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Fall 2020 Edition

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SBCG Business Profile: **MULDERS WELDING – LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**



Mulders Welding has been a quiet fixture in Spencerville for 32 years, now in 33rd yr. A new addition, and completely updated corporate look has given the company a brand new profile. Despite the current downturn, Mulders Welding has continued to expand and prosper.

Both company principals, John and Brenda Mulder, were raised in this community. When opportunity knocked in 1988, John purchased the industrial property on Centre Street and founded the business. A graduate with welding certification, John started working for Ontario Hydro Transmission Lines himself with a truck and portable welder for 4 months. After that George Drummond asked John to build some Conveyors for quarries, April 1989 they bid their first contract at Ports Canada Johnstown and were awarded the job to replace all the Hoppers. John and nephew Tim have continued persuing bids to get work. Over time Mulders has grown to handle many, many large projects throughout the greater upper Canada region, and even some as far away as Siberia!

Holding it all together in her nicely appointed office, Brenda manages the financials, office administration and training, while John heads operations. And Sophie, the resident English bulldog, handles meet and greet!

It may come as a surprise to some in the community the prestigious scope of work produced by this local firm, one being in Dubai to build Palm Trees for Palm Island. The list of completed projects over the years includes Canadian War Museum, Bank of Canada, Parliament Buildings, Government Conference Centre, Smith Falls swing bridge and New Tweed Plant, Brockville & Prescott Canadian Tire, Kelsey's Restaurant Brockville, many schools in Ottawa Region, Spencerville Grand Stand and Fair Portable Bleachers and all the additions to Mulders Welding including Feature Wall in Office and yet to come stair to second floor and our Company sign on front of Building.

Current projects include manufacturing large multi-level stairs and railings throughout Algonquin College's newest addition to the Woodroffe campus, The Athletic Centre, a bridge in Temiskamie, the Alexander Bridge linking Ottawa and Gatineau, Military Base Petawawa and Royal Canadian Dragoons Project Petawawa.



To expand their services Mulders purchased some new equipment, most notably a CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) machine, which can generate precision physical parts from a computer-generated design file. While CNC Machining produces

needed finished parts from stock material for industrial purposes, it can also create decorative metal pieces.

You often hear the saying, 'location, location, location' as being key when deciding where to situate a manufacturing operation. John is still pleased with the initial decision to locate here in his hometown. Taxes and land values are favorable, for sure, but Spencerville offers ready access to a triad of areas which require Mulders skilled service – the 401 for communities along the seaway to the east and the west, and the 416 for direct access to Ottawa.

While the initial manufacture and assembly takes place in the large, renovated facility, the highway infrastructure for transportation of materials and pieces ready for installation is a welcome benefit.

With the expansion of manufacturing space, which doubled their size, will come an expansion in staff when the economic climate warrants it. Trades are declining due to the electronic world we live in so Mulders welcome Co Op Students from the surrounding area High Schools in hopes of peaking new interest in a Welding Career. Mulders welcomes young apprentices and prefers to provide the training to their standards and processes. Mulders currently have 1 apprentice on staff.

Welding is a highly physical trade demanding many skills, high concentration and an eye for detail. To turn those skills into a successful, far-reaching company takes vision, which John, Brenda and their staff have in spades.



Adjusting to Covid: SBCC Business Members Tell Us Their Stories

by Annalee Ladouceur

Here we are nine months into the Covid pandemic and there have been lots of changes. Our business members wasted no time figuring out how to keep going and provide a safe environment for their customers. I talked to a few of them this week.

17 Acre Travel Centre – 613-925-5158



Sunny Mehta and his family moved here from Toronto in January 2018 after they bought Angelo's Restaurant and Gas. It is now 17 Acre Travel Centre. Before coming here they ran nine retail Husky outlets around the Brampton area. Sunny tells us transportation and services have taken a big hit as a result of Covid. The gas business has been slow and steady, and there's been a big drop in the diesel business with a lot of construction halted. They

have a new takeout menu (pick up only) including their delicious home made Indian recipes. They also have a well-stocked LCBO outlet.

Cleary Feed and Seed – 613-658-2745



by Conor Cleary

When Covid hit, **Cleary Feed and Seed** had just entered into its' second year, continuing the feed store business behind the Home Hardware. We took over after Harvex-Agromart, previously Dixie & Egan, closed their Spencerville location.

As an essential agricultural business we have remained open during the entirety of the pandemic to this point and have made steps to ensure the safety of our customers while providing

everyone's crop and livestock needs. We are only allowing one customer into the small check-out area at a time and had Cole Solutions install a plexiglass partition for mutual protection. Masks

are required in the store. We take phone orders and place product on the loading dock for contactless pickup as an option. We are developing an online store (www.clearyfeedandseed.ca) for easy purchases and real-time inventory tracking.

