



High on the rooftop, Blueberry Grunt performs for the crowd at Wild Blueberry Jam, the grand opening of the Wild Blueberry Festival.



Paws For Fun put on a dog agility demonstration at the Wild Blueberry Jam held outside the Marigold Centre on August 19th.



Hundreds of people joined in the fun at Wild Blueberry Jam, the kick off to the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival held August 19th to Sept. 3rd.



Twelve year old Mathew Murray keeps his eye on the boxes as they quickly fill with berries. This was Mathew's first year working on the back of a blueberry harvester, after having spent several years raking berries by hand as a summer job.



A research assistant weighs wild blueberries harvested from field trials at the Debert Wild Blueberry Institute. Research is being carried out at the NSAC under the direction of Dr. Dave Percival.



Cheryl Langille (left) and Carrie McCully enjoyed a tasty morning brunch, with wild blueberry sauce, inside Saint James United Church at the Great Village Farmer's Market on Saturday, August 20th.



"Celebrate 'til you're Blue in the Face!", was the motto for the Wild Blueberry Jam and these contestants were certainly a deep shade of blue following the pie eating contest. Wild Blueberry Jam was the kick off for the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival, held from August 19th to Sept. 3rd. Left to right- Peter Millman, RCMP Cpl Addie J. MacCallum, Julie Patriquin Johnstone, Paul Clark, Sherry Martell and Faye Higgins.



Devin Trefry, co-ordinator of the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival, tells the pie eating contestants that time is up. The remaining portions were weighed and Paul Clark of Inglis Jewellers was declared the champion. Left to right- Peter Millman, RCMP Cpl Addie J. MacCallum, Julie Patriquin Johnstone, Paul Clark, Sherry Martell and Faye Higgins.

# It's That Time Again!

By Lawrence R. Nicoll  
Cumberland County is famous for its blueberries, and for good reason. A drive almost anywhere in the county is met with work underway to harvest this year's crop. Methods both old and new, my first stop is at Hanna's fields in Lakelands where the lines are drawn, the scales are set and the method far older than anyone in the field; scooping, is underway. Berries fall from scoops into buckets, chaff falls away and the sound of voices, and laughter fills the air. It is hard work, and if sweat had a sound that would likely be just as loud.  
In the Welton Family fields on Newville road the harvesters are hard at work too. The crew took a second (I am sure that is ALL they had) and gave a friendly wave to the stranger taking pictures of folks just doing what is necessary to make a living.  
PS: They taste delicious too!



A modern mechanical harvester works the rough terrain on the Welton fields near Parrsboro. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Raking blueberries of old fashioned way is the harvesting method of choice at Hanna Farms fields in Parrsboro area. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

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