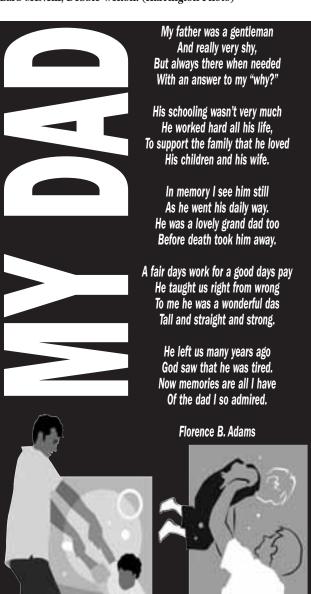
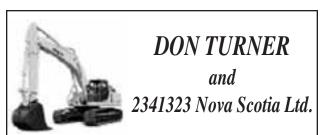
The "Knock Out Beauties" took a swing at fighting cancer by participating in the Relay for Life at the Agritech Park in Bible Hill on June 10th. 62 teams took part in the overnight event, raising over \$114,000 for cancer research. Teams members included (1 to r): Heather Teal, Linda Lane, Angela Wyllie, Tina Gratto and Michelle Reyno. (Harrington Photo)



"Don't let cancer drag on- find a cure" was the catching slogan for the Dragon Boat team at the Relay For Life on June 10th. Paddling along were team members (1 to r): Barb Slack, Karen Ewing, Joanne Gamble, Janice Gilbert, Donna Pittman, Debbie Fulton, Barb McNeill, Debbie Welton. (Harrington Photo)





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Summer Sun Has Strawberry Growers Seeing Red



Sunshine at last! Jamaican workers were busy planting new strawberry plants at Millen Farms Ltd. These plastic covered, raised beds are irrigation fed, allowing for an extended growing season. (Harrington Photo)

Continued from page 1

fresh strawberries available at Masstown Market and some Sobeys stores from June until mid-October.

"These are high value input berries, so customers will see a higher price per box. We have invested extra money to provide early berries, as well as berries later into the fall season. We hope people will recognize this when they see this reflected in the price," Curtis says. These "extended season" strawberry plants are grown in raised beds, covered in black plastic, and they are irrigation fed through a system of tubing.

Price for fresh berries has been running \$4.99/box for these early berries but the price is expected to drop once the main volume of berries is in full production.

Millen Farms Ltd. has employed seasonal workers for a number of years. This year there are over 100 female Jamaican workers and for the first year there are 18 men from Mexico, as well. "We decided to bring in some men to help with the heavier work that needs to be done," says Curtis Millen.

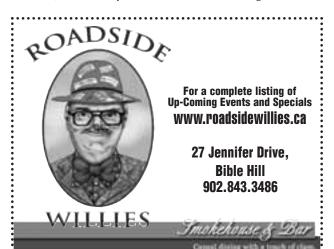
Millen's U-pick expects to be operating towards the end of the first week of July.

Bowers Berries, further along Hwy #2, in Great Village, is expanding their road side stand this year. The Bowers family has sold their fresh picked berries at a small wooden stand for forty-seven years. "It was time for a change," says Alicia Bowers. "Tom and I have always worried about the safety of cars stopping on the highway and now we have moved to a larger building, same location, just back off the road, with lots of room for parking. There will still be plenty of fresh berries and we are now offering fresh strawberry shortcake, as well." Fresh biscuits are baked by Tom's sister Michelle and Tom and Alicia's children Kate and Adam will be helping out, too. Bowers Berries has five ladies who pick for them each year plus they hire about a dozen school kids throughout the season. They will be open from 10AM until 8PM, weather permitting.

A bit further down Hwy #2 at Balamore Farm, they are busy with strawberry picking time as well. Joe Cooper, says he employs about 60 seasonal Jamaican workers to help with his farming operations, including harvesting 25 acres of strawberries for the retail market. "We started picking about a week ago and will probably still be picking late into July", says Joe. This is only the second year for selling berries on the retail market but they have been harvesting



A family run business for 47 years! Bowers Berries has a new building but they are still selling berries at the same location, along Hwy #2, Great Village. Tom, Kate, Alicia and Adam Bowers were busy getting the berry stand ready for opening day on June 24th. They will be offering fresh strawberry shortcakes for this first time, at this newly renovated location. (Harrington Photo)





Mario Antonio, of Mexico, adds another flat of delicious looking strawberries to the pile. Millen Farms Ltd. expects to be picking fresh strawberries for the retail market from mid-June to mid-October. U-pick operation may begin at the end of the first week of July. (Harrington Photo)

strawberry plants for southern destinations since 1990. Balamore Farm strawberries are sold at the Truro Real Atlantic Superstore.

Terry and Heather Prescott, of Red Mountain Farm, are happy to see the sunshine ripening their 2 acre field of berries. A small scale producer, they operate a road side stand at 466 East Montrose Rd. and have been selling for 18 years at the Truro Farmer's Market on Saturdays and now the Wednesday Market, as well. "We grow the Northern June

Berry variety so our season is only about 3 weeks long," says Heather Prescott. Their roadside stand is open daily, throughout the season.

Terry and Diane Wenham, of Terridi Farms, operate Terry's Berries in Little Bass River. They have been hiring local strawberry pickers since mid-June.

These are just a few of many strawberry producers along our shore.

Strawberry shortcake suppers will soon be in full swing, as well. A sure sign summer is here!





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