

Doug Wylie- 2025 WBPANS Recognition Book Inductee

(This Citation was read at the Wild Blueberry Producer's Association Annual Banquet on Nov. 20th)

Each year, the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia Board accepts nominations for growers and industry partners to be included in the Association's Book of Recognition. When you look back at those who have been honoured, you see a remarkable group of leaders—people whose vision, hard work, and influence have shaped this industry over decades. The 2025 inductee is Doug Wylie.

Doug Wylie's journey in Nova Scotia's wild blueberry community has always been rooted in care—care for the land, care for the crop, care for

fellow growers, and care for the future of our entire industry. More than just a grower, Doug has become a trusted neighbour, a mentor, and a builder of community.

Doug grew up on his family farm in Glenholme. He started working part-time for Bragg Lumber Company when he was 15 years old and worked in their carrot, beans, grains and wild blueberry operations throughout his career. John Bragg encouraged Doug to attend NSAC to further his agriculture education. He graduated with a Diploma in Plant Science in 1979. Doug continued to work with Bragg Lumber Company but in 1980 he became a partner with his father Lester in the family farm- L&D Wylie Farms. They

raised and butchered beef until the early 90's. Doug focused mainly on carrot production for Bragg's in Cumberland and Colchester until the spring of 1991. He transitioned at this time to focus solely on blueberry farming. He took on the role as Manager of CL Stonehouse Enterprises Ltd in Debert, a busy receiving shed which had come under Bragg ownership in the late 1980s.

This role was not just managing the shed itself; it was managing all the blueberry land that would be sending yields to the shed. This was a combination of both Bragg-owned blueberry land and privately-owned land. Doug supported and worked with over 100 individual growers at a time to provide custom

field operations for their blueberry land, which could include any combination of general advice, pest management, pollination, pruning, harvesting, hauling berries, etc. There was a not a cookie-cutter approach to supporting growers - factors like location, terrain, soil, budget and more all factored in. Doug understood those situations and would work with the growers to find solutions. He started out with growers and land located in Colchester County, but eventually his portfolio also included Pictou County and Guysborough County. At its peak, CL Stonehouse handled up to 10% of the provincial crop every year, with Doug managing over 5,000 acres of blueberry land. Every year Doug's advice was sought by more growers, particularly after the elimination of Department of Agriculture extension services in 2000. It was with all this experience that Doug could also provide an uncanny estimate of the provincial crop. He was always very close to actual production. He had his eye on the crop and ear out to other growers.

Doug joined the board of WBPANS and served as President in 2000 and 2001. Not only a time for worry about coming into the new millennium, but a time when the industry was entering a period of growth. Production was increasing as more growers adopted managed practices like pruning, fertilizing, and improved pest management.

Following the elimination of provincial extension services, he sat on the steering committee which led to the establishment of the Agricultural Development Institute (later AgraPoint and now Perennia). He also sat on the steering committee which led to the establishment of the Canadian Wild Blueberry Industry Research and Development Institute, the Agri-Futures Nova Scotia, and the Pictou Local Agricultural Employment Board (LAEB).



2025 WBPANS Recognition Book Inductee Doug Wylie is congratulated by members of his family. Left to right- Tisha Wylie, Patrick Wylie, Patti Wylie, Doug Wylie, Colette Wylie, Johnny Milner and Carmen Wylie.

Doug served as Chair of the Research Committee for many years. His belief in practical research for the industry has helped to shape real and lasting change for growers. He has also been happy to collaborate with researchers from AAFC, NSAC, and the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture through various research trials and continues to lend his land to these efforts today.

In 2020, he retired from Bragg Lumber Company after 45 years of service, 30 of which were dedicated to the wild blueberry industry. Upon his retirement, he purchased his own blueberry harvester and continues to manage and harvest his own blueberry land, along with that of a few small local growers. He and his wife Patti still live on the family farm in Glenholme, and their kids are the 5th generation there.

As we honour Doug Wylie with this induction into the Recognition Book, we're not just celebrating his personal achievements — good harvests, efficient operations, or long tenure (though all are worthy). We're celebrating the difference he made: the conversations he had, the friendship and mentorship he offered, the caring example he lived. In an industry of change and challenge, Doug has been a steady, shaping presence for fellow growers.

Thank you, Doug, for your dedication to the land, your generosity to the people, and your belief that the future of Nova Scotia's wild blueberry industry is something we build together. We are pleased to honour Doug and welcome him into the Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Recognition Book alongside those who have made lasting contributions to this industry.



John Cameron (right) makes a presentation to 2025 WBPANS Recognition Book Inductee Doug Wylie.



WPBANS Executive Director Janette McDonald congratulates 2025 WBPANS Recognition Book Inductee Doug Wylie.

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WPBANS President Andrew Dobson (left) makes a presentation to Retiring Director Neil Erb.

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