

Vendors at Wentworth Blueberry Festival

By Hope Bridgewater

Vendors who came to the Wentworth Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival in August were an interesting and inspiring highlight at the festival and showed how creative the people in Nova Scotia can be. I interviewed the vendors, and their remarks follow:

- #1. **Kalantria** was represented by Krista Wood from Truro, and she creates a natural soap. Krista states: "I'm the owner and creator of Kalantria, a natural soap handmade in small batches using coconut oil, sunflower oils, essential plants oils, and clay for colouring my soap. I also make natural insect repellents, lip balms, ointments, and fuzzy bath bombs. On the side, I also make handcrafted bead embroidered jewellery."
- #2. **Thompson's Berries** were represented by Krista Wood, a granddaughter of Lawson and Bessie Thompson. For 30 years Thompson's Berries from Westchester have offered jams and jellies for sale. When they were having a big surplus, they decided to go into the business of selling their fresh homemade berries in small batches. They grow their own wild blueberries, other berries and rhubarb. They have a preserving kitchen in their home basement. Krista gave me this report: "Thompson's Berries: Jam the way Grandma made it! Entering the Thompson's Berries small jam making facility in Westchester is like stepping

into your Grandmother's kitchen. Wild blueberries are boiling in pots and the smell rising from them is delicious...One fellow said, "I don't believe you do it all by hand." Bessie Thompson says: "That's what we do." The Thompson's keep their jams, jellies, sauces, syrups, and juices pure as there are no additions or fillers: blueberries, raspberries, cherries, rhubarb, plums, gooseberries, currants, elderberries, crab apples, sugar, pectin and a lot of care. They also make a lot of combinations such as blueberry/strawberry, etc. Krista had Thompson's blueberry/strawberry jam at the Festival to sell. Lawson Thompson, wife Bessie, daughter Carol, granddaughter Krista and seasonal workers make their products from a provincially certified facility.

- #3. **Nova Scotia** was represented by Tracey MacLeod, Tracey's Sewing Room, Hilden who said: "I love sewing with Nova Scotia Tartan. It is versatile for making items for pets, children, adults, bath items, toys, and weddings. Serving others is a passion which I learned from my mother." Tracey gave me her card which states: Tracey's Sewing Room: 902-897-7478.
- #4. **Bentley's Maple Syrup** was represented by owner Jean Bentley who with her husband, Avard began their business in 1980 with only 1,000 maple trees tapped, but now their business has grown to have approximately 40,000 trees tapped with the help of new technology and the additional help of their son Michael. Their sugar woods are located at Westchester Mountain and a large container of Bentley's maple syrup states: "Maple syrup is made by boiling sap collected from maple trees during March and April creating a 100% pure and natural product." Maple syrup has a unique flavour, is a natural product of nature, and Bentley's syrup, as previously stated, does not contain artificial flavours or preservatives. Its wonderful flavour is used with foods such as baked beans, ham, bacon, sausages, scrambled eggs, and pork rinds. From maple syrup comes maple cream, maple butter, maple sugar and maple candy. Recent research is noting more health benefits from maple syrup about compounds with anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Bentley's Maple Syrup is also involved with the blueberry industry.
- #5. **Route 6 Food Truck Company** based in Tatamagouche was represented by Justin Yap and Barbara Goodale. The Food Truck features gourmet grub and caterings. Justin Yap said: "We were excited to come to Wentworth be part of the Show n' Shine. Our food truck is a 1960 GMC Step Van and our truck felt at home with all the antique cars at the car show. We serve gourmet sandwiches and burgers under the headings of Maty Burger, Cubano Sam, Smokin' Jane and Barbara Ann." As well, this food truck serves vegetables, bread, and sodas and the special food this Sunday in August was a spicy curry beef sand-

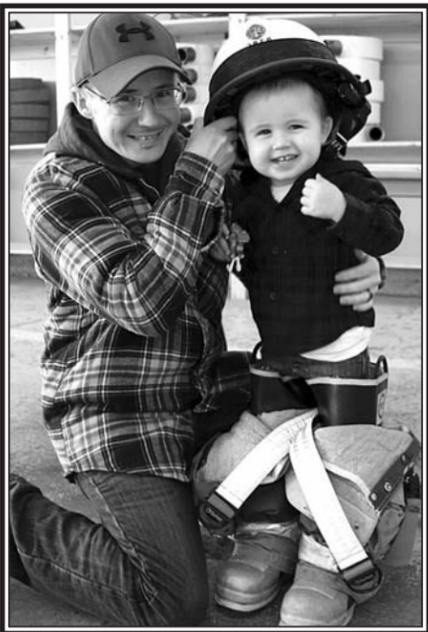
wich. Many ordered this tasty treat.

