

Use website to find local Canadian-made products

By Moya Dillon

Anyone wanting to purchase patriotically can get help at Made in Canada.

The website, created by Uxbridge teen Tyler Campbell, compiles Canadian products and companies so consumers can make informed buying decisions.

"I think Canadians are thinking a lot more, and talking a lot more, about what they're buying," Campbell said, saying he was "shocked" to hear of the tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump back in 2018.

"I just wouldn't think the most powerful man in the world would do that, but it is Donald Trump," he said, shrugging.

After the tariffs were announced, and Canada made its own announcement of retaliatory tariffs, Campbell was discussing the situation with his father and uncle at a family birthday party when the idea for Made in Canada was born.

"We were all talking, and we wanted to buy Canadian, but we weren't sure how," Campbell said, noting he couldn't find any definitive lists online, so they decided to make their own.

The site, madeinca.ca, accepts submissions of Canadian-made products or companies that manufacture in Canada; those submissions are then verified by either Campbell, his father or his uncle before being posted. Campbell said he averages about six to eight hours a day working on the site, which has been flooded

with submissions from visitors eager to help their mission.

"We want people to think about what they're doing, even if we're not telling them what to buy. We're giving you the option to think about it," he said of helping people to support Canadian businesses.

"My grandparents were immigrants from Ireland; they ran their own business for more than 30 years. A lot of people come here to start businesses, and people from here start businesses, and I think there's not a lot of awareness of that, and people don't

put much thought into what they're buying, so I hope this helps people support local businesses."

When it launched in early July 2018, Campbell and his family have been blown away by the response to the site, which was garnering national media attention.

"I thought it was really inventive, and Tyler is like that, so I wasn't surprised that he did this, but I've been surprised by the response," said Karen Campbell, mother of Tyler, who graduated from Port Perry High School last year.

"At that age, I wouldn't have been so politically aware; and for him to look at something and identify such a positive response to what can be a pretty contentious issue is just amazing."

The site has hundreds of posts, representing thousands of Canadian products, with submissions continuing to pour in. Campbell said he planned to continue working on the site as he prepared to head to the University of Ottawa last fall.

"We're going to keep adding as much as we can for as long as we can," he said of the website.

"It's been enlightening how much people seem to care. It makes me happy to see what it means to people."

- Uxbridge Times Journal



Uxbridge resident Tyler Campbell, created a website, madeinca.ca last year.

Photo by Sabrina Byrnes, Torstar

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