

Wild Blueberry Producers Hold Annual Meeting



Some of the Directors present at the Annual Meeting of the Wild Blueberry Producer's of Nova Scotia on Nov. 19th were Jeff Orr, Exec. Dir. Dave Sangster, President John Quinn, Bill Davidson, Barb Haggie, Peter van Dyke, Joe Slack, Allan Bonnyman, and Alice Pugsley. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

A cautious optimism seemed to surround discussions at the Annual Meeting for the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) on Nov. 19th and 20th as experts looked for ways to improve crop management and increase world markets.

WBPANS Promotion Committee Chair, Alice Pugsley, updated members on the past year's activities including a feature article in the Japanese magazine FRAU, a 3 day tour by Japanese jam manufacturers, a wild blueber-

ry breakfast in the HRM which saw over 3000 people in attendance, a booth a Saltscapes Expo last April and an extensive list of Wild Blueberry Harvest Fest activities.

David Yarborough, from the University of Maine, explained how local producers fit into the world market which includes both high bush and low bush blueberry production. South America has been rapidly increasing their yield from high bush berries, with huge acreage coming into production in the next few years. He reports Maine has been putting more

effort into increasing their harvest yields, keeping total acreage rather constant. It is expected, as all regions reach their full production potential, over 1.3 billion pounds of blueberries will be produced worldwide by 2012. Marketing these berries will be the challenge.

The volatile price over the last few years has producers looking more closely at Crop Insurance, Wild Life Compensation and Income Stability plans. Speakers explained the benefits of these programs and important deadlines. Bill MacLeod, NS Dept of Agriculture, made note that reduced management is not an insured peril under the Crop Insurance Program, something which could become an issue in tough times.

Research into weed control and pest management has been a continual focus for wild blueberry producers. Dr. David Percival, Dr. Nathan Boyd and Dr. Chris Cutler from the NSAC had several research presentations outlining some of their latest findings.

Peter Burgess, a Horticulturist with AgraPoint, presented the results of a trial to determine the efficiency of



Alice Pugsley spoke on some of the marketing promotions at the Annual Meeting of the Wild Blueberry Producer's of Nova Scotia on Nov. 19th, while Executive Director, Dave Sangster looked after the slide show presentation. (Harrington Photo)

a walk behind harvester compared to a tractor mounted harvester. Results indicated a saving of about \$85/acre but harvest was limited to flat fields with solid plant cover. It was estimated these savings would mean the purchase cost for the unit cost could be recovered in less than 7 years, on a 20 acre field. These results might be particularly encouraging for small producers.

Currently the membership in the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia is approximately 1100 growers. Range of production varies from very small (~5000lbs annually) to very large (over 1 million lbs annually).

The majority of Nova Scotia berries are distributed through a network of buyers, with receiving sheds, where berries are collected and then sold to processors. The majority of blueberries grown in Nova Scotia are processed by four companies- Oxford Frozen Foods, Jasper Wyman and Son, Rainbow Farms and Allen's Blueberry Freezer of Maine.

Murphy's Celebrate 65TH Anniversary



John & Lillian celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on January 21, 2011 at a dinner attended by 25 family members. On February 16th, John will celebrate his 90th birthday. (Submitted)

John & Lillian Murphy celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 21 Jan 2011. John, a Newfoundlander, met Lillian, a local redhead, in 1945 when he was stationed at Camp Debert awaiting deployment overseas.

They were married in Debert on 21 Jan 1946 and have lived all their married life in Debert. They raised 8 children, who brought them

17 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. To celebrate their 65th anniversary at a dinner attended by 25 of their family members living in the area and received cards and emails from family members and friends as far away as Texas, Las Vegas, British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

Family and friends wish them much love and continued happiness.

I SELECT: Winter Fresh Flavours



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DISCOVER

Enjoy **Seasonal Local Ingredients** this season with one of our new **Winter Recipes**. Find recipes at participating retailers and farm markets or at: SelectNovaScotia.ca



TASTE

Attend a **Community Supper, Soup Tastings at Markets** or in-store food **Sampling** this February.

Find one near you at: SelectNovaScotia.ca



WIN!

Enter our contest on Facebook for a chance to win weekly giveaways of **Cookbooks** featuring **Local Chefs**.

Enter on the Select Nova Scotia [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SelectNovaScotia) page

Local Wind Energy Company Selling Shares

Plans have been finalized by the Colchester-Cumberland Wind Field (CCWF) to sell shares to complete the financing of its wind turbine project south of Tatamagouche. Electricity from the project will flow into the local distribution system, supplying electricity to 300 to 800 homes depending on the speed of the wind.

"This is truly a local community project," said David Stevenson, President of CCWF. "Of our 125 shareholders 58 percent are from Colchester and Cumberland Counties. Our company has a project that will create electricity this year from a renewable resource, which is a benefit to everyone. Once the turbine is up and running in July

the revenue will begin from the wind energy."

CCWF has completed the process with the NS Securities Commission to sell shares under the Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF), which provides a provincial tax credit of 35 % on 2010 taxes for investments made in CCWF shares by March 1 of this year. Additional tax credits of 20% and 10% are available in future years provided conditions are met.

New shareholders may invest the minimum of \$3000 (or more) to a maximum of \$50 thousand in one year for which they are eligible for the tax credit. The funds from this offering will be used to complete the purchase of the tur-

bine.

Stevenson noted that people are putting shares in a separate RRSP. New investments or funds already in an RRSP may be used to buy CCWF shares.

Stevenson emphasized that this story is not soliciting the sale of shares in the Colchester-Cumberland Wind Field. Anyone interested in the company is asked to contact the Offering Administrator by phone at 902-657-1064 or by e-mail at david.r.stevenson@ns.sympatico.ca to receive an offering document.

An advertisement for the offering appears on page 16 of this paper.

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