

competitors were also his friends as businesses rallied to support supply shortages together. “It didn’t take off, but I’m still happy with what we did.”

[Whitney Plastics was first-runner up at the Canadian Manufacturing, PLANT “Responding to COVID-19” Industry Leadership Honours virtual gala in personal protective equipment - small manufacturer.](#)

It still sells and donates masks to local places that need them, such as correctional facilities and long-term care homes. Schumacher said he's looking at selling the shields on major online platforms in the future.

“This isn’t going to go away. I’m very proud when I go down Kent Street in Lindsay and see two elderly people wearing my masks,” he said. “It tugs on my heart.”

Whitney Plastics has been in business for 60 years. If nothing else, Schumacher says the pandemic showed him the business can survive anything — that's a good feeling.

Sunspace

For Steven Hunt, the fact that the country didn’t need his medical isolation pods is a blessing in disguise. Hunt developed the pods when COVID-19 first hit, but only ever got around to installing one, and it was never used.

“I don’t think it got to that critical level where they required the extra beds,” he said. His hygiene shields, on the other hand, were a hit.

“We started building those right away, the weekend after we went on lockdown,” he said. Orders peaked during reopening, but have slowed again. Hunt said masks have grown into the mainstay of the pandemic in place of shields.

Where things have taken off are in Sunspace's sunrooms and renovations side. Hunt estimates the increase at around 30 per cent and his wait times have doubled. He said people have more time and money for their homes without paying for their kids to be in sports, travelling and working remotely.

“I expect 2021 will be equally as strong when it comes to people and their homes,” he said, noting the pandemic backlog has taken the seasonality out of his business for the time being. That means he’ll be able to keep his staff on longer, and have more skilled workers heading into next year.

South Pond Farms

[South Pond Farms](#) flipped from a popular wedding locale to taking grocery orders