

## Local fruit producers hopeful ahead of harvest

By Jillian Trainor

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Despite a few tense nights with frost, strawberry, blueberry, and apple producers in the region are hopeful for this year's harvest after last year's devastating season.

"Last year, we didn't have a U-Pick at all, 90 per cent was last year was frosted out," said Alan Rennie, of Rennie's U-Pick in Alma. "This year we're optimistic we're going to have a U-Pick. There always seems to be a catch in the system, but this is looking good."

Mr Rennie said farmers are just hoping for the best right now, and it's hard to know how things will go until the first day in and everything starts rolling. This year,

he only lost about 10 per cent of the crop, and if things keep going the way they're going, it's going to be a decent season.

Barry Clohossey, of Clohossey Farms in Nail Pond, has had a similar experience with his strawberry crop this year.

"We'll just wait and see what the crop turns off," he said. "It will be a couple of weeks before we have anything, we'll see what takes place."

The strawberry season starts in July, lasting about a month, with the blueberry harvest beginning shortly after that.

John Handrahan, past president of the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association, said despite two minor frost incidents so far, very little of his crop has been lost.

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## Sailing into their futures

Westisle Composite High School Grade 12 students Sky MacLean, Allie McHugh and Tyra Perry took part in a grad boat procession at Tignish Harbour on June 18. The procession was organized for the 2021 graduates from the area. Family and friends were invited to watch the boat procession, with boats leaving from the run, sailing around the north block, turning around and sailing back in. The Westisle 2021 graduation ceremony is on June 23, with seven ceremonies planned for the day to accommodate COVID-19 public health measures. Melissa Heald photo

## New water quality testing equipment allows for better data collection

By Jillian Trainor

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Watershed groups in West Prince will now be able to better monitor the various bodies of water in their care thanks to the purchase of a new water quality testing unit.

"What it does is it measures water quality parameters, phosphates, nitrates, temperatures, salinity, turbidity, conductivity. It's fairly simple to use, so we trained our own people to do it," said John Lane, coordinator of the Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association (CBWA), explaining how the new YSI Pro Plus Water Quality Testing Unit works. "Last year we had borrowed a unit from the PEI Watershed Alliance, but the problem with that is you get it for a few weeks, you do a few tests, but you can't monitor what happens after a rain, you can't monitor what happens with a stretch of warm water. You don't have that weekly reading to go by."

The single unit was purchased in conjunction with the Tignish Watershed Management Group, Roseville/Miminegash Watersheds Inc, and West Point & Area Watersheds Inc, for \$6,500.



Nora Harper and John Lane of the Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association were at Gordon's Pond in Montrose, using the new YSI Pro Plus Water Quality Testing Unit. The testing unit will collect data on things like phosphates, nitrates, temperatures, salinity, turbidity, conductivity. Mr Lane said the unit wasn't cheap, but it's very effective, and information collected from the unit is uploaded to the Atlantic Datastream, an online platform where watersheds can look at the data and determine whether an issue in their region is an anomaly, something run of the mill, or is a problem throughout the province. Submitted photo

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Alberton's Old Stone Station is technically a heritage building, but it doesn't have the official designation of one at the present time. Formerly the town's train station, it officially became the town's library in 2016. A motion was passed unanimously by Alberton Town Council to send the province a letter of intention on the matter, with interest in proceeding with the designation, a copy of the minutes, plus resolution, plus any additional information required. Jillian Trainor photo

## Alberton seeks to designate Old Stone Station as heritage building

By Jillian Trainor

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Questions about whether Alberton's Old Stone Station Library could be designated a heritage building arose during the monthly council meeting on June 14.

"I'm not against it at all," said Councillor Blair Duggan. "But when this came up last time, there seemed to be so many reasons why we couldn't do it."

The Old Stone Station is technically a heritage building, as it was formerly the town's train station, but it doesn't have the official designation of one at the

present time. It officially became a library in 2016 after the former library on Main Street closed because of a flood in 2015, which caused issues concerning poor air quality.

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\$1.75 + HST



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