

## Wild Blueberry Producers of NS Host German Bloggers & Food Writers

Arriving in the peak of wild blueberry season had its perks for a German delegation who immediately had the opportunity to taste the ripe fruit right in the local fields. The group were in the area for five days and began their tour in Debert before heading up the shore to Parrsboro. This is the second group WBPANS has hosted this harvest season. A Chinese delegation were here earlier in August. (Harrington Photos)



Cameras always ready! Getting the right photos for their blogs was very important for the German visitors to the WBPANS headquarters.



Gary Brown shows the interested bloggers and food writers from Germany what wild blueberry plants look like in their first year of the two-year cycle of production.



Jule Buettel, from Germany designed her own hand bag for the trip to Nova Scotia. The bag reads "Wild Blueberries are always a good idea."



Peter Rideout, Executive Director for WBPANS introduces the group of German bloggers and food writers to the wild blueberry, giving them an informative talk on the provincial berry.



Markus Hummel enjoyed trying hand raking wild blueberries for the first time. He jokingly asked how easy it was to immigrate to Nova Scotia after tasting the berries.

## Colchester Not Included in Immigrant Worker Partnership

By Maurice Rees

The agriculture community in Colchester County employs hundreds of immigrant seasonal workers to fill the jobs, which otherwise would go unfilled and have a very negative impact on the area. Locally Millen Farms and Balamoral Farms bring in hundreds of workers to fill their employment needs.

Earlier in September the provincial government announced it has signed an immigrant employment partnership with Cape Breton and Western REN's, but there is no mention of similar emphasis on northern Nova Scotia area from Amherst to the Canso Causeway.

Government has signed two-year agreements with the Cape Breton Partnership and Western Regional Enterprise Network to help employers attract immigrants to fill skilled labour shortages. The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration will work with both organizations to support and advance the employer-driven Atlantic Immigration Pilot to help businesses attract and retain global talent. This is in addition to an agreement with Halifax Partnership announced in July.

More than 275 companies across the province have already submitted applications to participate in the Atlantic Immigration Pilot.

Before being eligible to recruit internationally through immigration programs, Nova Scotia employers are required to demonstrate that they have tried to hire Nova Scotians, Canadians or other permanent residents first.

To learn more, employers should contact the Office of Immigration at 1-877-292-9597 or email [immigration@novascotia.ca](mailto:immigration@novascotia.ca).

## Joy Laking's 2017 Open House Exhibition

By Maurice Rees

Joy Laking's 2017 Open House Exhibition on October 14, 15, 21 & 22 will feature almost fifty of her new oils and watercolours. Joy usually paints on location in the area close to Bass River where she lives. However it is her trips further afield which allow her to continually return "home" with fresh eyes.

This year she painted in Italy for two months as well as in Prospect and the Valley. Joy was also chosen as the first ever Artist in Residence for Parrsboro Creative and spent two weeks in August painting in Parrsboro.

The following is a bit about Joy's life when she is painting in public. Come rain, biting cold, hot sun or bugs galore, Joy Laking is usually outside, on location capturing the world with her watercolours and oils. Joy is continually reminded of what a beautiful place the world is and that art transcends culture and language.

This spring, Joy spent two months painting in Italy. When Joy was painting out on a street in Monopoli, a local woman came out with a plate of homemade pasta and a plastic glass of red wine for her. Later that day, an old fellow came along, looked at what she was doing and then he went home and got her a rock made of pumis and a live hermit crab in a jar. Having no idea why she was gifted a crab, the little hermit crab was later released back into the sea. These foreign trips allow Joy to return "home" to Nova Scotia with fresh eyes and new inspiration for her much beloved landscapes.

In July, Joy went to check out a parking lot in Truro, N.S. where an art's event was going to happen. There was the Stiles Taco Truck with folks milling around and a bit of Truro's

rooms and hugs. This joyfulness seems to be caught in Joy's happy vibrant paintings. For two weeks in August, Joy was the first "Artist in Residence" for Parrsboro Creative. Parrsboro has provided familiar inspiration for paintings over the years. Her two week stint in the community allowed her the time to totally focus on art and resulted in numerous sketches, fourteen watercolours and two oils. One of the watercolours, was

done sitting on a rock with her feet on other rocks, almost in the river of Hidden Falls as she attempted to capture the foliage, the dappled light and the gurgling water. Joy Laking's thirty-second Open House Exhibition at her gallery at 6730 Hwy#2, Bass River will be held October 14, 15, 21 and 22 from 10 until 5 pm. It is this year's chance to view the beauty Joy's sees in the world in almost 50 of this year's new paintings. [www.joylakinggallery.com](http://www.joylakinggallery.com)

## Church Services for October

By Christine Urquhart

Church services for the month of October are; all at 10 am;

- October 1 - Glenholme,
- October 8 - Masstown,
- October 15 - Debert,
- October 22 - Glenholme and
- October 29 - Masstown.



Sunday School starts up again on Sunday October 15th in Debert.

Children of all ages are welcome at our Sunday School! Those who attend enjoy it very much! Bring your children and/or grandchildren to Church today! You will be made welcome.

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