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CPR on ALR track

Rail projects
not subject to
ALC approval

by PETER MITHAM

PITT MEADOWS – Pitt Meadows could lose more than 100 acres of protected farmland if CP Rail wins approval to expand its operations in the community. Plans for the CP Logistics Park [cplogisticspark.ca] were unveiled in December following consultations with the municipality, Katzie First Nation and Vancouver Fraser Port Authority last summer.

See CP on next page ↗




Sea of greens

Cali Olleck and son Atlin Carson stand in a sea of kale and other hardy greens growing in the family's Salmo greenhouse at Salix & Sedge, a market garden that has extended its season by tapping into the natural gas line running across its property. Read more in Tom Walker's story on page 31.

PHOTO SALIX & SEDGE

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Farm properties rising

by PETER MITHAM


VICTORIA – There are more farm properties worth more money in BC this year than there were two years ago. The tax roll unveiled January 1 by the BC Assessment Authority includes 52,073 farm properties with an assessed value of \$1.29 billion as of the valuation date of July 1, 2020. This is up from approximately 51,000 farm properties worth \$1.25 billion two years ago. Of course, many properties

holding farm status command a higher price at sale as the buyers value them not as farm properties but as development sites. However, the regulations governing the valuation of farms result in a lower value for the purposes of the roll. To obtain farm status, and the tax advantages that accompany it, the property must be actively farmed and meet certain revenue thresholds (farm properties that have yet to enter production may also qualify).

However, the most expensive properties with farm class status in the province are not necessarily farmed exclusively. While the value of the portion holding farm class status is set by provincial regulation, BC Assessment notes, "the high-value farm properties typically include a large portion outside of farm class." The most expensive farm property on the current tax roll is 47 acres of the

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