

FREE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF WEST PRINCE

## Road closure, detour for bridge repair impacting Derby greenhouse business

By Melissa Heald  
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A couple living on the Derby end of the Beaton Road are frustrated over the government failing to inform them about repairs to a nearby bridge as the resulting road closure and detour has impacted their business.

"It came out of the blue," said Kees Kennema, who owns and operates Bluesky Greenhouses with his wife Sabina on Route 138 in the Derby/Brae area.

The couple had just opened for the season on May 24, had a 'phenomenal' first day, but the next day they discovered the Brae Bridge was closed for emergency repairs, their section of Route 138 closed to traffic and a detour set up.

"It was the best day we had ever had and yesterday we didn't sell anything," said Mr Kennema

when the Graphic spoke with him last Wednesday.

Normally, the couple has two to three weeks of brisk sales, but that doesn't seem possible now as the Kennemas find themselves caught in the middle - the closed bridge and barricade is on one side of their business and on the other side signs saying their road is closed and the bridge is out.

"We have our whole crop ready, but now they've blocked the road," said Mr Kennema.

Traffic is being diverted around the repair work with a detour on Route 170, the McAllar Road, which completely bypasses the Kennema's business. The detour takes motorists to Route 14, where they can return to Route 138 if they turn left at the end of the McAllar Road.

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## REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN

Children's shoes were placed around the sign at the front entrance of John J Sark Memorial School in Lennox Island following the discovery of 215 graves belonging to First Nations children at a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia last week. The Mi'kmaq Cultural Centre on Lennox Island also organized a a Pipe Ceremony and Sacred Fire on the morning of May 31 to honour and remember the 215 children. See the full story below. Melissa Heald photo

## Survivors speak at Lennox Island ceremony honouring the 215 children buried at Kamloops residential school

By Melissa Heald  
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Following the discovery of 215 graves belonging to First Nations children at a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia, the Lennox Island Mi'kmaq Cultural Centre organized a Pipe Ceremony and

Sacred Fire on May 31.

The ceremony, led by Elder Matilda Knockwood, was open to anyone who wanted to attend and students from John J Sark Memorial School were also invited to participate.

Everyone was encouraged to enter the sacred circle to toss an offering of tobacco into the fire



Marlene Thomas speaks following a Pipe Ceremony on Lennox Island honouring the 215 children found at a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia. Ms Thomas is a survivor of the residential school in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia, along with Margaret Lebobe (left) and Charlotte Morris (centre). The Lennox Island Mi'kmaq Cultural Centre organized the Pipe Ceremony and Sacred Fire on May 31. Melissa Heald photo

## The importance of a child knowing their rights and how to enforce them

By Jillian Trainor  
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One reason Sandee MacLean and other parents held a presentation with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (CYA) of PEI at Westisle Composite High School on May 26 is because parents and students sometimes don't know where to turn when they're trying to get their voice heard.

"I know with my own girls, often times they feel frustrated that their voice isn't asked for more, and when they try to give their voice, there's not really

a receptive audience to it," she said.

This is where the Office of the CYA comes in. Though the Island's Child and Youth Advocate Act and independent office have only been in place on PEI since July 15, 2020. It's been a busy time for staff of that office, whose mission is to raise awareness and uphold child rights, principals which are expressed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, while amplifying the voices of children and youth, modelling dignity and respect for children, youth, and their families in all aspects of their work.

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and say a prayer to the children being remembered. Many did, including the students from the elementary school.

The Sacred Fire will burn for the next four days and nights, attended by Ms Knockwood's son, Matthew Snache.

Marlene Thomas thanked all the children who attended the ceremony.

"I'm really happy just being here and seeing everybody," she said. "It filled my heart up."

Along with Margaret Lebobe and Charlotte Morris, Ms Thomas is a survivor of the residential school in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia. The three women all spoke at the ceremony.

"When I first came here, I was having a tough time, but now I'm full of joy and I'm going try and keep that joy with me all the four days," said Ms Thomas. "I'm going to be here day and night."

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\$1.75 + HST

