



**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

FEATURE INDUSTRY

Cavendish Appetizers

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent recognize the contribution that corporate citizens have made and are making to enhance the economic health of this community;

Cavendish Appetizers, located in Wheatley, Ontario, is owned by the Irving Family. The Irvings purchased C.M. MacLean, a PEI based frozen vegetable and French fry producer, changing the name to Cavendish Farms in 1980. Cavendish Farms diversified its food product offerings with the purchase of the Omstead Appetizer division in Wheatley in 2009.

The Omstead family made their name in the appetizer business when they started producing Canada's first commercial frozen onion ring in the 1950s. Heinz re-located the appetizer business to its present day location in the mid-1990s as an expansion to their existing frozen vegetable processing and storage facility. Cavendish Appetizers operates within this approximately 115,000 square foot area.

Onion rings are still the majority of business, but cheese sticks, potatoes, zucchini, mushrooms and other vegetable products are produced on site, as well as recent additions of pickles, banana peppers, jalapenos, and Extreme Beans. In 2012, they were awarded the Food and Beverage Product Innovations Award for their Tempura Battered Extreme Beans.

While Cavendish Appetizers is located just outside of the Municipal boundary, they employ approximately 130 full-time employees, many of whom live and shop in Chatham-Kent.

Cavendish Appetizers is customer-focused in everything they do. They continue to focus their growth in sales to the American, Canadian, and export markets by being competitive on costs for core appetizer items. The future of Cavendish Appetizers includes exploring new and innovative products.

NOW THEREFORE I, Randy Hope, Mayor and CEO of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, proclaim that Cavendish Appetizers is hereby designated as the "Feature Industry" for the month of March 2013.

PROCLAIMED at Chatham-Kent, Ontario this 21st day of March 2013.

Randy R. Hope
Mayor/CEO, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

On Behalf of Chatham-Kent Council:

Michael Bondy, Jim Brown, Marjorie Crew, Joe Faas, Bryon Fluker, Anne Gilbert, Karen Herman,
Leon Leclair, Bob Myers, Sheldon Parsons, Steve Pinsonneault,
Derek Robertson, Art Stirling, Doug Sulman, Frank Vercouteren, Jeff Wesley