

Legacy Lane Fibre Mill - One Year Later...

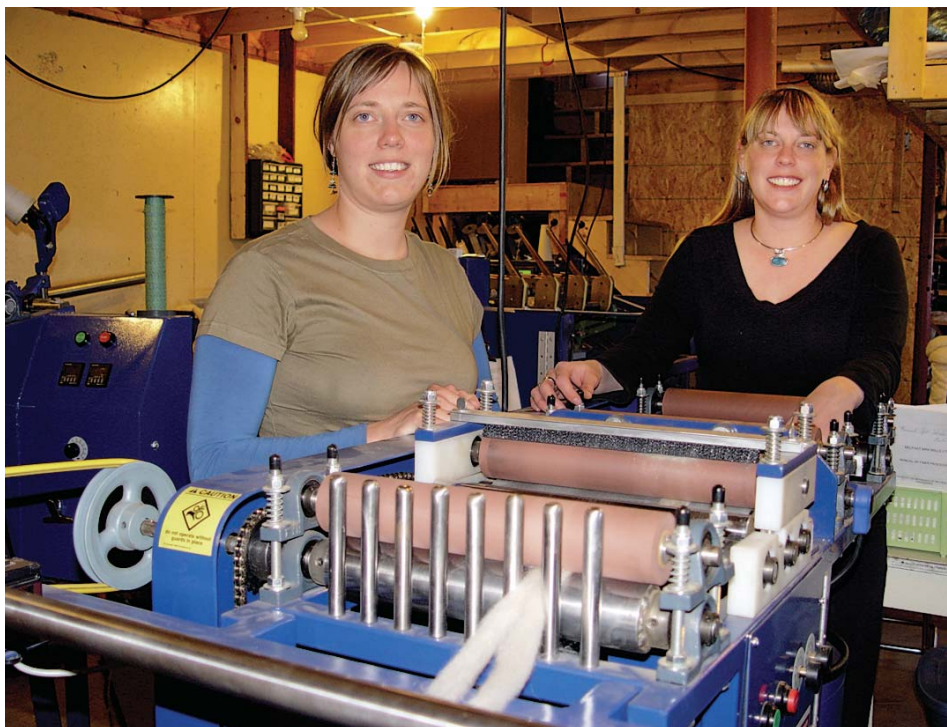
By Amy Carpenter Toning

Since this article was originally published we at Legacy Lane have devoted a great deal of time to developing ways to introduce variety into our alpaca products. We are, in addition to being mill operators, alpaca farmers as well. Not only do we primarily process alpaca for our own yarns, but 80% of our processing client base are also alpaca producers. We want to be able to share our discoveries of what compliments alpaca fibre, in a cost effective way, with our clients. We find we can best do this by using our own fibre as the 'guinea pigs'.

We have been able to introduce blending fibres, such as bamboo and soy silk, through trial and error with our own, and are now able to recommend recipes that do not take away from the exceptional characteristics of alpaca fibre. Aside from those plant fibres we also do blending with merino wool. We are hoping to try other fibre blending this winter such as corn, and even milk!

We have found that in working as a wholesale supplier to retail yarn stores, there are basically two kinds of yarn consumers. There are those who seek yarn that is 100% natural and there are those who want as many wacky fibres and colours as they can get their hands on.

At Legacy Lane we are trying to figure out how to satisfy the second half without our costs, or those of our clients, going through the roof. Right now our blending fibres - bamboo, soy silk and merino - are all offered to our clients for \$15/lb or \$0.82/oz. When this is broken down to a 10 -15% blend, it is not a huge additional cost. We do not charge extra for blending these fibres with alpaca. Another way we introduce



Legacy Lane mill manager Alyson Scott (left) and business manager Amy Carpenter Toning at the pleyer machine, one of several high-tech fiber processing machines at their Markhamville mill facility.

Photos by Charlene MacKenzie

variety into our yarns is to do variegated alpaca yarns.

We are also trying to come up with ways to use neck and leg fibre. One of the most popular products we have discovered thus far are felted rugs.

Through increased human resources we have been able to reduce our wait time to 2 - 3 months. Over the summer we have even been working night and weekends to make sure we adhere to that turn around time. We understand how vitally important it is to our clients' success and, in turn, our success that they have their

product back as soon as possible.

Finally, we are focusing our attention on the wholesaling of unique yarns to retail stores. And, in keeping with our custom processing theme, if a retail store is looking for a certain type of yarn, we will try and make it just for them, at a wholesale price. Our 'Name Your Yarn' campaign began in the spring. For example: alpaca yarn with a bit of angora, and buffalo - no problem.

CQ

Legacy Lane Fiber Mill

Entrust your fibre to the best, Integrity and Quality ensured.

Specializing in the Art of fiber processing.

Committed to quality end product and customer satisfaction with a guaranteed return of your own fiber, as well as reduced and informed turn around times.

- Custom services from yarn to felt to roving, from alpaca to sheep's wool
- Unique wholesale and retail yarns
- New Bamboo and Soy Silk blending fibres
- Folkins Family weaving services
- References available

For more information, visit our website
www.legacylanefibermill.ca
 legacyln@nb.sympatico.ca 38 Scott Road
 506-433-5604 Markhamville, NB
 E4E 0A5