

Wild Blueberry Association of Nova Scotia 2023 Annual Meeting



Also see the Annual General Meeting stories on page 11.

Blueberry Producers Faced Challenging Year

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Hugh Lyu, Wild Blueberry Extension at Perennia Food & Agriculture, expects the total 2023 Wild Blueberry Crop to be around 292 million pounds, down from 344 million pounds in 2022. Nova Scotia produced 38 million, down from 57 million in 2022, but close to the five-year average of 44 million pounds.

Dr. Willy Kalt presented some interesting information on the funding of wild blueberry research, noting there have been over 430 peer-reviewed scientific publications related to blueberries and human health. The anthocyanin pigments, found abundantly in wild blueberries, are the focus of many studies in health benefits including heart health, brain health, regulation of blood sugar, gut health and an overall whole body metabolic health...all good reasons

to incorporate a daily serving of wild blueberries into a healthy diet.

Nova Scotia's Agriculture Minister, the Honorable Greg Morrow stopped by the WBPANS meeting and commended producers on their hard work and dedication they bring to agriculture. He noted the importance of the industry to Nova Scotia's overall econ-

omy. "The wild blueberry sector is vital to our province's economy, to our rural communities and to our province's long term food security. Wild blueberries are Nova Scotia's largest fruit crop. Last year roughly 57 million pounds of wild blueberries were harvested, and more than 600 producers managed more than 38,000 acres," said the Minis-

ter. "Wild blueberries were the number one agri-food export this year at more than 167 million dollars."

Minister Morrow talked about expanding markets in Japan, South Korea, Japan and the US where free-trade agreements already exist. "Our department looks forward to

Photos by Linda Harrington

working with the Wild Producer's Association of Nova Scotia and engaging with our industry partners to strengthen the demand and price stability for your wild blueberries in key international markets."

WBPANS hired Stiletto Con-
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WBPANS Executive Director presented a gift to retiring Director Jeff Orr.



WBPANS Executive Director presented a gift to retiring Director Peter Van Dyk.



Alice Pugsley, Chair of the Promotion Committee gave an update on all the promotional activities WBPANS has been involved with this past year.



Patricia Bishop, Polar Vortex Outreach Coordinator with Horticulture Nova Scotia explains the application process for consideration of funding assistance.



Gilbert Lavoie, Forest Lavoie Conseil joined the meeting remotely to bring Insights on the State of the Wild Blueberry Market.



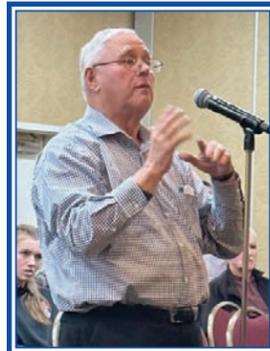
Carolyn Van Den Heuvel presents the report from the NS Federation of Agriculture.



Peter Swinkels presented the WBANA Canada report.



WBPANS President David Harrison welcomes everyone to the meeting.



Art Sargent stepped to the mic to present his concerns to the Minister Agriculture.



Jeff Orr presented the Research Committee Report.



Neil Erb presents the proposed 2024 WBPANS Budget.

The Shoreline Journal is proud to provide coverage of community events. For coverage of your event contact Maurice Rees at 902-647-2968

JR Tardif, a leader in flail mower technology designed for blueberry fields in the Maritimes, had samples of machinery on display at the annual Wild Blueberry Producers of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) 2015 Field Day.

JR Tardif is a leader in flail mower technology designed for the Maritime Provinces blueberry fields. We have responded to customer's requests for a 54" flail mower to fit onto 25 hp tractors. We work with you to increase the yield from each acre, fill in bare spots and help make you more money. We can also supply you with chopper mowers, ToolPost Puller mower, stump grinder, flail mowers and now flail movers for compact tractors.

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For demonstrations or more information contact:

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Custom Manufactured Products:

- Mechanical Blueberry Harvester** - Reel-type picking head side mounted to a tractor; picking head follows contours of the ground. Reduces harvesting costs as much as 50%.
- Blueberry Gang Mower** - BGM-3 Gangmower three mower heads mounted in a staggered pattern under a tow frame. Available with 3-foot or 4-foot mowing heads with a cut path of 8'6" and 11'6" respectively.
- Roadside Mower** - Single head, side mount mower 5-foot head. There are 25 units in operation throughout Nova Scotia. Units are used in bush cutting operations and roadside mowing in the State of Maine.
- Excavator Mower** - Single head, boom mount mower has 5-foot head. Head is mounted to the excavator boom using existing bucket mounting pins enabling mower head to mow contour of the ditches.
- Highway Median Mower** - BMM-5 median mower is a combination of 2 mid-mount 5-foot side mowers mounted on left and right sides of 90 HP tractor unit and 2 five-foot heads with 1 four-foot head mounted under a tow frame with a total cut path of 21'6". All heads are independently raised and lowered.
- DBE Electronics** - We offer contract electronics manufacturing with an emphasis on product quality and on time delivery. Manufacturing capabilities include electronic assembly, printed circuit boards and cable assemblies for prototype to production run quantities. No quantity is too large or too small.
- Cranberry Harvester** - This is the latest addition of Doug Bragg Enterprises's lineup of custom manufactured products. This machine is intended for dry picking cranberries with as little waste as possible and with virtually no damage to the bog. The ground pressure with the recommended setup is less than a foot print of an adult of average size.