



KATIE PLANS A CONCERT

The first Northumberland Idol, Katie Chapman, is returning to Colborne this summer, and she's bringing her gift of song along with her.

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PHOTOS BY PETE FISHER Heidi Behan of Moore Orchards near Cobourg shows an apple damaged by hail in last Thursday's storm. Orchards across the area were hit hard by hail, rain, and high winds during the Canada Day storm. BELOW: A damaged strawberry Moore Orchard.

Area farms ravaged By ANDY JOHNSON AND PETE FISHER couple knew their farm, to chased from her parents to the chased from her parents to the chase of the c

A number of local farmers have seen their crops decimated as the result of a freakish hail and wind storm that ripped a path through the area last week, destroying crops and in some cases uprooting full-grown

Moore Orchards, east of Cobourg on County Road 2, experienced heavy losses. The farm, owned by Patrick and Heidi Behan, produces 20 varieties of apples, strawberries and raspberries. The 25--acre apple crop, and six acre strawberry crops were virtually wiped out. The owners estimate 99 per cent of the apples are damaged or destroyed, and 75 per cent of the strawberry crop has been wiped out. The damage to two acres of raspberry crop is still being assessed.

"We're still trying to salvage what we can," said Ms. Behan, who seemed shaken by the recent events as the assessed the damage on her property.

When the storm began on Thursday the

couple knew their farm, which they purchased from her parents three years ago, was in trouble. What she described as a "solid wall of wind," swept across the property accompanied by 15 minutes of hail which did most of the damage.

When the storm broke the couple went outside, and their suspicions were confirmed.

"The more you looked the sicker you felt," she said.

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