

For Immediate Release

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**Comox Valley Named One of Top 8
Canadian Communities for Agriculture**

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COMOX VALLEY – Country Guide, Canada’s leading agricultural magazine, has named the Comox Valley one of Canada’s top 8 agricultural hot spots in their June/July edition.

“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,’” wrote Tom Button, Editor of Country Guide magazine.

The Guidepost list was distilled to eight communities, with the Comox Valley as the only British Columbia area to receive the honours, in addition to communities in Alberta, Saskatoon, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia.

Citing the Valley’s economic development marketing strategies in attracting agriinvestment, increasing agricultural capacity and demand for locally produced products, coupled with the presence of highly progressive and successful producers, the recognition of the regions agricultural focus is significant.

The new Minister of Agriculture and Lands and Comox Valley MLA Stan Hagen was not surprised by the designation, “The Comox Valley is a thriving agricultural region. 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.”

Comox Valley Economic Development has been working on behalf of the region in driving interest and investment in the sector since 2005. “This nod from Country Guide is a tremendous endorsement of the teamwork between ourselves, the Farmers Market and Institute, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and our agricultural community,” said John Watson, Executive Director, Comox Valley Economic Development, “To be named as a top agricultural destination in Canada is testament to this effort and typifies the incredible momentum in this sector.”

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Country Guide Backgrounder:

Country Guide remains Canada's best known and most trusted farm publication. A mainstay of Canadian agriculture for over a hundred years, Country Guide continues to evolve offering producers innovative, compelling content on Business, Production and Ag Management strategies.

Published 10 times per year in both western and eastern editions, Country Guide West provides an additional focus on the Prairies, with news on developing trends in agriculture and regular columns on machinery, marketing, weather and community. Country Guide West's website www.country-guide.ca provides daily agriculture news, event listings and a daily newsletter.

Country Guide is published by Farm Business Communications with offices in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

Other FBC Publications Include:

- Manitoba Co-operator – www.manitobacooperator.ca
- Alberta Farmer Express – www.albertafarmexpress.ca
- Grainews – www.grainews.ca
- Canadian Cattlemen – www.canadiancattlemen.ca
- Canola Guide
- Wheat, Oats and Barley,
- Seed Manitoba
- Yield Manitoba
- Wheel and Deal
- Big Dealer
- Product Guide