

# Japanese Jam Producers Tour Wild Blueberry Institute



The delegation of Japense Jam Producers pose for a group photo at the NS Wild Blueberry Institute in Debert with dignitaries accompanying them on the tour. Some members included: Back row (l to r)- Mrs. Yoshiko Okubo (President of Kyosai Farm), Agriculture Minister John MacDonell, Jiro Fukuyama (President Japan Jam Producers Association), Neri Vautour (Executive Director WBANA), Tadashi Otsuka (President Taka Foods), Dave Sangster (Execuitve Director of Wild Blueberry Producers of Nova Scotia), David Hoffman (President of WBANA Canada). (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

A wild blueberry juice toast, offered by Agriculture Minister John MacDonell, welcomed a delegation of Japanese Jam

Producers to the NS Wild Blueberry Institute on Dakota Road. They were spending three days in Nova Scotia, after a day and a half touring PEI.



A delegation of Japanese Jam Producers were touring the NS Wild Blueberry Institute in Debert on August 21st. They enjoyed sampling some fresh wild blueberries and a few other products before continuing on their tour of the area. (Harrington Photo)

David Hoffman, President of Wild Blueberry Association of North America (WBANA) Canada, says the Jam Producers are a very important market. "They purchase 10-15 % of the wild blueberries produced in Nova Scotia and represent 70% of the Japanese Market," he says. "This important market has been built up over the last thirty years."

For most of the delegation, this was their visit to Nova Scotia, and they were enjoying their wild blueberry tour, especially tasting fresh wild blueberries for the first time.

"The fresh berries were very tasty," said Tadashi Otsuka, President of Taka Foods Company Ltd. He says households in Japan

would not have fresh berries, with most wild blueberries consumed in jams, yogurt and baked goods.

The delegation was visiting wild blueberry farms in the Parrsboro area as one part of their tour. "I was surprised at the long time it takes for it to become a nice field," said Mr. Otsuka. He was referring to lengthy process involved from land clearing to actually having a field filled in with plants and producing berries.

Mr. Otsuka was pleased to see the berries are grown in a very clean environment, as he says the Japanese are very health conscious.

Dave Sangster, Executive Director of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia, explained the role of the Association to the Japanese Jam Producers and presented some wild blueberry food products for sampling. He displayed the new "Wild Ones" children's book and the delegation was very happy to see some of their Japanese products highlighted in the book. Mr. Sangster says WABANA plans to translate the book into Japanese and make it available to school children in their country.

Agricultural Minister John MacDonell, and his assistant Laurence Nasson accompanied the Japanese Jam Producers on their wild blueberry tour from the Wild Blueberry Institute to Parrsboro on August 23rd.

area. Carole and Ray Dibbon have had company as well. Linda and Olsen have had their family visit as well

School is soon upon us. Most young people are excited about going back as well as the new little students on their first day of a new adventure. We wish them well.

Again, I have to stress that I need folks to send me notes if they want me to continue writing for the ShoreLine. I do have a phone # and for those who have a computer my e-mail is foxy40@bellaliant.net. Phone # 647-2933.

# \$40-million Upgrade Puts 192 New Beds in Springhill

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organizations across the country have repeatedly told us, the early release of criminals onto our streets has a much higher cost than keeping criminals behind bars."

Springhill is the first institution in Canada that will be expanded over the next two years. This will involve the construction of 192 new beds. The redesign of the facility is expected to be completed in 2010, with construction scheduled for 2011, the new living units will be available in 2012.

"Under the previous system, a violent criminal sentenced to nine years in prison could be on our streets in as little as three years if he or she spent two years awaiting trial. In at least one case, a convicted terrorist was released one day after being sentenced. This is not acceptable to Canadians," said Mr. Armstrong. "The protection of Canadians must come first. Part of keeping our communities safe is keeping dangerous criminals behind bars - not releasing them onto our streets early."



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# Five Islands and Economy Area News

By Ruth Thompson

Marilyn and Denny Cock visited on the long weekend Ken and Judy McLean in Harbourville, Nova Scotia. They also attended the wedding of Judy and Ken's granddaughter Sandi to Randy Coleman in Middleton, Nova Scotia.

Marilyn and Denny's granddaughters, Sara and Marina are visiting from Vancouver, British Columbia for the month of August.

Other visitors have been Bettijane Gieblhaus of Coften, B.C., Peter and Wendy McLean of Middleton, N.S., Elsie and Gerald Wood, Centreville, N.S.

Marilyn, Sara and Marina went on a road trip with Bettijane and stayed with her in her cabin in New Brunswick.

Peter and I had some of our family visit us recently. Meghan and Brooke spent three days with us without thier parents. We took a road

trip as well visiting the Anne Murray Centre in Springhill. That is an amazing place. It is worth while the trip to see all that she has done and her accomplishments. That same day we visited with my sister, Helen.

The Stewards of Economy United Church had a very successful Blueberry Dessert Coffee House. There is alot of talent in that little community.

There has been recent visitors with different folks in the

*Bass River United Baptist Church*  
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*168<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Everyone is invited to the  
*168<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service*  
of the Bass River United Baptist Church,  
Bass River, N.S at 3 p.m.

September 26, 2010

Special Speaker:  
Dr. Peter Reid, Executive Minister  
Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches.

Special Music provided by:  
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Refreshments Served. Wheel chair accessible

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