



Aidan Brothers, left, and Rowan Brothers with their grandfather, Hughie Sullivan, who built the blueberry farm they took over four years ago. AARON BESWICK

‘They could use a good year’

Brothers brothers
ready for good wild
blueberry season

AARON BESWICK

Between the equipment that harvests the blueberries, the series of conveyors that carry them around the tractor and the totes they pile into on the back, there’s upwards of 100 bearings. Aidan Brothers, 23, and Rowan Brothers, 22, changed each of them on four harvester heads over the winter. On each, there’s over 1,000 steel teeth for stripping berries from the vine. The Brothers brothers went over each, welding on new ones to replace those damaged by rock strikes.

Then there’s the solenoids that control the hydraulics that power the whole convoluted system. They all got taken apart, greased and freed. And, of course, there are the tractors themselves, which require their own maintenance. “With equipment, you know something’s going to happen,” said Rowan. And you can’t afford breakdowns during the two- to three-week window to harvest a wild blueberry crop. On Thursday, the machinery sat ready. And the young Brothers were taking



Aidan, right, and Rowan Brothers are two young Antigonish County blueberry farmers hoping for a good season. AARON BESWICK

a breath before the plunge; they begin harvesting their 260 acres of fields in Guysborough and Antigonish counties on Monday. “They could use a good year,” said their father, Brendan Brothers. So could the entire industry. Late frosts decimated the crop in 2018. Four years ago was the wettest season on record. Last year was the driest. Last season’s harvest was down a quarter from the average. As the vines recover, so do farm-

ers from miserable crops and prices that in recent years had gone down to around 35 cents a pound, well below the cost to harvest. The hundreds of farmers who produce Nova Scotia’s largest agricultural export crop have had a long, hard go. But the clearing out of frozen inventories across the northeastern seaboard has seen prices climbing back up. Last year, farmers got around 90 cents a pound. “That’s a strong price,” said Janette MacDonald, executive director of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia. “We export globally to about 35 countries. Markets have been strong.” While they don’t have a price yet as the harvest begins across northern Nova Scotia, it’s expected to be decent. About half the blueberries produced in Nova Scotia go frozen into the American market and end up in jams, pies, ice cream and baked goods. Over recent years there’s been progress expanding demand in Germany and the Japanese health food market. The crop is expected to be a bit below the long-term average as the vines recover from last year’s drought. But enough rain this year and a kind spring bode well, compared to recent seasons. Back at their Lochaber, Antigonish County barn, the Brothers family were looking forward to setting all that greased and repaired machinery into

motion. “We’ve had some hard lessons, but that comes with anything new,” Brendan said. The Brothers’ fields, like most in the province, were once subsistence farms. Their grandparents, Hughie and Monica Sullivan, began buying fallow fields in the late 1970s around Hughie’s childhood home in the Roman Valley. While raising five children, the couple began tending the fields, encouraging the blueberry vines to creep in. Hughie named each field they added after families who’d spent generations doing the back-breaking work to clear them. Bray, King, Doyle, Joe Donald, Tom Donald – the fields bear primarily Irish monikers of the late waves of European settlers who got the hardest land. As children, Lorena, mother of Aidan and Rowan, her siblings and all their friends on Thompson Street in Antigonish got hired each August to rake the berries that began coming in. It took Hughie and Monica a half century to get the fields to where they are now. “Dad always wanted one of his children to take over but it never happened,” said Lorena. “He was hanging on, hoping.” Four years ago, his grandchildren Aidan and Rowan put up their hands. With help from their parents, they bought out the farm. Just 18 and 19 at the time, it’s been an education. “Frustration? That’s just part of it from Day 1,” said Aidan. “It is what it is.” Machinery has broken, and there have been bad seasons. And there’s been learning; farming means being a mechanic, a welder, an electrician and a business person on top of learning to grow food. Older farmers like Jim Perro, Albert Jurlink and Lowell MacLaughlan have been stopping by, hovering over equipment, sharing their hard-won lessons. Hughie’s been there. At 85, he still pushes a walk-behind harvester for his grandsons each season. “There’s lots of challenges but hopefully if you stick with it long enough you can make it work,” said Rowan. On Thursday, as they took a breath surrounded by working machinery and plump berries waiting in the fields, the Brothers were finally feeling optimistic. “Cautiously optimistic,” added their father.



NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD NOTICE OF PAPER HEARING

The Independent Energy System Operator of Nova Scotia (IESO Nova Scotia) applied to the Nova Scotia Energy Board on July 31, 2026, for approval of a fee recovery mechanism and corresponding fees to recover its Board-approved revenue requirement from applicable market participants. The proposed mechanism would replace the temporary financial relief currently in place under the Board’s February 26, 2026, Interim Order in M12663, which approved interim fees payable by Nova Scotia Power Incorporated until the earlier of March 31, 2027, or the effective date of a Board-approved replacement fee recovery mechanism.

The Board will consider this matter in a paper hearing process.

This is a public process, and you may participate as follows:

- You may make written comments by sending a letter to the Clerk of the Board at P.O. Box 1692, Unit “M”, Halifax, NS B3J 3S3, or secure file transfer service by visiting <https://board.titanfile.com/NSEB/>, or by fax at (902) 424-3919 by **Tuesday, October 13, 2026.**
- You may request formal standing as an Intervenor, subject to Board approval. This will allow you to file evidence. Your request must be received by the Board by **Thursday, August 27, 2026**, and a copy of your evidence by **Tuesday, October 13, 2026.**

Full details of the review and any timetable for this matter can be found on the Board’s website <https://nserbt.ca/nseb>, by clicking on “Matters & Evidence”, select “Search Records”, and in the “Go Directly to Matter” search box, enter Matter No. M13007.

To assist the Board in using correct forms of address and pronouns in our hearings and decisions, we invite all parties, lawyers, and all other participants to share their pronouns and titles with the Board and each other if they are comfortable doing so. There is no requirement to provide this information.

720 AUCTION

In accordance with the Warehouseman’s Lien Act, there will be a sold by online public auction on the abandoned properties stored at Metro Self-Storage: 42 Glendale Ave, Lower Sackville; 25 Walker Avenue, Lower Sackville; 10 Lovett Lake Court, Halifax; 138 Chain Lake Drive, Halifax; 160 Thornhill Dr, Dartmouth; 201 Joseph Zatzman Dr, Dartmouth; 2618 Clifton Street, Halifax; 401 Willow Street, Truro; and 50 Upham Drive, Truro. The auction will take place on Tuesday, the 1st of September 2026.

The Auction will take place online by following the links <https://auctions.metroselfstorage.co/> Final bids must be placed by 12:00pm (noontime) on September 1st, 2026. For a full list of units, please refer to our web site, www.metroselfstorage.acl.ca

The personal effects and belongings of the following tenants will be sold:

**Torinesha Dixon
Sherry Covin
Patrick Hyde
Diane Lavers
Asher Ekpo**

Items to be auctioned include miscellaneous household goods, furniture, toys, etc.
www.metroselfstorage.acl.ca

AUCTION