Cleary Feed and Seed would like to graciously thank the community for supporting our new business through our first year. We try to provide everything for hobby farmers, animal watchers, horse lovers, beekeepers, and pet owners. Year-round we stock wild bird seed, peanuts in and out-of-shell, striped and black oil sunflower, cracked corn, feeders, and more!. We have also been selling and donating grain-based hand sanitizer (made by King's Lock Distillery (and other Ontario producers) and isopropyl alcohol. It is important for the local agricultural supply chain to stay open and meet the needs of our customers as best as we can. We will be taking advance orders for poultry, garden and field seed, flower and garlic bulbs, potatoes, soil, and honeybees during the late winter via conor@clearydale.ca.

Fair Sun Farm – 613-914-5572



Marnie Chown and Pat van der Burg moved here three years ago from Alberta where they raised pasture-fed meats and organic veggies for eight years. Their son Damien was born after they arrived here.

"We completely changed our strategy this year due to Covid.

No farmers' markets, no daycare and not wanting to be a vector for the virus meant that we kept our workforce as small as possible. We teamed up with an employee to include childcare in our work days, expanded our CSA membership and offered more home delivery options in Ottawa. We changed our distribution, packaging and our wash/pack protocols to make everything Covid-safe for us and everyone receiving our veggies." <https://www.fairsunfarm.ca/>

Here are some of the local services and groups our community has to offer:

Canada Post

9 Centre Street, Spencerville, ON K0E 1X0

Centennial 67 Public School (grades JK. to Grade 6)

7 Henderson Street, 613-658-3114

facebook.com/centennial67ps/

Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Town Hall

18 Centre Street, P.O. Box 129

613-658-3005 twpec.ca/

Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Library

5 Henderson Street, 658-5575

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 604,

27 Bennett St, (613) 658-2031

Facebook: facebook.com/spencervillelegion

Spencerville Agricultural Society

spencervillefair.ca/

Spencerville United Church

Centre St. 613-658-1226

Spencerville Optimist Club

[facebook.com/Spencerville-District-](https://facebook.com/Spencerville-District-Optimist-Club)

Optimist-Club

St. Andrew's Knox Presbyterian Church

Contact: James Purcell, 613-658-3123

St. Laurence O'Toole Catholic Church

48 Centre Street

Spencerville Arena (public skating rink,
2 baseball diamonds with lights)

613-658-2141

The Spencerville Mill

Spencervillemill.ca

For information on choirs:

Contact **Sheila Fawcett**, sfawcett@jcis.ca

Flying Canoe Cider – 613-913-9796



Pete and Melissa Rainville moved to Spencerville in July 2019 having bought the Dr. Pember McIntosh house. It seemed the perfect fit for their Flying Canoe Cider business as they use Macintosh apples from Dundela

for their product. They officially opened their Flying Canoe Cider business here at the end of Feb. 2020. Then Covid hit. Pete had previously supplied major events in Ottawa like the Ottawa Jazz Fest. Capital Pride and - Beau's Oktoberfest to name a few. They lost all those annual events like Shopify's Xmas party all of those events accounted for 15% of their annual business.

With help of local politicians, Pete managed to have the Five Acre Rule temporarily revoked enabling him to open a retail outlet here in Spencerville. He invested \$12,000 in a retail store on site and so far it's brought back about 40% of what they lost. As a result he has been able to create new cider-based products to sell in the store and has hired a local helper. Pete and Melissa are committed to their community giving back to local charities and fund raisers. They have two young boys going to school here and look forward to raising them in Spencerville and growing their business here for many years to come.

Joe's Spencerville Bar & Grill – 613-648-2337

by Johnny Scratch, Chef

Where do we begin. This pandemic has brought a lot of challenges and changes to the ways business is done. Who could've predicted a massive shut down of literally everything?

How have we survived this far? It's simple. **Take out.** Take out and maintaining the integrity of what was once enjoyed at the table side....only, its now in a take out box.



We are a restaurant in a community that doesn't have many places to choose from. When people weren't comfortable dealing with crowded grocery stores, we offered groceries. When the legislation was changed to allow us to sell alcohol, the option to stay out of the crowded LCBO and beer stores was embraced. We adapted to a very unique situation, allowing us to move forward. True – jobs had to be let go. Hours had to be reduced.



In addition, this summer we took the huge step of building a large, welcoming outdoor, (heated!) patio.

In the end, we adjusted and the community supported us. The community at large is in fact largely why Joe's Spencer City Bar and Grill has weathered.

The community is why the open sign still gets turned on.

