

### **Andrew Bishop - Noggins Corner Farms Ltd.**

Andrew Bishop grew up and farms on the family homestead in Greenwich, Nova Scotia. Andrew, along with his father, brother and sister, grew the family farm over the years from a small subsistence family operation to a diversified mixed operation including a 30 head dairy, 200 acres of tree fruit crops, agritourism, crop sharing arrangements, a wholesale company and a full year roadside farm stand.

Andrew has focused on the horticultural endeavours of the farm. He has increased production and diversified the varieties over the years to meet the demand from the local wholesale and retail markets. Andrew is a long-time active member of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association (NSFGA) and represents the NSFGA at the Canadian Horticultural Council. He has three adult daughters all involved on the farm and his spouse Beth who manages the agritourism division of the farm and has been active as Chair of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association in 2009. In his limited spare time, Andrew enjoys playing the French horn, reading, woodworking and seeing his grandchildren.

### **Patricia Bishop – Taproot Farms**

Patricia Bishop is an eighth-generation Annapolis Valley farmer in Kings County Nova Scotia and the co-founder of Taproot Farms. In recent years, Patricia's work to promote locally-grown foods and preserve agricultural lands has built province-wide awareness concerning some of the most important issues affecting the future of farming: food security, land use, and the viability of local farms.

Past President of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture, Patricia holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and a Bachelor of Education from Acadia University. Raised in Greenwich, NS, Patricia is also active in Noggins Corner Farm. Founded by one of the original New England Planters, Noggins Corner Farm continues to be a family-run business. Patricia is married to Josh Oulton and has three children: Izaak, 8, Lily, 4, and Frank, 2 ½. They live in Port Williams where they operate a 220 member CSA.

### **Leonard Yungwirth**

Leonard farms near the city of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Leonard comes from a farming family - he presently operates the farm started by his dad and grandfather. Leonard crops about 3,000 acres annually. Crops that have been grown include barley, wheat, canola, peas, oats, canary seed and other specialty crops.

Success in agriculture requires the ability to adapt as farming variables are encountered. Of the 3,000 acres farmed, he owns 380 acres and rents the balance. Because of the farm's proximity

to Prince Albert, the non-agricultural competition for land usually prices it out of the range for cash cropping purposes. Consequently Leonard has dealt with this variable by renting 85% of his farm from 9 separate landlords.

### **Clem Schraefel –Schraefel Farms**

Clem Schraefel and his family started farming in the Kerrobert, Saskatchewan area in 1996 when they moved home from Calgary after his father died, with no idea what farming entailed other than running the machinery. They quickly learned that 2,000 acres of continuous cropping was not going to be enough to raise their family of 3 boys without off-farm jobs, so after studying various options, they settled on organic. They found the learning curve was significant, but it also reduced their risks a great deal. They now have a group of 12 farms they work with, sharing markets and methods and learning together. They are going into their 10th year of being fully certified after a 3 year transition.

Their goal is food grade grains and they always strive for high quality products. The winter is spent marketing and trying to get the best price for their crops – taking lots of accurate samples and sending them to lots of potential buyers. They also take pictures of their samples and email them to remote buyers they haven't dealt with before to show them what they have. They clean and bag products for container loading to other countries. With other farmers in the group, they try to accommodate all of their buyers. If a buyer is looking for something they can't supply locally they will communicate with many other farmers in the province or they will try to grow what the buyer is looking for next year.

Clem and his wife manage the accounting themselves and have adopted technologies like GPS steering and seed blockage monitors on equipment. Their kids help out too, operating combines and other machinery on the farm