

Heritage Retrofit Carpentry is in demand on PEI

by Heidi Riley

Heritage Retrofit Carpentry involves conserving historic properties by upgrading and restoring them to modern energy efficiency and structural standards while retaining their original appearance.

“Charlottetown has more heritage buildings than any other city in Canada,” says **Josh Silver**, Learning Manager of the Holland College Heritage Retrofit Carpentry program.

“Buildings with a heritage designation must be repaired in kind and must look similar to the original piece, so there is an endless volume of work available to people who have the skills to restore and maintain that heritage.”

In the nine-month Holland College Heritage Retrofit Carpentry program, students learn construction techniques that were used centuries ago, as well as how to combine traditional skills with the latest technology.

“In the last few years, our graduates have seen 100 percent job placement,” says Josh. “There are a lot of job opportunities for Heritage Retrofit graduates, and they can also apply their skills to new construction projects as well.”

This is the seventh year of the Heritage Retrofit Carpentry program. Sixteen students are accepted per year, and there is a waiting list.

Courses include timber frame carpentry, restoration and renovation, finishing, energy efficiency, and architectural history. Students learn hands-on skills, math, blueprints and drafting, and computers and communication.

Students help restore a famous Charlottetown heritage building

“Province House is undergoing at least four years of restoration work,” says Josh. “Last year, 10 of our graduates were hired to work on the project, and an endless supply of craftspeople will be needed to continue the work.”

“The building is 178 years old, and we are very privileged to work on it. It’s amazing for our students and graduates to be trusted to restore it and be able to point to a window and say they are part of that history. The building should be still standing long after we are gone, with the right craftspeople to maintain it.”

In the summer of 2018, program graduates will begin restoring the windows, removing old paint and replacing rotted parts.

Once the building is restored, the next step will be to reinstall all the woodwork and windows.



Josh Silver, Learning Manager, and Trevor Young, Instructor at the Holland College Heritage Retrofit Carpentry program.

For more information about the Heritage Retrofit Carpentry program, visit www.hollandcollege.com/programs/heritage-retrofit-carpentry/. For the full interview, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search **Heritage Retrofit Carpentry**.

Potato farmers talk about their hiring needs

by Cody McInnis

Ever since their arrival from Ireland in 1820, the Mooney family has farmed the land of PEI. Today, this fifth-generation potato farm is owned and operated by brothers Andy, David and Merlin Mooney.

“We grew up in farming,” says **Andy Mooney**. Like most traditional farming families on the Island, Andy and his brothers took over the farm from their father. Each brother has a different role on the farm.

Andy maintains the grading warehouse, David maintains the important machinery, and Merlin works and supervises the fields. They may have their different roles, but Andy, David, and Merlin work together to keep their farm running.

“We work so hard to get a crop, and after the weather and other factors, it’s nice to see healthy yields.” For Andy, putting in the work and watching a crop grow is the most rewarding part of the job.

Arthur Mooney & Sons Ltd. is a recipient of the Soil Conservationist of the Year award from the PEI Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Their potatoes are shipped to restaurant chains such as Swiss Chalet and Mary Browns. Mooney’s potatoes are shipped from PEI to Newfoundland and to Ontario. Additionally, one to two loads a week are shipped to Puerto Rico.

Hiring needs

Mooney’s farm operates year round. Hiring usually depends on the season, and many of their part-time and seasonal workers return year after year. For the Mooneys, finding new hires with farming experience is getting more difficult, so farm experience is an asset.

