

Creating a Pop-Up Shop in Milford Reminiscent of Provence, France

If you happened to be on Saint Philip Street in Milford recently, you might have no-

ticed the lush blooms of lavender in their end-of-July blaze of glory at L'Atelier Du

Presbytere. The view was reminiscent of Provence in France, exactly as it was intended to be. Owners of L'Atelier Du Presbytere, Thierry and Françoise Méchin Pellet, chose Milford in Prince Edward County to set up shop in 2015, in part because they felt the Milford area had many of the charms enjoyed in their original Provence hometown. They planted the lavender at 42 St. Philip

Street to enhance the Provence look and feel.

"We had lived in a small village in Provence before we immigrated to Canada," Françoise said. Though we lived for 10 years in Montreal, we knew we would eventually return to a village. We wanted a small, quiet place where we could continue our artisan business. Milford fit our plans very well."

Immigrating to Canada was a life changing decision the couple made while in their 40's. At the time, their artisan business in Provence was at a crossroads. They either had to start mass producing in-

stead of hand making the items they sold or they had to figure out a way to keep their business small and personal. They followed their gut instinct to pursue their business while building a new life in another country. Canada beckoned.

In Montreal, Françoise and Thierry opened a shop on Notre Dame West where they provided handmade linen products and antiques from Provence to hotels and designers. When their son entered college, they began to sell a selection of linen products at craft shows and special events, mostly in Ontario. One such show

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Françoise and Thierry

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