

The Leclerc Products

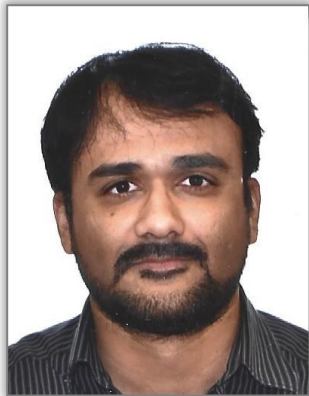
Guillaume Turgeon | Senior Director, Canadian Operations, Biscuits Leclerc



Guillaume Turgeon is a seasoned professional in manufacturing industries, with over two decades of experience specializing in Operation and project management, acquisitions, and team integration. Guillaume holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Wood Science Forestry and Environment from Laval University and the University of British Columbia. He also earned an Executive MBA in 2002.

Guillaume's career has taken him across North America, with successful stints in both Canada and the United States. Today, as the Senior Director of Canadian Operations at Biscuits Leclerc, a renowned name in the food production industry, he oversees a wide range of operations, ensuring that safety, quality, efficiency, and sustainability are at the forefront. His dedication to sustainable practices and innovative production methods has positioned Biscuits Leclerc as a leader in the food production industry.

Abdullah Toseef | Brockville Plant Manager, Leclerc Foods Brockville



Abdullah Toseef is a cross functional professional with 15 years of experience in Manufacturing & Supply Chain. He has work experience with renown fast moving consumer goods companies in food and personal care in Canada and Pakistan.

Abdullah holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, Pakistan and a Masters Degree in Environmental Science from University of Waterloo.

Having experience in different parts of the Manufacturing, Abdullah currently holds the position of Plant Manager at Leclerc Foods Brockville. He is passionate towards developing safety, quality and productivity management systems. The start-up at Brockville allows him the perfect opportunity to setup the right standards and behaviours for a successful manufacturing facility.

Shorelines Casino Thousand Islands

Dale Deane | General Manager, Shorelines Casino Thousand Islands



Dale Deane is the General Manager for Shorelines Casino Thousand Islands, operated by Great Canadian Entertainment (“GCE”), Dale Deane joined the Shorelines Casino Thousand Islands property in 2018. He holds nearly 30 years of gaming industry experience, having started in Windsor, Ontario in 1994, and brings with him gaming and management experience for casino operations in various markets and sizes. His career has led him through three different Gaming Jurisdictions in Canada, serving two Provincial Lottery Corporations, 10 gaming operations at various management levels, and also as a Private Consultant for general gaming operations and operational efficiency. Dale sits on the Board of Directors for the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce.

Chuck Keeling | Executive Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement, Community & Social Responsibility, Great Canadian Entertainment



Chuck Keeling literally grew up in the horse racing/gaming industry. His family and outside partners owned racetracks in Surrey and Victoria, BC, and Keeling started working in the business when he was eight years old and continued through school and university. Through some untimely deaths in the family, Keeling was thrust into the position of managing the company’s two racetracks by the time he was 24. Shortly thereafter, he led the eight-year campaign to secure slot machine approval both municipally and provincially for horse racing in the province.

In late 2004, Great Canadian Gaming successfully acquired these racetracks and retained Keeling to oversee the company’s horse racing interests. In 2013, they appointed him VP, Stakeholder Relations and Responsible Gaming to oversee the company’s relations with government, communities, charities, and the media, as well as oversee the company’s responsible gambling programs. In 2019, he was appointed Executive Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement, Community and Social Responsibility, and in 2022, assigned the development of the company’s ESG strategy. He has had the privilege of sitting on multiple non-profit boards.

Planning our Future Infrastructure

Brian Lennie | Specialist, Economic Development, ENBRIDGE GAS INC.



Brian Lennie is the Economic Development Specialist for Enbridge Gas. In this role he works with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade, Invest Ontario, Municipalities, and industry groups to provide energy solutions to clients seeking to locate in Ontario, or expand their existing operations. He also leads Enbridge Gas’ own economic development work, which includes expressions of interest and reverse open seasons, one of which is specific to this area and he will discuss today. Brian is a seasoned energy industry professional with over 15 years of experience in natural gas, local electricity distribution, and renewable energy. Brian is a Board Member with the Victorian Order of Nurses, Windsor and Essex County Community Corporation.

Preparing for our Aging Demographic

Jen Powley | Administrator, Maple View Lodge | Director Maple View Landings



Jennifer Powley is the recently appointed Administrator of Maple View Lodge and Director of the Maple View Landings Redevelopment Project.

Her career spans over three decades in healthcare senior management, including fifteen years in long-term care.

She held various roles with Sienna Senior Living in Ottawa including Vice-President of Operations; she is the past Director of Nutrition and Food Services at the Ottawa Hospital and was the Senior Administrator at the Trillium Centre in Kingston, a 190-bed long-term care home.

