

Allergies challenged

by Kory Glover
AgriNews Staff Writer

OXFORD MILLS – IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD HAVE A SERIOUS, LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGY, THEN YOU KNOW THE STRUGGLE ALL TOO WELL.

Between Shelley Go and her three children, they have an astonishing 30 allergies that can be quite a challenge to manage on a day-to-day basis. After constantly being disrupted and called away from work due to an emergency, Go found a solution in her own business, DollyDoll Bakery, that caters to help people with hard-to-manage allergies.

“This all started when my daughter was three years old. I wanted to help people out in Vancouver Island [British Columbia], and when I asked her how to help, she said cupcakes,” she said. “We started packaging dried goods and selling them and all the money went towards a women’s shelter to help battered women and their children.”

“When we moved back to Ottawa, I worked in retail management for some time and with my children’s illness – my son was

born with 22 food allergies – I was being called away from work all the time,” Go continued. “When you keep doing that in someone else’s business, you get fired; so, I went on stress leave instead of getting fired. While on stress leave, I thought of DollyDoll Cupcakes for food allergies. I took the general concept we were doing in Vancouver.”

DollyDoll Cupcakes, now known as DollyDoll Bakery, prides itself on being free from the top allergies in the world including peanuts, tree nuts, sesame, soy, eggs, milk, sulphites, mustard, fish, preservatives, artificial food colourings and many others. Go ensures that proper care goes into each item in her menu.

“You have to research the ingredients, research the cross-contamination process,” she said. “Just making sure every ingredient is safe and not contaminated with any food allergen.”

Before February of this year, DollyDoll Bakery was located in North Gower with a nice, steady stream of customers keeping the business afloat. Unfortunately, after some



Working from home

After losing the lease for her North Gower location, Shelley Go is currently running her DollyDoll Bakery operation out of her own kitchen, pulling in orders of allergy-free/vegan baked goods for people with hard-to-manage allergies.

Glover photo

personal issues, Go lost the lease to the storefront and was forced to move production into her own home, which was a mighty big setback for the business.

“We moved from our small location plaza into a home, which I had leased to purchase and when my ex-husband took too long for the settlement, we lost the lease,” she said. “So, we were given 30 days to move out.”

Despite the setback, Go continues to work hard in her kitchen, serving online orders to people as far as

Kingston and the Gatineau area, a variety of baked goods, catering platters and special orders. Go is currently looking for another location to move into, having recently looked in the Merrickville area.

“Unfortunately, there’s no kitchen in it, so when the permits set in, it’ll probably take a year to set up,” she said.

In the meantime, if you’re looking for special treat for a birthday or other celebration, check out DollyDoll’s Facebook page or call them at (613) 986-5926 to put in an order.

Barbecue season supports farmers

TORONTO — ONTARIO CARES ABOUT FARMERS AND ENCOURAGES CONSUMERS TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR BEEF AND PORK FARMERS BY BUYING AND ENJOYING ONTARIO MEAT PRODUCTS.

In a mid-July news release, the Ontario government announced it is launching a campaign through Foodland Ontario to highlight the province’s pork and beef in response to China’s current trade restrictions on those products. The campaign includes radio commercials, recipe books, promotional materials for in-store displays and social media promoting Ontario pork and beef.

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Ernie Hardeman is also encouraging Ontario restaurants to bolster the use of local Ontario meats in their day-to-day menu planning.

“The quality of Ontario and Canadian beef and pork products are and always have been ranked among the best in the world,” he said. “Ontario-produced meat continues to be a top choice during barbecue season.”

Hardeman wants consumers to give the province’s farmers a boost following China’s temporary restrictions on imports of Canada’s beef and pork products. “I stand with our farmers in the province and those across the country, and I support the federal government’s efforts to resolve this situation,” he said.

Ontario is home to close to 6,800 beef farms that marketed about 720,000 beef cattle worth \$1.3-billion in farm cash receipts in 2018. In addition, the province is home to more than 1,200 pig farms that marketed about 5.6-million hogs worth \$1.2-billion in farm cash receipts in 2018. Approximately 55,000 direct jobs and \$2.9-billion in direct GDP can be attributed to Ontario’s hog industry value chain including farm, processing and retail (2017).

Ontario is working with the federal government, other provinces and Ontario’s beef and pork sectors to ensure the province’s meat products have fair access to markets while also exploring supports that can be provided to farmers.

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