

Colborne Chronicle

■ AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION

Kale chip producers recognized at Queen's Park

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Northumberland Today

NORTHUMBERLAND — The same family business recognized in Colborne for its special niche in agriculture on Nov. 10 was again spotlighted at Queen's Park last week.

Draupadi and Adrian Quinn of Castleton, who turned former tobacco fields into a kale chip crop, is also expanding into Cobourg with a second production facility early next year. The Cobourg facility is four times as large as the Castleton one, and the plan is to process 20 tonnes of kale a week with the new facility, the couple said in a recent interview.



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Premier Kathleen Wynne

The Quinns turn kale plants into different flavoured and health kale chips.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne honoured the Quinns during the 2014 Premier's Summit on Agri-Food Innovation and explained how the process began on 10 acres in 2009.

"The real magic however happens in the 5,000-square-foot on-farm processing facility. Here, the nutrient-packed leaves are transformed into five different flavours of raw, guilt-free snacks. Annual sales have sky rocketed, and the operation employs 15 seasonal and year-round workers. With demand strong and growing, the Quinns are now planning to open a 20,000-square-foot processing plant down the road that will process 20 tonnes of kale a week" stated Wynne



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi participated in the Queen's Park event recognizing Adrian and Draupadi Quinn (and their two children) for a Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence.

in a media release from Queen's Park. "Our government is proud to support the hard work, dedication and creativity of Ontario's innovative thinkers that has helped make our agri-food industry the success that it is today," the Premier said last Thurs-

day. "I want to congratulate today's winners and all of this year's 50 award recipients."

The Premier's second annual summit was also the launch of the new Growth Steering Committee "to help drive agri-food industry growth and

create jobs across the province," the release stated.

Co-chair by Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Deputy Minister Deb Stark and Ontario Pork board chair Amy Cronin the committee's goal is to "bring together industry and gov-

ernment leaders and experts to identify opportunities to help the industry meet the growth challenge" of creating 120,000 new Ontario jobs by 2020.

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