

OCTANE

- STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING WATER WASTE
- PETRO SERVICE IS PUMPED FOR NATIONAL GROWTH
- SHOULD YOU INVEST IN EV CHARGING?

ConvenienceStore

NEWS 



LOCAL LEGENDS

Meet the 2026 Outstanding Independents Awards Canada winners

1113366503
BRENT MORRIS
OWNER
GAS KING OIL CO LTD
1604 2 AVE S
LETHBRIDGE AB T1J 0G2

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- FUN WITH FOUNTAIN BEVERAGES
- ANSWERING THE CALL FOR PHONE ACCESSORIES
- MAKING THE MOST OF MEAT SNACKS

Wendy
and Eldon
Campbell



ELMWOOD GROCERY

Swift Current, Sask.

Owners: Wendy and Eldon Campbell

Elmwood Grocery serves as a cherished neighbourhood landmark, built on decades of customer loyalty and a strong commitment to personal service. The store reflects a long-standing tradition of community-focused retail. Wendy Campbell worked in the business under its previous ownership, learning firsthand the values that sustain the store's success. Today, she carries those principles forward by emphasizing genuine relationships with customers and creating a welcoming environment. Elmwood Grocery offers a wide selection of everyday essentials, from fresh fruit and vegetables to meats, canned goods and convenient meal options. The well-stocked shelves and dependable service make it a reliable destination for residents. What sets the business apart, however, is the friendly atmosphere. Employees are known for taking the time to chat with customers, listen to their stories and maintain the personal connections that define small-town retail. For many in Swift Current, Elmwood Grocery represents both convenience and continuity, ensuring its place as a trusted part of the community.

GAS KING

Seven locations, Alberta

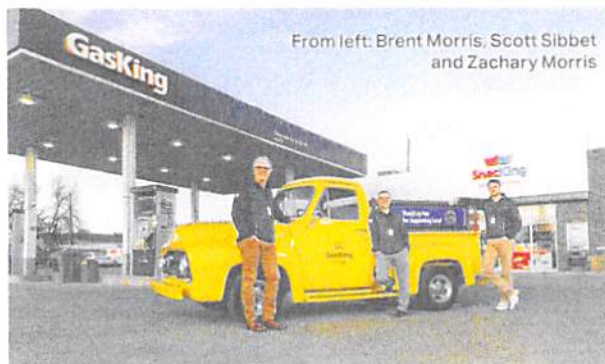
Owners: The Morris Family

Gas King Oil Co. Ltd., which operates seven sites and another slated to open later this year, has built a strong reputation

across southern Alberta by combining local ownership with decades of consistent community support. Operating gas stations, convenience stores and car washes throughout the region, the growing company has remained deeply connected to the communities it serves since its founding in 1985. That commitment is reflected

in long-standing partnerships with local sports organizations, including the Lethbridge Hurricanes WHL team and the Lethbridge Bulls WCBL team through programs such as Gas King Family Fridays. Community fundraising is also a major focus. In 2000 the company introduced its Charity Care Wash program,

allowing organizations to use Gas King car washes free of charge to raise funds for various causes. In addition, the Don Morris/Gas King Memorial Fund launched in 2003 to honour the company's co-founder and father of the current president, Brent Morris. Through coin donations, which are then matched by Gas King, more than \$75,000 has been distributed to community foundations. Gas King also supports numerous regional events and initiatives, including a local museum, nature centre and college. The owners of Gas King have been recognized as "Hometown Heroes" for their community involvement. Last year, they were honoured to serve as Whoop-Up Days parade marshals, demonstrating their dedication to philanthropy. Through partnerships and local leadership, Gas King continues to demonstrate how an independent business can thrive and innovate while remaining close to their community.



From left: Brent Morris, Scott Sibbet
and Zachary Morris

ENNISKILLEN GENERAL STORES

Five locations, Ontario

Owner: Thomas Sheehan

Enniskillen General Stores are a leading example of independent convenience retail, combining strong community values, innovative retail ideas and a focus on customer experience. Locally owned and family-operated, the retail brand has a long history, starting in 1840. It has grown to include five locations (Enniskillen, Bowmanville, Oshawa, Courtice and Peterborough) while maintaining the personal service and welcoming atmosphere of a neighbourhood store. Its continued success reflects an ability to adapt to the evolving needs of rural customers while upholding high standards in merchandising, cleanliness and product selection. A defining feature of the brand is its emphasis on ice cream, which has become a signature offering that draws customers of all ages. The stores have built a loyal following around the popular treat, turning a simple purchase into a memorable part of the customer experience. Community engagement also plays a central role in the company's philosophy. Enniskillen General Stores regularly host and support community events and fundraisers, helping bring residents together while supporting local initiatives. The business also sponsors multiple youth sports teams and distributes thousands of free ice cream coupons each year to recognize and reward young athletes. Through steady growth, strong community ties and a commitment to friendly service, Enniskillen General Stores continue to demonstrate how independent retailers can thrive and expand, while remaining deeply connected to the communities they serve.



Thomas
Sheehan
and
customer

GREEN MOUNTAIN PETRO-CANADA

Hamilton, Ont.

