



Sweet Ontario

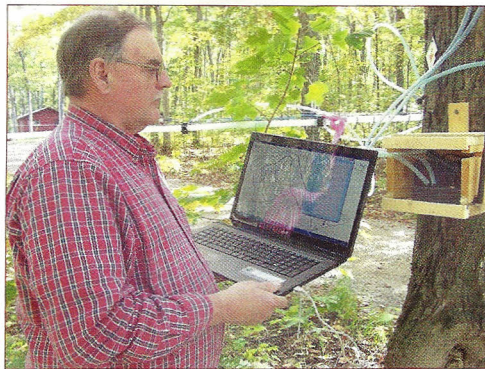
PURE MAPLE SYRUP

ONTARIO MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION
Algoma Local

Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association Life Time Achievement Award Recipient – Doug Thompson

Doug and his father Ken partnered in the purchase of a 100 acre's of property on St. Joseph Island in 1977 thus launching "Thompson Maple Products". It was an established sugar bush comprising of 2,500 taps on vacuum line. The evaporator was five by sixteen feet and fueled by a wood-fired arch. A few years later a steam plant from a boat was acquired for the finishing process and soon after for all evaporation. Experimentation was conducted with sawdust and other combustible combinations before converting to oil.

In 1991 the operation was expanded to 20,000 taps and Doug and Joyce bought out their partners' share. In order to maximize the benefit of the expansion a "Packing Facility" was added. A new house was constructed and they moved on site becoming fulltime residents. Although Doug and Joyce do the majority of the packing they do have several dedicated retired employees that look forward to participating in the operational maintenance on a seasonal basis. Their operation is CFIA certified and has also been organic certified since 2005.



In addition to converting to steam for evaporation Doug has also installed a two line delivery system for sap and vacuum which ensures high vacuum at the end lines. In order to maximize high inches of vacuum to all sectors of the bush a system for monitoring was also developed.

In 2013 "The Premiers Award For Innovation" was bestowed on Doug for his monitoring system.

Thompson's Maple Products maple syrup was featured as the world champion in 1984 and again in 1989 as well as being reserve champion in 1995. Thompson's Maple Products have been marketed worldwide and has even flown into space in Roberta Bondar's "Tuck Bag".

Doug has been an active Member of OMSPA since 1977 serving on the respective boards at both the local and provincial level encouraging sound practices and high quality products.

"Thank You Doug for your dedication."

GW

