

# CELEBRATE KINGS: *Pride in our people, places & products*

## *From the tree through to market, fruit is totally this Kings County family's business*

In the shelter of Kings County's beautiful north mountain, three generations of farmers have toiled to grow a farming venture that truly keeps business "all in the family"!

For more than 50 years, the Hennigar family has grown apples and other tree fruit in Kings County. But what makes their business unique from most is they control all aspects of the operation - from the planting of the trees through to the storing, marketing, and shipping of their product.

"My father wanted to pack, store, and market his own produce to keep the apple sales at home - keep the profit," says Laurie. "I would add we needed to do it to stay in business."

The venture began in 1953 when Dean Hennigar bought a farm in Sheffield

Mills. Following in his footsteps, in 1962 his son Laurie bought a farm in Aylesford, which he named Blomidon Farms Limited. The two became a family enterprise.

Both father and son realized the only way for their business to be truly profitable was to take control of all its aspects. In 1979 Dean, with the help of his sons Laurie, Tim, and Richard, formed Blomidon Produce Limited - the family's own packing and storage facility in Sheffield Mills.

After many years as a father and son operation, in 1995 a third generation was added when Laurie and his wife Joan took over his father's Sheffield Mills farm, and sold the Aylesford farm to their son Geoff and wife Jodi.

Continuing the trend, in 2002 Laurie sold the Sheffield Mills farm to youngest son Graham and wife Mona, who named it Rustic Ridge Farms Limited. The farm operation had blossomed into a full family affair.

"I've got apples in my blood," says Laurie. "Now I've passed it on to my sons. We're a true family operation."

As a family business, the women in the family have very key roles. "We play a big part," says Joan. "(Personally) I would be looking after our two lads while selling to customers, taking orders over the phone and even hauling Laurie out of mudholes during spraying - sometimes at three in the morning!"

All three generations of Hennigars have ensured they have a voice in their industry. Each has been involved with the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association. Grandfather, father, and sons have all been officers.

"My father was president, I was president, and Geoff was last year," says Laurie. "Also, for 17 years, I was the fruit growers association's representative on the Canadian Horticultural Council and president for one year."

Aside from apples, Blomidon Farms and Rustic Ridge Farms also produce peaches, plums, pears, and cherries. In fact, Laurie and his family have the largest peach growing operation east of Niagara.

Now, the Hennigars have added a new element to their family business - the recently opened Peach Pit Farm Market in Dempsey Corner, north of Aylesford on Highway 221.

For the Hennigar family, this new addition is just one more of the fruits resulting from the labors of three hard-working generations!



Joan and Laurie

54564856



**Kings Community  
Economic Development  
Agency**

*Together making Kings County a better place to live*

**902.678.2298 [www.kingsced.ns.ca](http://www.kingsced.ns.ca)**