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Reprieve
for
water
users

Growers seek
guarantees

PETER MITHAM

GIBSONS – Sunshine Coast farms are counting their blessings following a decision by the Sunshine Coast Regional District to exempt them from restrictions on outdoor water use through 2024.

“It is good news to have next summer exempt from water restrictions,” said Raquel Kolof of Hough Heritage Farm in Gibsons, one of a number of local producers that advocated for the change. “I still can’t understand why soil-based farmers have to fight for equitable access to water.”

The restrictions facing

Water restrictions

Rest easy

Various cover crops are helping to rejuvenate blueberry fields and Christine Schmalz, executive director with Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust, is working with farmers to make the right choices while helping with costs. See story on page 31. RONDA PAYNE

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BCTF packinghouses on the block

PETER MITHAM

KELOWNA – Consolidation of BC Tree Fruits Co-op operations in Oliver is moving ahead with the sale of its Lake Country packinghouse at the end of August and the listing of its Kelowna facility.

Both facilities saw their packing lines mothballed last year and the assets slated for sale under a plan announced last summer to consolidate packing operations in Oliver.

“This was a planned sale as part of the cooperative’s consolidation plan that began in August of 2022,” says Laurel Van Dam, vice-president, grower relations and corporate affairs, of the Lake Country sale.

The sale, to an undisclosed buyer, closed at the end of August for \$15.8 million.

The list price for the Kelowna facility, which sits on 18.4 acres adjacent to Hwy 97 near Kelowna International Airport, is \$39 million. Built in 1982, the property totals 148,888 square feet. It features offices as well as controlled atmosphere and cold storage space.

Any sale is conditional on the co-op being able to lease back portions of the cold storage space for up to two years.

HM Commercial, which has a longstanding relationship with the co-op, is handling the sale.

The listing broker, Jeff Hudson, said demand has been strong given the limited inventory of industrial space in the region.

HM previously sold the co-op’s Water Street offices in

BCTF deals

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