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Blueberry crop 'total devastation'

But one local farmer has found new ways to make money

by Veronica Lawrence
Staff Reporter

They're plump, juicy and available in stores, but this year's crop of blueberries is the worst in three decades, according to a veteran Richmond farmer. "This year was total devastation," said Bob Fisher of Fisher's Blueberry Farm on No. 6 Road. "We've had low yields before but not like this. This was the worst one." Fisher has been in the business for 30 years and has seen it all, but what in April was something he hadn't: temperatures on his farm reached as low as -6 C in the late spring. These conditions killed off what would have been his first pick, and



See Page 3 Dave Sandhu is making the best of a late blueberry harvest. Mark Patrick photo

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Keith Liedtke
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BEIJING 08 Richmond at the Summer Olympics

Aberdeen to host celebration on 08.08.08

The chairman of Richmond's Spirit of B.C. committee is anxiously awaiting next Friday. So's the entire team.

It's the launch of the Olympic Summer Games in Beijing, China (Aug. 8 to 24), and being 08.08.08 and the significance of the number eight—good luck and good fortune in the Chinese culture—the Spirit of B.C. Committee along with Aberdeen Centre is hosting a special ceremony including a big screen viewing of the opening ceremonies.

The Games' opening ceremonies are planned to actually begin at exactly eight seconds after 8 a.m. on the eighth day of the eighth month of the eighth year of the millennium.

"This celebration (at Aberdeen mall) is going to range from a tai chi demonstration to an appearance by the mascots who are going to get up on stage and dance," says Gavsie. Gavsie says the idea behind the Spirit of B.C. is to engage the community around the positive spirit of the coming 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

"As Richmond is a host city, the site of the long track speed skating events at the new oval, we felt by holding an opening event for Beijing, we could build excitement for 2010," he explains.

The fun at Aberdeen begins with a free pancake breakfast hosted by McDonald's at 5 a.m. Other festivities, including an Olympic-themed fashion show presented by The Bay, begin at 6:30 a.m. and continue until 10 a.m. You'll also have a chance to meet past and present Richmond Olympians and Paralympians.



Mark Patrick photo

Richmond's Spirit of B.C. committee is counting down the days to the Olympics and next Friday's opening celebrations party at Aberdeen Centre. Among those on hand at Thursday's announcement declaring next Friday Olympic Day in Richmond were Ed Gavsie, Coun. Bill McNulty, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Thomas Fung, Coun. Cynthia Chen and Coun. Linda Barnes.