

Made in Cornwall

BUYING CANADIAN IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

› BOB PETERS

Amidst the talk of tariffs and trade wars, more and more Canadian families are taking a closer look at where products are made before they make that final decision to add it to the shopping cart. Wouldn't it be nice if goods came from around the corner rather than the other side of the continent? Wouldn't food be fresher if it spent a couple of hours on a truck as opposed to a couple of weeks?

The trend to buy local is red hot these days, which prompts the question: what is actually made right here in Cornwall? The answer is, simply, a lot more than you might think.

Andy and Karen Rorabeck are the husband and wife team behind Rurban Brewing, Cornwall's first and only craft brewery. Celebrating a dozen years of making quality unpasteurized and unfiltered beer, Rurban is hyper-local – you can

only find the beer at its taproom on Cumberland Street, or at local bars and restaurants.

"We stay as local as we can by using as many local hops as we can and making all of our products on-site," says Andy. "We exist to provide local residents (and visitors) with a fresh and honest taste experience that is very much a reflection of



IPG

Cornwall and the region."

A great complement to an ice-cold beer is a bowl of popcorn, and no matter if your taste buds swing salty or sweet, the Happy Popcorn Company has you covered. The award-winning company makes and packages all of its own popcorn in Downtown Cornwall and their lineup is truly mouthwatering – you can choose from over 60 different flavours ranging from traditional movie popcorn, caramel and kettle corn to more exotic flavours with names such as Buffalo Breath, Chunky Monkey and Unicorn.

"Our son Jack is on the Autism spectrum, and as parents, we wanted to plan for his future," says Bill Halman and Kristin Davey. "Inspired by Jack's love for popcorn, we set out to create a place of inclusion, not only for Jack but for others too."



Andy and Karen Rorabeck
Rurban Brewing



Bill Halman and Kristin Davey
Happy Popcorn Co.

What started out as a small kernel of an idea has certainly popped into something much larger. Happy Popcorn is now shipping across Canada.

There are other food products made in Cornwall and featured on grocery store shelves across Canada.

One is Olymel bacon, which is made right in the Cornwall Business Park. The state-of-the-art processing facility has been expanded several times to keep up with Canadian's love for bacon. Chances are if you have had bacon on a cheeseburger or alongside a couple of eggs, you've experienced Olymel's lip-smacking aromas and unparalleled flavour. The company makes bacon under its own brand, as well as Lafleur, Flamingo and Pinty's.

Just down the road from Olymel one can find the modern food plant of Biscuits Leclerc. Leclerc is well known for its popular lineup of

cookies and breakfast bars. The latter is made in Cornwall, which most families would know as Go Pure bars. The Go Pure is the perfect fusion of oats and real fruit, which are a great source of fiber while remaining free of artificial flavours and colours. Go Pure is pure goodness and perfect for the lunch box!

Both Leclerc and Olymel are well established success stories utilizing Canadian ingenuity to produce quality products that meet the needs of families. One company that is in the midst of creating its own success story is Fieldless Farms.

Fieldless Farms is a pioneer in controlled environment agriculture, which is a technical way of saying that they grow fresh produce indoors.

"Canada's climate is not exactly ideal for year-round farming, which is why we import so much produce," says Jon Lomow, President

and Founder of Fieldless Farms. "Technology is allowing us to take back control of our food chains with safe, reliable, and delicious produce grown right here in our own community, all year long."

Fieldless Farms has become a popular choice at grocery stores – including Farm Boy (another Cornwall success story!). The company will soon be harvesting and packaging berries to go along with its already established lettuce, herbs, and mushroom products.

Of course, no "Made in Cornwall" article would be complete if we did not explore some of the everyday products manufactured in town.

If you are looking to do work around the house, you can insulate your walls and roof with insulation panels made by Johns Manville, use sheathing tape made by IPG and add a coat of colour with paint made by Protech and Axalta.

You can remake your living space with furniture from Ridgewood and add lighting from Peerless Electric. Chances are your car and recreational vehicle feature coated fabrics from Morbern. All made right here in Cornwall. Other notable manufacturers include electronic manufacturers Kontron and MPIQC, Nautel C-Tech (sonar), Columbia Finishing Mills (book covering materials), Hood Packaging (plastic bags), Seaway Yarns (twisted yarns) and metal fabricators such as Laframboise and Oslonfab. The list is extensive and ranges from family run businesses such as Laminacorr to major



Biscuits Leclerc





Eric Bergeron and Jon Lomow
Fieldless Farms



Angela Youngs
Ground Soap

international companies such as BASF. It includes such diverse products as highly specialized oxygen cutting equipment from Oxy-Arc to angioplasty catheters from NuMed.

If there is a common thread that connects all of the above companies – it is people. Products made here are made by your neighbours. They are made with integrity and ingenuity, and even in the largest of international corporations, the Cornwall operation often shines brightest. In many cases the products

were dreamt of, designed, created and financed right here.

One such product is the organic soap produced by Angela Youngs and her company Ground Soap. Ms. Youngs originally set out to find healthier alternatives to animal-based and synthetic soap. Not having much success, she decided to make her own.

“Over a decade ago, we started developing ten soap recipes using skin-nourishing ingredients,” says Ms. Youngs. “Since then, we’ve sold our

soaps to people around the world while staying true to our core values. Though we’ve tweaked our recipes and figured out better processes, we still sell the same ten soaps because we — and our customers — love them.”

Ground Soap is a perfect example of why buying local is not only good for your community – it’s good for you and your family.

You can get more information on Cornwall manufacturers and food processors at [ChooseCornwall.ca](https://www.ChooseCornwall.ca)