Decision puts dent in business strategy

Commission finds proposed development initiative lacking in sufficient detail

We continue to consider our options, including those we have been reluctant to pursue until now.

STEWART ALSGARD

ALC decision limits potential uses for the lands, which makes the task of community growth and diversification that much harder.

Paul said it was too early to comment on what PRSC’s plans for the land will be now.

Simons, who represents the Powell River-Sunshine Coast riding, did not support the city’s application.

“The ALC is required by law to protect agricultural land and they did that with this decision,” he said. “Now it’s time to get on with other proposals for economic development and try to engage as much of the community as possible in the plan.”

ALERT (Agricultural Land Emergency Response Team) launched a vigorous campaign against the city’s application. “We’re pleased that the ALC recognized the need to preserve agricultural land and look forward to an open planning process with full participation of all sectors of the Powell River community,” said Denise Reinhardt, an ALERT member.

Helena Bird, who owns Hatch-a-Bird Farm in Wildwood along with her husband Peter, had said if the proposal went through, it would be the end of their organic farm, which borders PRSC property. “It’s a win for agriculture,” she said. “Maybe we can work with PRSC towards something more beneficial to agriculture.”

The ALC’s full decision can be found on its website, www.alc.gov.bc.ca.