarian being our mildest variety, and habanero being the hottest.

County to Fight \$697.50 Fine

By Maurice Rees

Colchester County will go to court refusing to pay a summary offence ticket valued at \$697.50 levied by Department of Environment following an incident on May 21 when during heavy rains, a sewer manhole on Creamery Road in Tatamagouche experienced an overflow. Environment's directive stated the section of sewer downstream of this manhole must be replaced by the end of September 2019.

During an investigation on the cause of high flows within the sewer system it was discovered the sewer laterals for the recently demolished North Colchester High School had not been properly capped, and large volumes of storm water were entering the sanitary sewer system at this location.

The school demolition project is being managed by Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) and the work is being completed by Dexter Construction. Staff contacted TIR on May 22nd regarding the uncapped

lines, and these were addressed on May 24th.

In explaining the background, staff informed NS Environment the entire sewer system had been videoed and assessed over the last 2 years, and Council had already completed the replacement of 4 sections of sewer over the last 5 years to improve system conditions, valued at \$720K.

The next phase of sewer work in Tatamagouche is scheduled for fiscal 2020/21 and valued at \$250,000. One of the complexities associated with replacing this section of sewer line is that it crosses through an existing restaurant parking lot.

Staff reported even if it began work immediately on preparing the design drawings, meeting the stipulated construction completion date of September 30, 2019 will be impossible given staff resources, tendering requirements, Council schedules and construction schedules.

Council is awaiting for a date to fight the ticket in court.



A small portion of the tomato growing section at Stokdijk's Greenhouses in Beaverbrook, Colchester County. For size of the greenhouses think in terms of acres under glass. (Rees Photo)



In November 2010, Timothy Willem and Kimberly Stokdijk took ownership of Stokdijk Greenhouses, Ltd. Shown above is row after row as far as the eye can see. Their four children, the fourth generation in the business, are working as students. (Rees Photo)



Workers applying produce stickers to individual tomatoes readying the flats for shipment to grocery stores. (Rees Photo)

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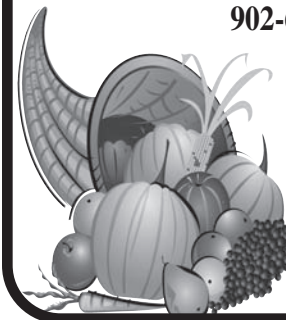
REMINDER

Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade
2019 Harvest Sale & Auction
12355 Highway 2, Lower Onslow.
Friday, September 27 - 7 pm – 11 pm
Saturday, September 28 - 10 am - 5 pm
and 7 pm – 11pm

Notice of Door to Door Donation Collection:

Belmont, Crowes Mills – Week of September 2ND
Onslow Mountain and Old Tata Rd – Week of September 9TH
Upper, Central and Lower Onslow – Week of September 16TH
Masstown & Lower Debert – Week of September 23RD

For alternative pick up, to set up a drop off time, or with questions regarding collection, please message our Facebook page, or call the firehall and leave a message at:
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