

Alice Pugsley Inducted into WBPANS Recognition Book



Alice Pugsley is joined by her husband Arthur and many of her family following her Induction into the WBPANS Recognition Book. (submitted)

By Linda Harrington

The following citation read at the Wild Blueberry Producers Association AGM on Nov. 21st, 2024.

It is a privilege to present this award to Alice Pugsley. There are few who have volunteered as much of their own time to help the industry grow as Alice. She has done it with passion, dedication and real engagement for nearly 30 years.

As a wild blueberry grower, with her husband Arthur, Alice Pugsley has been deeply involved in the day-to-day workings of their wild blueberry and forestry operation since their earliest days together. This led her to become active

on the WBPANS board starting in 1995 when Gary Brown was president.

Alice was on various committees during her time on the board but in 2002 she was appointed chair of the Promotion committee and remained in that position until today, thus holding the WBPANS record for being the longest serving member.

Throughout her tenure, Alice has attended board meetings faithfully during this 29 year period, always beating the drum for the importance of wild blueberries. There is not a Board member or actively engaged blueberry grower who has not been moved and influenced (if not indoctri-

nated) by Alice's unwavering interest in the holistic and multifaceted benefits of our super fruit.

Alice has also always been as much about action as she has been about talk. She has initiated, led, or supported many activities in pursuit of the promotion of the nutritional benefits and excellent taste of local wild blueberries. For instance, Alice led the focus on the wild blueberry harvest festival for many years and remains on that committee today. She always brought forward ways that WBPANS could take action to promote local. She was responsible for the wild blueberry display at the Nova Scotia, New

Brunswick border, and advised on, and led the development of the airport display that over its lifespan, welcomed millions of visitors to "Nova Scotia, the Land of Wild Blueberries". She initiated sponsorships for many local events and charities to help make the link between the great taste and nutritional benefits of local wild blueberries at the "Not Since Moses" race, Bluenose Marathon and Heartland bicycle tour.

Alice devoted time to attend and work the booth at Saltscapes Halifax for more than twenty years. Her number of volunteer hours devoted to industry promotion are unsurpassed. Alice has been a dedicated ambassador for foods using wild blueberries, and for instance she taught Rick Mercer a thing or two in her kitchen about wild blueberries. She was instrumental in initiating funding to ongoing services from chef Alain who has become our culinary ambassador for wild blueberries and is regularly demonstrating dishes that draw upon the world's most tasty nutritious fruit.

There is no other person in Nova Scotia who has done more throughout the history of our industry to raise the profile, awareness and value of wild blueberries than Alice Pugsley. For her dedication and passion for wild blueberries and her relentless pursuit of actions that help everyone she meets see their nutritional and culinary benefits, we are pleased to honour Alice today and enter her into our Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Recognition Book alongside other industry giants.




MLA Tom Taggart congratulates Alice Pugsley following her Induction into the WBPANS Recognition Book. (submitted)





WBPANS President David Harrison congratulates Alice Pugsley following her Induction into the WBPANS Recognition Book. (submitted)

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