

# FOUR PAGE PULL-OUT

## 15<sup>TH</sup> Annual General Meeting of Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia



Exclusively in **The Shoreline Journal**

(Photos by Linda Harrington)

### DFNS General Meeting Banquet & Awards Program

By Linda Harrington

The Honourable Keith Colwell, NS Minister of Agriculture was guest speaker at the DFNS Banquet on January 6th. He brought greetings from the Province and Premier Stephen MacNeil. He noted the last two Throne Speeches have indicated agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture as a prime economic development tool in the province, something that has not happened before in history.

The Minister thanked the dairy producers for the great work they did during the TPP discussions.

He said he wanted to talk to dairy producers about the future of Nova Scotia, passing along his appreciation for the work producers are doing and the wealth they are generating in the province when they operate their farms and the diversity of the farms. He said he was pleased to see so many young people at the AGM, "It is important to grow our economy, keep the young talent here to come up with the new ideas and new approaches to do things. That is so important."

The Minister has been to China twice this year, where \$30 million in Nova Scotia products were sold in 5 days. "We have to get other products, our cheese made from our milk and other value added products to these markets. They want to buy Canadian

products because of our clean air, high quality and beautiful scenery and the wonderful people we have here."

The DFNS executive met with the Minister earlier in the day to bring their concern for more milk testing. The Minister made the commitment to sit down with lab managers and the executive and see what it will cost to do the tests and share the information with the industry in order find a way to get the tests done. "If we are going to be here and work with you and grow Nova Scotia's economy, we've got to react like that and take these problems away from you," said Minister Colwell as he thanked the executive for bringing this issue forward.

The Minister wrapped up his speech by once again thanking the producers and mentioning the fact major grocery stores are looking for more and more Nova Scotia products. "That is critical for us if we are going to grow the economy and keep the young people in this province and you can make money on your farms."

Minister Colwell presented a Five-Year Milestone DFNS Excellence Award to Doug Bacon of Bacon Farms Limited. John G. Suidgeest was another Five-Year Milestone Award winner but unfortunately was not present to accept the award.

A presentation was also made to retiring DFNS Board Member Paul Taylor.



Minister of Agriculture, The Honourable Keith Colwell presents producer Doug Bacon, of Bacon Farms Limited with a Five-Year Milestone DFNS Excellence Award.



Andrew McCurdy makes a presentation to retiring DFNS Board Member Paul Taylor.



Three of Colchester County's dairy farmers enjoyed the opportunity to socialize at the DFNS AGM. Left to right- Alan



John van de Riet steps up to the microphone to ask a question.

### 100% of Canadian Dairy Farms Adhere to Quality Milk Program

By Linda Harrington

On October 5th, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations were concluded and market access concessions on supply-managed products, including dairy, were granted.

There will be a perpetual loss in revenue for farmers and the Canadian economy but supply management will continue.

The full impact to the dairy industry has not yet been completely evaluated.

DFC launched a public outreach campaign, from May to September, called Canadian Milk Matters. Over 216,000 letters of support were sent to politicians by over 35,000 Canadians, with a huge increase in followers on social media.

A survey, commissioned by DFC, shows

89% of Canadians want their dairy products to be produced by Canadian farmers.

**There are over 4,000 products for sale in Canada, both national and private label brands bearing the 100% Canadian Milk symbol.**

DFC has developed several partnerships with major brands including Domino's Pizza, Tim Hortons, McDonalds, and General Mills.

The proAction initiative continues to be carried out by farmers for farmers, while keeping communication lines open with stakeholders and the food value chain. This focus on Milk Quality, Food Safety, Animal Care, Livestock Traceability, Biosecurity and Environmental Sustainability demonstrates dairy farmers' ongoing commitment to offer safe, high quality, and responsibly-produced Canadian milk and dairy products.

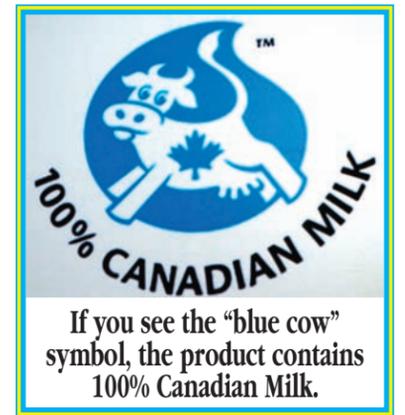
**100% of Canadian dairy farms now adhere to the Canadian Quality Milk Program. DFC received full recognition from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in May, 2015.**

Farm to Table, a DFC educational interactive kiosk where visitors learn about the dairy process, attended over 50 festivals with 175, 690 interactions with dairy educators.

Investments in research have resulted in a total portfolio of 45 projects currently underway in the areas of human nutrition and health, milk production sustainability, and dairy genetics and genomics under four cost-sharing programs.

Multiple marketing initiatives are overseen by the DFC each year including publications, web-based promotions, demonstrations, and campaigns.

Fuelling Women Champions, a national multi-year initiative spearheaded by DFC, was launched in April and is dedicated to shining a spotlight on women in sports.



**CALHOUN**  
SUPERSTRUCTURE  
[www.calhoun.ca](http://www.calhoun.ca)

**Contact:**

Phillips Agri Services  
1-902-892-1275  
1-877-454-1275

[calhoun@phillipsagri.ca](mailto:calhoun@phillipsagri.ca)  
[www.phillipsagri.ca](http://www.phillipsagri.ca)