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Big bouquet

Thistle Farm in Creston has found a niche with hardneck garlic, known for its big cloves and big flavours – and Anise Cantrell, daughter of owners Kip and Michele Cantrell, knows the worth of a big bouquet of the bulbs. Read their story on page 27. KATIE ROSEBOOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Core issues remain

Fruit growers reject apple commission

TOM WALKER

KELOWNA – The next move is up to BC apple growers, the province says, following a July vote rejecting the creation of a marketing commission.

“The solutions are going to have to come from industry at this point,” says BC agriculture minister Lana Popham, whose government spent millions helping industry chart a path forward. “They will have to put forward what they believe is in their best interest and let us know how we can support that. But

Ag minister disappointed

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Chinese tariffs dampen canola hopes

PETER MITHAM

FORT ST. JOHN – Good weather has BC grain growers anticipating a good canola crop, but prices face downward pressure from Chinese tariffs.

Canola is currently trading for approximately \$2 a bushel less than in June, driven by China introducing a 75.8% duty on canola seed from Canada on August 14, a move that doubled down on the 100% tariffs imposed on Canadian canola oil and meal earlier this year.

The tariffs, which also affect peas and pork, are a response to Canada’s decision to impose 100% duties on electric vehicles from China last October, as well as 25% duties on steel and aluminum.

“We’ve seen countries use agricultural commodities as a bargaining chip when it comes to tariffs and trade. It definitely has a negative effect on farmers,” says BC Grain Producers Association president Malcolm Odermatt, who farms near Baldonnel. “That’s going to decrease our

profit.”

BC is a minor player when it comes to canola, accounting for just 1% of total domestic production, but is one of the highest-yielding production areas. This makes canola an important crop for Peace grain producers, and a lucrative complement to barley, oats, wheat and peas.

Ottawa has pledged “to ensure fair market access for the canola industry,” according to an August 15

Growers focused

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