

## Business profile

# Jespro puts safety first

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When an older property is being renovated, there are two previously common items that now have to be disposed of safely by trained individuals — asbestos and lead paint. Both were common building materials back in the middle years of the last century and before. Adding to the trifecta, which can happen in both old and new properties is mould that has grown in the walls of a structure, after flooding or leaks.

All three of these substances bring with them health risks. Asbestos, if inhaled, can cause

cancer. Mould creates a myriad of problems, especially for people who have allergies. Lead paint, when exposed, can also cause serious health problems. As a result, there are special protocols for handling these materials that involve special Hazmat suits, respirators, gloves, and footwear. The area must be protected with poly, and workers can't leave the site until they've removed their gear and showered.

Jason and Sherri Elliott, the owners of Jaspro Cleaning in Liverpool were carrying out work in the old Bowater Mersey plant when they discovered lead paint, mould, and asbestos and realized there were few on the South Shore

equipped to safely remove these dangerous substances. So, they saw a niche and filled it by sending seven of their employees to Halifax for specialized courses in asbestos, lead paint, and mould removal and remediation.

"Our first project was a church in Milton that we just successfully completed," Barry Tomalin, one of the business partners in Jaspro says. "Now we have seven similar projects underway in the area. Basically, we can cover all of Nova

Scotia and there are few companies doing this work between Halifax and Yarmouth, along the South Shore."

Jaspro, which was founded by the Elliotts in 2004 has undergone a corporate reorganization hand in hand with this new service. They have consolidated a number of janitorial, cleaning, landscaping, and residential property management companies under the umbrella of Jaspro Services and have created a new

company, Jaspro Environmental Services to reflect the new direction they are taking. Sherri Elliott left her long term employment as a paramedic in January of this year to work full time with Jaspro.

"We're now one of the top dozen employers in Queens County if not between Chester and Yarmouth," Tomalin says. "And, with the expanded business into lead, asbestos, and mould removal, we could easily double our staff in the near future."