Owners: Ketan Dave and Udayan Pandya

Site #10577 is one of the top-performing fuel and convenience locations in the region thanks to strong leadership, operational excellence and deep community engagement. Operated by independent area retail licensees, the site consistently delivers the standards of a corporate-run location, while maintaining the flexibility and personal connection of a locally operated business. That balance has helped build strong financial performance, high customer satisfaction and lasting loyalty among regular visitors. A key example of innovation came through Udayan Pandya's leadership in piloting a corporate car wash program for more than two years before its broader rollout across the network. His approach ensured the program was operationally efficient and financially sustainable for both independent operators and Suncor Energy. Customer experience remains central to the operation. Staff greet many visitors by name and maintain a welcoming atmosphere that goes beyond simple transactions. The owners also prioritize convenience for customers, choosing to maintain an RBC-branded ATM to ensure the services customers expect remain available. Their leadership earned recognition as a 2025 territory winner of the Petro-Canada

Operational Excellence Award. Beyond the business, the team actively supports local fundraising initiatives throughout Hamilton, reinforcing the Petro-Canada site's role as a trusted community partner.



Udayan Pandya and Ketan Dave

JACKMAN'S ONE STOP

Harbour Breton, N.L.

Owners: Mary and Cliff Jackman

For more than three decades, Jackman's One Stop has served as a reliable stop for customers seeking both essential goods and friendly service. Established in 1991, the independent business has steadily expanded its customer base by over 80% through a consistent focus on innovation, quality service and strong community ties. True to its name, Jackman's One Stop offers a wide range of products and services designed to meet everyday needs in a single location. Customers can find fuel, propane services, hardware and automotive supplies alongside grocery items, fresh produce and frozen foods. As a Liquor Express outlet, the store also features a large walk-in cooler. In addition, it offers a fresh cookie program, self-serve coffee, hot food options and specialty treats, such as F'real milkshakes and smoothies. A state-of-the-art water purification dispenser further enhances the location. Over the years, the owners have continuously invested in the store's appearance and functionality, improving layout, lighting and signage to ensure a welcoming environment for customers. Community support remains central to the business philosophy. Jackman's One Stop regularly contributes to local initiatives, including cancer support groups, sporting events and fundraising efforts that assist residents facing medical and travel expenses. The business maintains its competitive edge through modern retail strategies, including the Yay points loyalty program and a partnership with supplier Tra for weekly advertised savings. By utilizing Sage Accounting to drive data-based decisions, the company remains a model of small-business success. As the owners maintain, a business only survives through its customers and the specialized knowledge of its dedicated suppliers.



Mary and Cliff Jackman

The 2026 Outstanding Independents Awards Canada winners

ARNIE'S GROCERY

New Westminster, British Columbia

COUNTRY SNACKS

Niverville, Manitoba

CROSSROADS MARKET

Invermere, British Columbia

DAISY MART

Belleville, Ontario

DANIEL'S MARKET

Victoria, British Columbia

DANK MART

Vancouver, British Columbia

DÉPANNEUR VOISIN

FAMILLE BARIL
Shawinigan, Quebec

DUNROVIN NORTH ATLANTIC

Lethbridge, Newfoundland and Labrador

EAGLE BAY MERCANTILE

Eagle Bay, British Columbia

ELMWOOD GROCERY

Swift Current, Saskatchewan

ENNISKILLEN GENERAL STORES

Five stores, Ontario

GAS KING

Sevens stores, Alberta

GREEN MOUNTAIN

PETRO-CANADA
Hamilton, Ontario

JACKMAN'S ONE STOP

HARBOUR BRETON,
Newfoundland and Labrador

KATIE'S KONVENIENCE

Halfway Point, Newfoundland and Labrador

KENNY'S STORE

Westmeath, Ontario

MADAAN'S COUNTRY MARKET

Cochrane, Alberta

MTM RETAIL GAS LIMITED |

MASSTOWN PETRO-CANADA
Masstown, Nova Scotia

MEL'S

Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia

MOUNTAIN MART

Golden, British Columbia

RED PINE CONVENIENCE | GOLDEN

EAGLE CONVENIENCE
Lac Seul and Frenchman's Head,
Ontario

ROOTE'S GAS BAR

Southampton, Ontario

SEAFAIR SMOKE & MIXERS

Richmond, British Columbia

SEAL COVE GROCERY & LIQUOR

EXPRESS
Conception Bay South,
Newfoundland and Labrador

SHERRY'S

Williamsburg, Ontario

SILVER CREEK TRAVEL CENTRE

Hope, British Columbia

STATION-SERVICE PROXI EXTRA

SAINT-ROCH-DE-MÉKINAC
St-Roch-de-Mékinac, Quebec

SWEETLEAF FUELS AND

GENERAL STORE

Alderville First Nation, Ontario

THE WOODEN SHOE STORE

& COFFEE SHOP
Gull Lake, Alberta

TJ'S CONVENIENCE STORE

Kentville, Nova Scotia

URE'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

& MINI GOLF
Amherstburg, Ontario

VANI'S CONVENIENCE

Brampton, Ontario

WALSINGHAM FOOD MARKET,

BUSY BEE
Walsingham, Ontario

WILLOW SMOKE AND CIGARS

GUELPH, ONTARIO

YELLOW STORES

Alberta and British Columbia