

WBPANS 2012

Annual General Meeting



Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry production INCREASED 42% IN 2012



Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia President Peter Van Dyk opens the 2012 Annual Meeting.

By Linda Harrington

Peter Van Dyk, President of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia (WBPANS), welcomed everyone to the 2012 Annual Meeting and introduced MP Scott Armstrong, who had an exciting announcement for the wild blueberry industry.

The MP for Colchester Cumberland Musquodoboit

Valley was representing Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, when he announced \$700,000 in funding for the Canadian Branch of the Wild Blueberry Association of North America (WBANA).

The WBPANS held their annual meeting Nov. 16th and 17th at the Best Western Glengarry, Truro. Over the two days, guest speakers covered a

variety of topics including market reports, government programs, production management solutions and committee reports.

Dr. David Yarborough, University of Maine, presented an overview of 2011 World Blueberry Acreage along with a report on 2012 Maine Wild Blueberry Production.

The 2011 combined high bush and wild blueberry production was over a billion pounds, with North America by far the largest market at about 818 million pounds.

The total harvest in Nova Scotia is expected to be in the range of 40 million pounds this year, up from 28 million in 2011.

Peter Burgess, from Perennia, discussed crop challenges for 2012 including some frost damage at the end of April and May, problems with insects and fulfilling the demand for increasing numbers of bee hives. He said

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The WBPANS 2012 Board of Directors posed for a photo at the Annual Meeting. Front row (l to r)- Janet Geldart- Administrative Assistant, Barb Hagell- Director, Jeff Orr- Vice Pres., Peter Van Dyk- Pres., Dave Atkinson- Director, Joe Slack- Chair of Finance Committee; Back (l to r)- John Quinn- Past Pres., Barron Blois- Director, Jim Wood- Director, Stephen Parks- Director, Alice Pugsley- Chair of Promotion Committee, Doug Wyllie- Chair of Research Committee, Allan Bonnyman- Chair of Industry & Sustainability Committee, Dave Sangster- Executive Director.

For production advice in wild blueberries

Peter Burgess,
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