



2026 UPEI Inspiring Young Alumni Award

Dillon Wight (BSc 2015)

When Dillon arrived at UPEI in the fall of 2009 to study biology and play soccer, he was adding to his family's legacy of contributing to UPEI. His family's history with UPEI runs deep—as alumni, employees, volunteers, supporters, and honorary degree recipients. By the time Dillon completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 2015, he had cemented his own UPEI legacy—as the MVP of the men's soccer team in the 2011–2012 season and a member of the team that delivered a historic bronze medal on home turf at the 2014 CIS national soccer championships.

Dillon was known for working hard on the pitch and contributing in ways that didn't always show up on the score sheet. His commitment to helping the team win was so strong that he was one of three players to sit out a year to maintain eligibility for the 2014 season and the chance to play for a national championship at home.

His work ethic and winning mentality, combined with experience working in front of house roles, served him well when he co-founded The Lone Oak Brewing Company with Jared Murphy and Spencer Gallant in 2019.

The co-founders opened their first location in Borden-Carleton, which they saw as an opportunity to help introduce PEI to visitors arriving via the Confederation Bridge. Their goal was to bring some life back to Gateway Village and to showcase the local talent and local ingredients the Island has to offer.

But within weeks of their grand opening, Lone Oak, like many other businesses, was hit hard by the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, the three co-founders pivoted, innovated, and continued to invest in their business. Before long, they had grown Lone Oak Brewing into a multifaceted operation with five food and beverage locations serving Islanders and tourists across central PEI. In February of this year, Lone Oak Brewing was awarded the Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce's People's Choice for Community Impact Award.

They continue to innovate and pivot, all the while sticking with their original plan of showcasing Island talent, ingredients, and the hospitality that Canada's smallest province is known for. They also continue to stay connected with UPEI, hiring students and grads, supporting UPEI Athletics, and sharing their stories to help inspire future alumni.

In recognition of his inspirational community-building entrepreneurial success, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to present Dillon Wight, BSc 2015, with a 2026 Inspiring Young Alumni Award.