

Press Release
Lindsay, ON
April 27, 2017



Local, provincial and federal officials, along with 250 invited guests joined the staff and the owners of Mariposa Dairy in order to celebrate the completion of their new, state-of-the-art, cheese making facility.

Bruce VandenBerg, owner of Mariposa Dairy, started the event by talking about the overall impact of this new facility and the tremendous support of family, friends and customers. He said, “It all started with a bank trusting us with a \$50,000 loan! We have had tremendous backing from loans, leasing facilities, grants as well as wise business mentors to help us grow to where we are today. We are proud of the fact that over \$0.80 of every dollar made at Mariposa Dairy stays in Ontario, \$0.70 of every dollar stays within 100 km of Lindsay. Not many manufacturing companies can make that claim!”

Our government guests, the Honourable Maryam Monsef, the Honourable Jeff Leal, MP Jamie Schmale, MPP Laurie Scott and Mayor Andy Letham each offered congratulations and recognized the impact of Mariposa Dairy’s growth.

The praise continued with speeches from Tom Gellert of Atalanta Corp, Paul Blake of Finica Food Specialties and Larry Hook of Gay Lea Foods. It was noted that Bruce and Sharon had the ability to bring together a community: the room was filled with a mixture of bankers, lawyers, government staff, dairies, farmers, sales teams, service and equipment suppliers, friends and family members.

Mariposa Dairy moved from the farmstead in a 800-sq. ft. building to St David facility of 22,000-sq. ft. in 2007 and to this new facility at 201 St. George Street of 50,000 sq. ft. which includes a windowed mezzanine to allow viewing of the production floor.

Mariposa Dairy was established in 1989 by Bruce and Sharon Vandenberg. “I was looking for a way to be at home with our children,” said Sharon. “It grew out of control! It started with just the two of us and 20,000 litres of goat milk to a staff of 95 and 17,000,000 litres of goat milk.”

Mariposa Dairy has partnered with Gaylea Foods (they draw from 120+ goat dairies) and Finica Food Specialties (part of the Gellert Group) . Mariposa Dairy’s award-winning “Celebrity” brand chevre and “Lenberg Farms” brand artisan cheeses are sold throughout North America. Its vision is to produce the highest quality goat and sheep milk cheese. Bruce concluded, “We have been blessed and it is an honour to be a benefit to the community. We anticipate a future full of potential.”



The names of our speakers/ guests

top row L-R

Bruce Vandenberg, Andy Letham (Mayor of the City of Kawartha Lakes), Larry Hook (Gaylea - Sales Manager), Tom Gellert (Gellert Group / Atalanta)

bottom row L-R

Laurie Scott (MPP Member of Provincial Parliament), Sharon Vandenberg, Elaine Flook (OMAFRA member), Paul Blake (Finica), Steve Dolson (Gaylea, Chairman), Jamie Schmale (MP Member of Parliament)

missing from photo: Maryam Monsef (MP Member of Parliament)





