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P R S C L I M I T E D

Lot sells

*Owner plans
to operate farm
as day centre*

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PRSC Limited Partnership has sold a 30-acre property in Cranberry for the development of a small-scale farm. The lot, located between Cranberry fire hall and the power line on Timberlane Avenue, is in the agricultural land reserve.

The property has been purchased by Dr. Carol Battaglio, who holds a PhD in psychology with extensive experience in mental health. Battaglio, now retired, is credentialed as a "master gardener."

Battaglio plans to operate the farm as a day centre similar to Providence Farm in Duncan, BC, concentrating on three major crops: fruit, fibre and berries. "Our goal is to grow small fruits and berries, raise alpaca to supply local demand for high quality fibre and develop perennials for the nursery market. Our hope is to also provide pre-employment coaching, employment opportunities and community service for persons with developmental disabilities, mental health disabilities and seniors," said Battaglio.

The farm will not be a treatment centre but a place that provides jobs for under-employed persons with disabilities to transition from dependency toward gainful employment.

Roy Francis, PRSC president, said the company is pleased that it was able to find a buyer interested in using the property for agricultural purposes. "The board of PRSC Limited Partnership believes the deal it has made is good for Powell River and the surrounding region. This sale helps to further expand farming locally and proves that there is interest in investing in the region's agriculture sector," he said.