

"That Dutchman's Farm" wins Best Blue Cheese national award



Cheesemakers Willem van den Hoek, left, and Charles Field, with That Dutchman's Farm, display the Best Blue Cheese award the company recently won. (Submitted)

By Maurice Rees

The Economy area can now boast of another National Winner. That Dutchman's Farm was recently on the winning podium receiving recognition when the farm's Dragon's Breath Blue cheese was named the winner of the Best Blue Cheese through the inaugural Canadian Cheese Awards. This is the first time Dragon's Breath Blue cheese has won an award.

While cheese lovers commonly mistaken it for the farm's awarding cheese, that honor goes to That Dutchman's Farm Gouda cheeses. Dragon's Breath Blue Cheese has remained a finalist for almost 10 years.

"We were quite surprised," said manager Margaretha van den Hoek Field about the win. "We had been a finalist for a lot of years with Dragon's Breath Blue but have never won it."

The awards ceremony was held on April 7th at the St. Lawrence Market North in Toronto. Margaretha said her parents, along with her sister, were in attendance. "I think the award will have a positive impact on the business. A lot of people thought we had won the award before, but we hadn't," she said. The farm has won awards in the past for their Gouda products, most recently in 2011.

"This was actually a new competition," said van den Hoek Field. "These were flavourful awards, produced by The Great Canadian Cheese Festival, while the other awards are through Dairy Farmers of Canada."

The newest award, a medallion, is already on display at the farm, which is owned and operated by Maja and Willem van den Hoek.

The cheese farm was also nominated for flavoured cheese with its Jalapeno Gouda, gouda cheese with its Old Growler Gouda, and best Maritimes cheese with Dragon's Breath Blue. The

Farm had finalists in 3 categories: Dragon's Breath Blue in Best Atlantic Canada Cheese, Old Growler in Best Gouda Cheese and for the first time, Jalapeno Gouda in Best Flavoured Cheese.

For the complete list of winners, visit <http://www.cheeseawards.ca/currentnews/>. For more on That Dutchman's Farm, visit <http://www.denhoek.ca>

This article was prepared with files from Margaretha van den Hoek Field, Manager, That Dutchman's Farm.



Pictured above is the national award winner logo, which That Dutchman's Farm can now display on its Dragon's Breath Blue Cheese which was received the "Best Blue Cheese national award in Toronto on April 7th. (Submitted Photo)

Wastewater Coming to Brookfield

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Beginning the week of April 28th, AIS will transport two million litres of treated water from the Debert holding ponds to the Lafarge Canada cement plant in Brookfield. The pilot project will continue for about three weeks, with three to five truckloads of water being moved daily.

The water will be used as coolant in the kiln and will be evaporated at 700 C.

Lafarge will test its equipment before and after using the water for residual inorganic materials.

"After considering the community's concerns and reviewing the tests on the

treated water, I am satisfied that this pilot project can proceed safely," said Mr. Delorey. "I wanted to share this information with the community before giving the company permission to move forward with its plans."

"The storage ponds in Debert and in Kennetcook were not designed to house this water for the long term," said Mr. Delorey. "We want to proceed with the pilot project and assess how it works as a possible solution."

Documents on hydraulic fracturing wastewater in Nova Scotia, including test results, are available at www.novascotia.ca/nse/pollutionprevention/pubs.asp

Glooscap Trail 4-H Members Busy



Pictured above are Zach Freeman, Hendrikus van den Hoek Fields and Alexander Freeman, members of the Glooscap Trail 4-H Club members preparing Easter Gifts which were then delivered to local seniors for Easter. (Emily Prescott Photo)

By Emily Prescott

As we soon hopefully thaw-out from this long winter and move into spring finally, our members are out and busy. As part of our annual 4-H fundraiser members have been out selling chocolate bars to help fund our 4-H program.

Many thanks to anyone who has helped support us through this fundraiser. The Easter bunny arrived for the children and young at heart. As our part of being the Easter Bunny, Glooscap Trail members have been busy preparing and delivering homemade gifts for local seniors. We hope this gesture on our part helped to brighten their Easter holidays.

As a fundraiser club members will be selling flower mixed seed packages at \$2.00 each as part of the Proud to be a 4-H'er campaign.

Our next general meeting will be held on May 6th at

5:00 pm at the van den Hoek's farm.



Jane Kennedy accepts a 4-H Easter Gift from Hendrikus van den Hoek Field, a clover-bud with Glooscap Trail 4-H Club. Club has been doing this for 4 years and this year choose to give out handmade Easter cards, fruit bag and pussywillows. (Submitted Photo)

Efficiency Nova Scotia to be Overseen by NSURB

By Maurice Rees

According to Energy Minister, Andrew Younger, the efficiency tax is coming off and electricity bills will go down next year because his department is improving how energy efficiency programs are delivered. Legislation introduced on April 7th, ensures Efficiency Nova Scotia remains independent of Nova Scotia Power, with oversight by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Mr. Younger introduced a provincial energy efficiency plan and new legislation supporting government's commitment to remove the efficiency tax from electricity bills effective Jan. 1, 2015. It proposes a new model for energy efficiency program delivery to ensure investments are more competitive, affordable and accountable.

Amendments to the Public Utilities Act include the addition of an energy efficiency

and conservation section that: removes the efficiency tax effective Jan. 1, 2015; requires Nova Scotia Power to purchase cost effective, reasonably available energy efficiency and provides the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board with regulatory oversight of efficiency programs and to determine affordability

The demand side management fund established by the Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation Act will

be wound down over the next year and the existing assets, liabilities and employees will be transferred to a new non-profit entity. The new entity will administer activities and programs under the Efficiency Nova Scotia brand.

Nova Scotia Power and its parent company Emera will contribute up to \$37 million over the next 10 years to upgrade all low-income electrically heated homes in the province. This community investment will be funded by Emera and will be made at no cost to Nova Scotia Power customers. Government will continue to invest in non-electric efficiency initiatives with a focus on low-income programs. There are an estimated 20,050 low-income homes in Nova Scotia eligible for energy efficiency upgrades, including 15,435 non-electrically heated and 6,615 electrically heated homes.

With a focus on low-income programs, free home energy upgrades for low-income homeowners save people between \$565 to \$900 a year.

Clifton 4-H Club Holds Communication Rally

By Marla McNutt

Our 4-H Club has had a busy Spring, it we can call it that. We had our Club Communication Rally on March 1 with the following winners: Intermediate Speech - Emily Smith; Junior Speech - Theron Forbes as Presenter, Annika Masters as Introducer, Linden Masters as Thanker and Senior Speech - Marla McNutt.

In the demonstration categories, the following were winners:

Demonstration - Caleb McCurdy; Junior Double Demonstration - Brianna Otterson & Emma Hayman; Senior Demonstration - Brittney Peterson; Senior Double Demonstration - Gillian Blackburn & Ella McCurdy and Senior Impromptu Speech: Marla McNutt.

Congratulations to all. There were lots of terrific speeches and demonstrations. The winners went on to County Rally on April 12 (see

winners list elsewhere in this issue).

Next on the 4-H schedule in May will be the judging of projects, so there are lots of meetings taking place to go over judging. The club is selling cheese as a fund raiser this year. If you would like to buy some, find your local 4-H member to check on prices and order dates or you can email clifton4h@gmail.com.

Marla McNutt is president of the Clifton 4-H Club

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