Doug Struthers | Maple View Landings Redevelopment Project



Doug Struthers is the Chair of the Maple View Landings Redevelopment Project's Fundraising Committee. Doug is a strong community leader, having served as both Councillor and Mayor for the Village of Merrickville-Wolford. He was the Warden for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville in 2005 and Chair of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus in 2007.

He is an advocate for health and promotion and the regional economy. An experienced facilitator, Doug is the founder of a media analysis company and international spokesperson.

Keynote

Hon. David Piccini | Ontario's Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development



David Piccini is Ontario's Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and Member of Provincial Parliament for Northumberland—Peterborough South. He previously served as Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

As Ontario's Labour Minister, David is working to support and protect workers, help more people find better jobs and bigger paycheques, and leads Ontario's plan to welcome newcomers with the skills needed to address Ontario's historic labour shortage.

At the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, David oversaw historic protection of greenspace and biodiversity through record funding to the Greenlands Conservation Partnership Program and began the process of creating two new operating provincial parks - Ontario's first in forty years. He worked with the steel sector on one of the largest industrial decarbonization projects in Canada's history - critical to Ontario's EV automotive supply chain. David also led the transition of Ontario's blue box program to producer responsibility with some of the highest recycling targets in North America; new clean air standards; and the largest commitment to protect caribou in Ontario's history. Before entering politics, David worked for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

1000 Islands Rideau Canal Waterways – Building an Appetite for Culinary Tourism

Shelbi McFarlane | Business Development Officer, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



Shelbi McFarlane is the Business Development Officer for Leeds Grenville. Shelbi's primary role is to help businesses of all sizes flourish in Leeds Grenville. With her background in municipal planning and investment attraction, Shelbi brings a helpful set of skills to those looking to expand or relocate their business into Leeds Grenville.

Shelbi attended Carleton University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management, specializing in Development Studies and minoring in Economics.

Cynthia Peters | Owner, Maison Maitland Cooking School & Villas



Passionate about food and well-being, Cynthia has been actively involved in several food related endeavors for the past two decades. First as the owner of a personal chef services company in Toronto and since 2010, From the Farm Enterprises Inc., consisting of a farm to table cooking school (formally in Prince Edward County), the new Maison Maitland Cooking School and Villas (2021) and Women's Culinary Adventures (2019). Cynthia is the founder and former Managing Editor of Local Tastes magazine, a Metroland Media Group publication. She is the author of The Art of Herbs cookbook and My French Cookbook. Cynthia is a volunteer and Board member for several provincial and regional food and tourism organizations - FoodShare Toronto, Ontario Association of Food Banks, Taste the County (PEC) and RTO9. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Opimian Club de Vin, Canada's largest and oldest wine club.

Erin Kergen | Pickle & Myrrh



Erin Kergen is the owner of Pickle & Myrrh, a handmade caramel shop and gourmet pantry in the charming Village of Merrickville. Erin's background is in corporate branding, with a background in marketing, public relations, events and tourism. Working with notable organizations such as Travel Alberta, Calgary Stampede and City Planners.

On top of brewing her iconic caramels, Erin has created two notable events for her community, Merrickville Picnic Party taking place every May long weekend and Fall for Merrickville which occurs every Thanksgiving.

Matthew Shapton | Hall's Apple Market



Matthew Shapton is the Operations Manager and part Owner of Hall's Apple Market in Elizabethtown-Kitley. Growing up in Brockville, Matthew's family often shopped at Hall's, and as a teen he began working at the orchard, holding various positions. After leaving the community to pursue his education, Matthew returned to Brockville to work full-time managing the wholesaling business and busy farmers markets for Hall's. Today, Hall's Apple Market maintains 40 acres of apple and pear trees, attends 11 weekly farmers markets, as well as a thriving wholesale business. In addition to apple picking in the fall, Hall's is home to a year-round on-farm store that showcases a variety of freshly baked goods and apple products, including their newest line of hard ciders, as well as many local and niche products.

Martha Kudrinko | Rosie Yumski's Fine Foods



Martha Kudrinko is the owner of Rosie Yumski's Fine Foods in Westport. Having started her business in 2007, Martha has combined her love of food and cooking with her knack for creating an inviting shopping experience at her gourmet food and kitchen store. In the Spring of 2022 Martha moved Rosie Yumski's into its new location on Bedford Street, more than doubling the retail space and expanding her retail offerings. A graduate of the photography program at Algonquin College, Martha began her career as a wedding and portrait photographer, and in retail as a manager with Black's Photography prior to joining her spouse Neil in their family's grocery business in Westport. Martha and Neil have two teenage sons and make their home on Upper Rideau Lake in Westport.

Local Economic Snapshot

Ann Weir | Economic Development Manager, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



Ann Weir works regionally on behalf of the Counties and its 10-member municipalities while collaborating with the region's many partners. In September 2017, Ontario East Economic Development recognized her as the Economic Developer of the Year and in 2021 she was recognized by the Small Business Centre for her leadership.

In her role, she has strategically developed a framework for regional economic development to create an environment for communities to work together while maintaining their individual priorities and advancing their goals. She has positively influenced many new investments while supporting business expansions in the region.