

# Prices at "all-time high" for beef cattle

By John Campbell

**News - Northumberland County** - It's "never been better" in the beef industry than right now, with prices being paid to producers for their cattle "at an all-time high," says the president of the Northumberland Cattlemen's Association.

The prices "started to really climb" last fall, but now every week they're "a little higher than the week before," auctioneer Dave Denure said. "We haven't found our plateau yet."

The price paid for dressed weight (of an animal partially butchered) recently rose to between \$2.65 and \$2.70 a pound, he said, which is "a long ways above" the \$2.12 beef producers received before the mad cow scare caused prices to plummet a decade ago.

The Canadian beef industry went into a terrible slump following the discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a single cow in Alberta in 2003, which led other countries to place temporary import bans on Canadian beef.

The fallout led to an exodus of domestic beef producers as revenues plunged.

Today, worldwide demand for beef is on the rise but "there's such a shortage of the product," that it's driven up prices, Denure said. "There's been a lot of guys who have quit the industry and nobody has filled that void."

Canada has boosted beef sales to other countries through various trade deals, "and they're telling us that they're moving more product all the time overseas," he said. "A 93-cent dollar ... helps with the export trade."

But not everyone in the beef industry is getting the full benefit of the uptick in

prices. In recent years feedlot operators, who fatten cattle contracted those cattle."

The lower return puts the feedlot operators at "a real disadvantage" when it comes time to replace the animals sold, Denure said. "Some of those guys could see some tough times this fall."

But in a supply-and-demand market, nothing is ever certain for very long, Denure added. "It's hard to say what's going to happen."



Close to 300 people turned out for the annual Beef Day, held July 3 at Wilce Century Farm in Cramahe Township. "It was an excellent night, and an excellent place to have it, a real picturesque spot," (alongside Cold Creek) said Dave Denure, president of Northumberland Cattlemen's Association. Photo: John Campbell



Singer Stephanie Bird entertained people with her music at the Northumberland Cattlemen's Association Beef Day. Photo: John Campbell



Dave Denure, president of Northumberland Cattlemen's Association, on the right, and Dan Darling were kept busy heaping people's plates with meat at the association's annual Beef Day July 3. This year's event, which drew close to 300 people, was hosted by Carl Wilce and Pat Johnston at the Wilce Century Farm in Cramahe Township July 3. Photo: John Campbell

# Generator brings peace of mind

By John Campbell

**News - Warkworth** - Volunteers caring for terminally ill residents at The Bridge Hospice won't have to fret about losing power when the weather turns bad.

The facility has installed a natural gas generator to provide emergency power, using a \$3,977 grant from a charitable

foundation operated by the Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion and its Auxiliaries.

The application for assistance was supported by the Warkworth Legion.

After last winter, "it's really comforting now we don't have to worry [about having no electricity], that the resident rooms

are looked after and other basics throughout the building," said Brenda Partridge, a member of the hospice's stewardship and communications committee.

"Over the Christmas period we had a resident [and] I just remember being very anxious because of the snow and ice storms we had and thinking what's going to happen here," she said. It's "so wonderful" to have a generator on site to give peace of mind.

Legion Branch 380 president Len Kenny has a similar unit at his residence and it ran more than four days in total last winter, he said. Thirty seconds after the power goes off, it automatically comes on.

The Howard Ballard Foundation and Farm Credit Canada also provided funding for the project which cost \$9,800 in total.

It's not the first time the Warkworth Legion has helped out The Bridge Hospice, which relies on the support of community organizations to offer palliative care services. The Legion donated \$1,000 in 2011 and again in 2012.



Glenn Dorland serves Ferron and Brenda Waite at last week's Beef Day which the Northumberland Cattlemen's Association holds every year at a different farm. This year's event, which drew close to 300 people, was hosted by Carl Wilce and Pat Johnston at the Wilce Century Farm in Cramahe Township July 3. Photo: John Campbell