

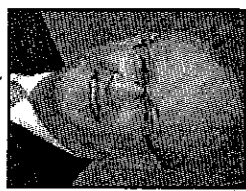
Agriculture sector 'growing beyond the ordinary' Comox Valley among eight Canadian hot spots

Colleen Dene
Record Staff

The Comox Valley's agriculture sector is "growing beyond the ordinary" and this week, a national magazine recognized it for that success.

Country Guide, a leading agricultural magazine in Canada has named the Comox Valley as one of the eight hottest agricultural hot spots in the country — the only one named in

British Columbia.



STAN HAGEN

Button magazine's editor Tom Burton.

"We started this issue of *Country Guide* some months ago by challenging ourselves to come up with a handful of farmers and a short list of places across Canada that are really, as we said, 'making agriculture happen,'" said the

With the availability of fertile agricultural land, coupled with incredible climate and demand for locally-produced products, the area offers an uncanny opportunity for investors looking to produce a myriad of diverse products.

MILA Stan Hagen

In the article on the Comox Valley, titled *Farmers Wanted*, Burton writes that the area has lots of capable land, connections

with consumers, as well as the support of the community and government, and is open for farmers able to market a quality product.

An introductory paragraph even dubs the Comox Valley the Canadian version of Provence, France.

It's not something that was surprising to local MLA Stan Hagen, recently-appointed Minister of Agriculture and Lands for the province.

"With the availability of fertile agricultural land, coupled with incredible climate and demand for locally-produced products,

the area offers an uncanny opportunity for investors looking to produce a myriad of diverse products," he said in a press release.

For the Comox Valley's economic development office, it shows the success so far of their plan to promote the Valley's agriculture sector.

"To be named a top agricultural destination in Canada is a testament to this effort and tries to the incredible momentum in this sector," said John Watson, executive director of CVEIDS.
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