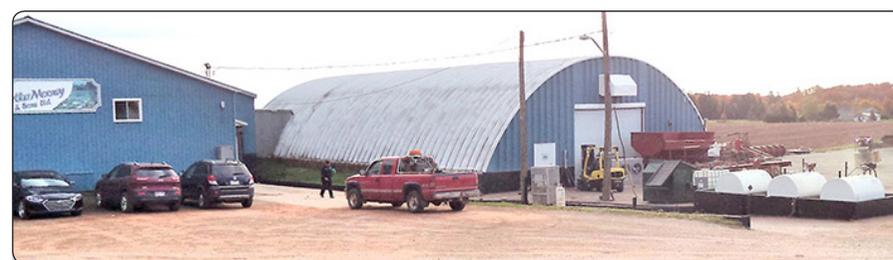
Some of the jobs they hire for are:

- General Labourers • Truck Drivers
- Potato Graders • Heavy Machine Operators (farming)

These farm owners believe in maintaining a professional and friendly work place. “When people get along, they work well together, and seasonal workers are more likely to return in the spring and fall.”

About the staff

There are 10 people who work year round. The harvest brings with it more hiring. In the fall, about 10 extra workers are called in to drive trucks to help move the harvest. By winter time, the number of workers decreases to about 13, and work picks up again during planting time in the spring.



Arthur Mooney & Sons Ltd., Souris, PEI.

Qualifications needed

Andy says it is important to have workers with a diverse skill set, especially in trades such as mechanics and welding.

The Mooneys value honesty and punctuality, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to put in longer hours (within reason). “We need people who like to work. If something breaks and we have some down time, it’s refreshing to see someone who picks up a broom and starts sweeping just to stay busy. We don’t like to let that type of person go.”

How to get your foot in the door

The best way to apply for work with Arthur Mooney & Sons Ltd. is to stop in with a resumé and speak with them in person.

For more information about agriculture career choices, visit **PEI Agriculture Sector Council** at www.peiagsc.ca

Building stronger businesses

by Cody McInnis

Successful Business Basics is a program sponsored by the Rural Action Centre, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, CBDC, Innovation PEI, and SkillsPEI.

The five three-hour evening sessions are held at the Rural Action Centres in Montague and Souris. The program teaches basic business skills such as planning and preparing a budget, controlling cash flow, tax responsibility, understanding financial statements, and beginner Excel.

The Rural Action Centre recommends the course as a good investment for entrepreneurs. The one-time registration fee of \$50 allows people to retake the program whenever it is held.

“The mandate of the Rural Action Centre and the CBDC is to give people the tools to be stronger business owners,” says **Martina MacDonald**, General Manager of the Rural Action Centre in Montague. “The SBB program was built in-house. Many people running their own business are not comfortable with issues like tax responsibilities, cash flow, and budgeting. We want people to understand their financial statement so they are in full control their company’s growth and destiny.”

“Over 90 companies in Kings County have taken part, and we see results. Entrepreneurship is more than being great at the business; they also have to be a great business manager.”

One such business owner, **Jim Conohan** of Along the Edge Juniper Works, highly recommends the course. “I didn’t know that much about business going in, but I knew a great deal coming out.” Jim says the SBB program helped him control his hiring needs. “I learned that sometimes it’s better to do it yourself, instead of hiring someone.”

Matt Doiron of East Coast Paddle Adventures started his company just a few summers ago. “The course gave me basic knowledge of things that I wasn’t educated in.” Matt says he learned a lot from the course, such as cash flow and spread sheets, and would recommend it to people just starting their businesses and as a refresher course to already-established entrepreneurs.

“Some people taking the course are new to business and some have been in business for five years,” says **Barbara Pinto**, Instructor of the SBB program and owner of Barb’s Bookkeeping.

Martina MacDonald, General Manager, Rural Action Centre, Montague.

“The course offers basic knowledge and the tools to understand the skills that help increase cash flow. When there is a lack of knowledge, a business struggles. Many businesses have flourished after taking the SBB course.”

To register for **Successful Business Basics**, contact the **Rural Action Centre**:
Montague: email chantale.ansems@cbdc.ca or call 902-838-4030 ext. 221
Souris: email lori.macgregor@cbdc.ca or call 902-687-4084.

Pre-pay \$50 to secure your seat.

For more information, visit www.ruralactioncentres.ca

