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Pat Jasper makes his way through trees burned in the wildfire that raced through the Cariboo-Chilcotin in 2017. A wet summer and the open canopy created by the wildfire has resulted in an abundance of grass for range cattle this year. SARAH ZUBERBÜHLER PHOTO

ALC cracks down

Farming comes first


by PETER MITHAM

NANOOSE BAY—Rusted Rake Farm on Vancouver Island is weighing its options after the Agricultural Land Commission told it to focus on farming before it seeks approval for its on-farm restaurant and brewery.

A decision dated September 5 told the farm the popular 100-seat restaurant it has been operating in Nanoose Bay was not in compliance with regulations governing activities in the Agricultural Land Reserve, and that its plans for a brewery needed to be put on hold until it achieved a level of grain

See FARM on next page ↗

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Bill will rein in activists

by MARGARET EVANS

AGASSIZ—Julaine Treur has had it with threats from animal activists. She and her husband run Creekside Dairy in Agassiz where they produce certified organic milk.

They own 72 acres and farm about 220 acres with the addition of rental land in order to provide their cattle with sufficient forage. They share their farming experiences with followers on Facebook but, earlier this spring, they were horrifically

targeted by animal activists with threats of verbal and physical violence. While Treur has become used to seeing attacks on her page, threatening activity stepped up in March.

The threats made on her Facebook page scared her. One activist wanted to report her to BC child protection officers for exposing her children to animal abuse, while another accused her of being a “sadistic psychopath rapist murderer.” Treur, however, controlled the


assaults by blocking access to her Facebook page. She also filed a police report.

“I’ve blocked over 300 people and hidden more rude, threatening and demeaning comments than I can count,” she says.

The family milks 100 Brown Swiss cows and the farm has been certified organic since 2015. The milk is shipped to the Meadowfresh processing plant in Port Coquitlam and marketed under the Happy Planet label.

See ONLINE on next page ↗

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