



SERIES 3

Building on previous research on local food procurement, this series is celebrating local food champions and their commitment to supporting Ontario's agri-food sector.

LOCAL FOOD CHAMPIONS: FACES BEHIND OUR FOOD



PROFILING Algoma Orchards Kirk Kemp

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LOCAL FOOD CHAMPIONS

ALGOMA ORCHARDS - KIRK KEMP



"If you want to expand, you're going to have to try and encourage young people to come into the business and give them the latitude to bring forward some of their ideas", shares Kemp.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Algoma Orchards, led by fourth-generation apple grower Kirk Kemp, has evolved from a small mixed family farm in Newcastle, Ontario into Canada's largest apple production and processing enterprise. Today, the operation cultivates over 1,600 acres of apples in Ontario and collaborates with 15 partner growers managing an additional 1,500–2,000 acres nationwide. A major expansion milestone includes a state-of-the-art 250,000 sq. ft. packing and juice bottling facility, positioning Algoma as a key supplier to major retailers across Canada.

Strategic growth continues through innovation, succession planning, and partnerships—most notably the acquisition of the BC Tree Fruit Company to support Western Canadian growers. Younger leadership, including Kemp's sons and a strong management team, is driving modernization in orchard systems, business planning, and market expansion.

Algoma Orchards is a national leader in advanced horticultural technology, adopting high-density planting, automated equipment, variable-rate inputs, and integrated pest management for improved efficiency and environmental stewardship. Collaboration with ag-tech firm Vivid Machines is enabling AI-driven crop forecasting and paving the way for future autonomous operations.



"IT HAS BECOME SO MUCH MORE THAN I COULD EVER DREAM OF" REFLECTS KIRK KEMP, OWNER OF ALGOMA ORCHARDS.



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"Technology doesn't take away, it collectively adds jobs and allows your business to grow" shares Kemp

Sustainability is core to the company's mission. Algoma's concrete facility improves energy performance, and 500 acres of orchards currently a figure that has continued to grow to 250 continuously running vehicles, a figure that will grow with up to 350,000 new trees planted annually. A 70,000 sq. ft. solar installation and greywater recycling further reduce operational environmental impacts.

Long-term competitiveness is supported through exclusive premium apple varieties, including the Canadian-grown "Snowflake" and the early-season "Rave" in partnership with other packers. These investments reflect confidence in Canada's global market potential for safe, high-quality value-added food. Algoma Orchards remains committed to sustainable growth, innovation, and family legacy, with a strategic position to serve both domestic and international markets for decades to come.

Algoma Orchards has grown from a small family farm into Canada's largest apple grower and processing operation, supported by innovative technology and strong succession planning. The business continues to expand nationally, including the acquisition of BC Tree Fruit Company. Sustainability is a cornerstone of operations, with major investments in energy efficiency, solar power, and carbon-reducing orchard practices. Exclusive new apple varieties are strengthening market competitiveness and future growth.



"CANADA IS KNOWN TO HAVE SAFE AND GOOD QUALITY PRODUCTS WHETHER IT'S FOOD OR MANUFACTURED GOODS. THE WORLD IS EXPANDING AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE GETTING MORE AFFLUENT AND ARE ABLE TO AFFORD TO BUY SOME OF THE VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS THAT CANADA CAN MANUFACTURE. GOING FORWARD, THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DECADES REPRESENTS A HUGE OPPORTUNITY FOR CANADA TO REALLY BLOSSOM" SAYS KEMP



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