Little Sisterz –613-648-8888

by Gina Vaccio



Pivoting and shifting my young business to adapt to Covid-19 has had it's challenges and rewards. Our initial focus back in March was to help our community stay safe and contained, we offered Care Packages, hard to find essentials and groceries.

We brought in a larger display freezer to house local farmed meats, house made convenient meals, pizza kits, soups and sauces. We increased our retail space to support additional Italian goods and local products.

In addition, we collaborated with our local businesses and community to support covid friendly events such as *Drive In Tailgate Concerts, Mini Rib Fest, and Curbside Dining.*

Moving forward we continue to be innovative while supporting Health Guidelines and we are planning to bring exciting new experiences this coming New Year!

Keeping Choral Music Alive During Covid -19

by Sheila Fawcett

Just as Spencerville's Malala Women's Choir was launching its 2020 season the pandemic shut down rehearsals and performances for musicians everywhere. Malala rehearsals went online for a few weeks, but we soon learned that it's impossible to sing as a group via Zoom. The season was postponed until 2021.

Another local ensemble, Village Voyces Chamber Choir, also tried on line rehearsals for several months last spring. Being a small group they resumed live rehearsals in September carefully observing health restrictions. Members adapted to singing wearing masks and standing socially distanced. Being able to sing live makes a huge difference even with no performances on the horizon.

For more than 30 years the Spencerville Community Choir has welcomed singers to join in preparations for Christmas concerts. Proceeds from these popular concerts have always been donated to the food bank. Unfortunately there will be no live performances this year, yet many choir members are still singing in the safety of their homes. The invitation to join a virtual choir attracted both long standing community choir members and singers from other communities. With the assistance of accompanist Abraham TeGrottenius, producer Mary Moore and director Sheila Fawcett, the Spencerville Virtual Community Choir is in the midst of preparing a video recording of the energetic Vivaldi Gloria, to be released on Youtube just in time for Christmas.

Virtual choirs may be with us for longer than anticipated. Although they have their challenges they are one way to keep choral singing alive and well until we can safely sing together in person.



Spencerville
Community Choir





FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES...

FOR THE WINTER MONTHS AHEAD

Article by Abby McIntyre, SBCC Community Liaison

Living in the greater Spencerville area the majority of my life, I look forward to the unique offerings that each season brings to our community. Now, with a family of my own, we have also created many of our own seasonal traditions.

Thankfully, despite the COVID-19 safety precautions we all face, our family's plans will not look that much different this winter. There are many local attractions to help us to get outside, enjoy some fresh air and fun.

A long-time favourite of our family's is to buy a treat from a local restaurant or store, and take a walk through the Spencerville Mill Park and our charming village. There is always a friendly neighbour to stop and talk with along the way!

Our sons love to play in the large fenced in yard and new play structure at the Centennial '67 Public School. As students of this amazing little school, our kids love sharing a part of their world with us during family time. Children and families are welcomed to use the space after school hours and on weekends. My family is very grateful to our community members and local businesses who invested in the new playground this year!

Each year, the Spencerville and District Optimist Club offers an outdoor hockey rink, located near Town Hall. The rink is free for use, and has been made possible by local volunteers.

Limerick Forest is a 6000-hectare community forest, which is owned and managed by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. There is approximately 180 km of trails, including single track and roads suitable for full-sized vehicle. In addition, there is about 30 km of groomed snowmobile trails. Visit www.limerickforest.ca to learn more.

Robert Graham Conservation Area is located near Glen Stewart, off County Road 21. It offers a 6.5 km trail for hiking, geocaching, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and dog walking (on leash, please). More information is available at www.nation.on.ca.

A visit to the Sandra S. Lawn Harbour and RiverWalk Park is always a treat! Even in the winter months, the beauty of the St. Lawrence River is hard to beat. Our family enjoys the walking paths, playgrounds and the long-standing tradition of a take out lunch in your vehicle overlooking the water. Read more at www.prescott.ca.

We also spend a lot of time in our own backyard. Annual traditions include building snow forts, winter bonfires, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and (attempting) an outdoor ice rink. We often have special visitors over the winter months, too!

I'd love to hear how your family keeps active! Share your pictures and ideas on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SpencervilleBCC.



Light the Tree

at the Clock Square

Sat. Dec. 5

5:30 to 6:30

Join the Optimist Club, Village Voyces & SBCC for a little Spencerville Christmas Celebration.

Carol singing/mini concert
Free hot chocolate
A glimpse of Santa!

A food bank box will be ready to receive donations

COVID safety practices will be followed. Please bring & wear a mask while singing and if social distancing becomes difficult to achieve.

Hello Spencerville!

SBCC

Spencerville Business & Community Connections

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