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A TASTE OF SPRING! Student chefs Maddi Sepke, Ariana Rahmaty and Jordyn Plamondon from Thomas Haney Secondary School served up a delicious feast for BC Agriculture in the Classroom supporters at its Taste of Spring fundraiser in Maple Ridge. All the BC product used for the dinner was generously donated by Take a Bite of BC suppliers who also support the program with deliveries throughout the school year. The fundraiser raised over \$14,000 for AITC that provides BC teachers with free resources and programs that promote the importance of agriculture to students around the province. AITC PHOTO

Flooding wallops southern Interior

Fraser Valley largely unscathed

by PETER MITHAM & TOM WALKER

GRAND FORKS – Unprecedented hot weather triggered a rapid melt of BC’s snowpack over the past month, causing havoc and uncertainty for growers from Grand Forks to Barnston Island.

A total of 27 regional districts, municipalities, communities and First Nations had issued evacuation alerts and orders at press time. Those orders prompted the evacuation of dairy cattle from Barnston Island in Surrey lest the local ferry service stop running, and washed out roads in the Okanagan, leaving wineries such as Pipe Dreams in Oliver cut off.

Growers in Grand Forks, the

See FLOOD on next page ↗

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Ottawa wires CAP cash

by PETER MITHAM

OTTAWA – The first of millions of dollars in funding under the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership has started flowing, following the signing of an agreement between Ottawa and BC on April 12.

The bilateral agreement opened the door to \$115 million worth of funding over five years, removing uncertainties that surrounded various initiatives when Growing Forward 2 ended March 31.

Billed by BC agriculture minister Lana Popham as helping BC farmers reach “new levels of success,” the funding will support enhanced programs for market development, agri-technology and on-farm and processor food safety, as well as continuing climate adaptation.

This includes cash for the 15-year-old Environmental Farm Plan program, as well as a total of \$14 million in federal and provincial cash through the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program. BC

Agricultural Research & Development Corp. (ARDCorp), a wholly owned subsidiary of the BC Agriculture Council, administers EFP funding while the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC oversees the innovation monies.

Projects benefitting from the agri-innovation program include those that further the strategic priorities sketched out in recent federal budgets, including applied science,

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