

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Newsletter

JULY 2021

VENDOR PROFILE



Dawn and Tom Kirlin have led the Frankestown Community Market from its beginning. “Four years ago we brought up the idea of starting a farmers market and volunteered to be the coordinators,” said Dawn. “Little did we know how it would blossom.”

Blossom it did, in more ways than one. The Kirlins soon realized they could support the market not only as organizers but also as vendors selling flowers, berries, and vegetables they grew on their farm. After the first year, a fellow vendor introduced them to a specialty mushroom grower. “We were hooked immediately,” said Tom, who began building a grow room the very next day. Now they just needed a name.

Dawn recalls, “Flowers and mushrooms aren’t an obvious combination, and we were struggling with what to call ourselves. ‘Blooms and Shrooms’ just rolled off Tom’s tongue one evening. It was perfect.”



Blooms & 'Shrooms grows around 6 varieties of gourmet mushrooms at Kingsbury Hill Farm. They are cultured on organic, pasteurized, substrate blocks in a climate-controlled space. Maintaining optimum moisture and ventilation requirements for each variety is a delicate process.



On the blooms side, the Kirlins get lots of help from daughter Regan, and from Dawn's mum. Everyone works together selecting new colors, getting seeds started, and transplanting them into the cutting gardens.

The whole operation is a family affair and a lot of work, but Dawn says educating customers about the different mushrooms and their health benefits is well worth it. She adds, "... and as for the flowers, they make everyone smile!"

Blooms & 'Shrooms can be found at the Frankestown Community Market, the Peterborough Farmer's Market, and the Hancock Market. They also offer local home delivery. Follow them on Facebook and subscribe to their monthly newsletter.