



## Tapping a small city of trees to make maple syrup

There aren't many people in the Westchester area of Cumberland County, but there are lots of sugar maple trees.

Bentley's Maple uses the equivalent of a small city of trees to make its maple syrup.

A vast network of plastic tubing connects taps in about 35,000 trees and delivers sap to a sugar camp. The sap is boiled to produce about 12,000 litres of maple syrup each year.

It takes 30 to 40 litres of sap to produce a litre of syrup, so that means the trees each year deliver hundreds of thousands of litres of sap.

The distinctive maple taste makes all the effort worth it. "Avard lives maple," says wife Jean Bentley.

Avard says the maple syrup production of the late winter and early spring complements the wild blueberry production at other times of the year.

The Bentley family has been making maple syrup for about 30 years. Visitors are welcome during the sugar season to see how syrup is made.

ALL PHOTOS BY STEVE HARDER

*Sap from 35,000 trees is boiled into maple syrup by the Bentley family- Jean, Avard and Michael - of Westchester.*

**Bentley's Maple**  
**Avard, Jean and Michael Bentley**

12 Valley Road, Westchester, NS B0M 2A0  
 Phone: 902-548-2973  
 Fax: 902-548-2833  
 Email: [jbentley@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jbentley@ns.sympatico.ca)