- #6. **Atlantic Fabrics:** Discover Your Creative Side was represented by Sue Works from Truro who reported the following: "The company is locally owned, and the staff are always happy to help with your crafting needs. The store sells sewing machines and also offers creative classes. In the fall, you can join in making quilts for the community during our "Share the Warmth" weekend. Also, Sew-cial Fridays is a classroom available to you with like-minded individuals so drop in for a couple of hours or the full day, but it is a non-instructor class Fridays 10:00-4:00. Creative Showcase September 24th 5:30-8:00 Latest Trends in Quilting: 902-843-3273.
- #7. **Tatamagouche Yarn Company** was represented by Beth Durkee. The Yarn Company was opened on May, 2015. Every Thursday afternoon, there is a weekly Knit Together, and everyone is welcome. This Yarn Company also offers classes and workshops.
- #8. **Forest Hills Blueberries** was represented by Heather Klaine Johnson. This Westchester blueberry farm is operated by a third generation of a family. It grows and processes its own berries.
- #9. **Addison Locke:** a musician representing himself. Locke is a singer and songwriter from Pictou County and has been playing and writing for 35 years. He has four CD's comprised of his original songs which include country, folk, and gospel styles. Phone 902-957-1497.
- #10. **Quilts for Sale** represented by Marie Duranceau. As the Show n' Shine Coordinator Duranceau reported that approximately 100 quilts were for sale and that each quilt had a number and price listed. Voting for a favourite quilt could be done by listing the quilt number and placing it in a voting box. Several quilts were sold.
- #11. **Bee Illuminated Chandlery** was represented by Al Huestis. It was amazing to see the items made by 100% Nova Scotia beeswax. Beeswax is used in the following ways: #1. In food as a glazing agent for coating cheese, for preventing water loss and surface protection for some fruits; #2. In cosmetics as an ingredient for lip balm, lip gloss, hand cream, eye shadow, eye liner, hair pomades; #3. Surgery: ingredient of surgical bone wax to control bleeding from bone surfaces; #4. Ingredient in shoe polish, egg decoration, furniture polish; #5. Candle making especially for certain church services. Beeswax never goes bad and can be used and reused. Beeswax is natural wax and is produced by honey bees.
- #12. **Antique Chair** for 150 Canada's Birthday: attracted folks to have their photo taken in the chair. Sparky, the Fire Dog, is a tribute to the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department. Firefighters gave a tour of their trucks. Norman Gower looked after the fire truck tours telling visitors about the truck and the fire department. Vernon Sprague assisted him in the afternoon. Many other firemen were on hand to park cars. Sparky helped out as well.

In brief, vendors and activities worked well together and the Blueberry Festival was a great success.



Sparky, the Wentworth Fire Dog, was very busy helping at the Blueberry Festival and spends time talking to children at their Slip N' Slide program. (Submitted)



Andy Corbett helps a very excited Jonathan Corbett into fire fighting gear at Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade's recent Open House. (Harrington Photo)



Kendall and Tucker Moore were happy to check out Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade's all-terrain rescue vehicle at the Open House on Oct. 14th. (Harrington Photo)



Colchester Search and Rescue had some of their remote rescue gear on display at Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade's recent Open House. (Harrington Photo)



Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade has an impressive line-up of rescue vehicles. The Brigade held an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 14th. (Harrington Photo)



OPEN HOUSE

Ski Swap, Market & Equipment Sale

Saturday, November 18
Ski Wentworth • 10 am - 2 pm

★ CSP Ski Swap & Sale
Looking for a good deal on used equipment? A portion of all sales go to the Canadian Ski Patrol System. Selling equipment? Drop off: Fri., Nov. 17 from 5-9 pm or Nov. 18 until 9 am

★ Season Pass "NO HST" Sale
Your final chance to save on a season pass! Must come to Open House to get the deal

★ Open House Market
Local food, wreaths and more

★ Ski Equipment Sale
Cleve's, Aerobics First, Hub Cycle, Take It Outside, The Trail Shop and HAF will have new equipment for sale.



www.skiwentworth.ca