

# In the *vineyard*



**Grape Growers**  
*of* ONTARIO

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- 2024 Sustainability Certification
- Governance Update

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January 2024





## Update from your Board Chair



As we look ahead to a new growing season, your Board of Directors and GGO Staff are looking forward to a successful and productive year. For further information on any items shared in our newsletters or weekly updates, please call the Board Office at 905-688-0990 or email [info@grapegrowersofontario.com](mailto:info@grapegrowersofontario.com).

The SCAP Growing Future Opportunities program for replanting vines is currently going through a final review with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and we expect to have an announcement in the next couple of weeks on application information. We appreciate everyone's patience as the Ministry staff undertakes the review process.

Following a process that began in 2016, the Farm Products Marketing Commission brought in regulation changes in June of 2023 to update the "realigned district boundaries." These changes will be in effect and reflected at the 2024 Grape Growers of Ontario annual meeting. Please note the changes are outlined on the next page and we will provide reminders over the next couple of months.

### **76th Annual General Meeting**

The 2024 Grape Growers of Ontario's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3rd at Club Roma in St. Catharines. Registration opens at 6:30 pm. Additional details on the AGM and district meetings will be provided in the next newsletter and through upcoming eblasts.

### **2024 Sustainability Certification**

Growers and wineries who wish to take part in sustainability certification this year can apply through the eGrape portal via [www.egrape.ca](http://www.egrape.ca). The intake will remain open until March 31, 2024, and participants will have until July 31, 2024 to complete their audits.

*Certified Sustainable*



# Governance Update

Following a process that began in 2016, the Farm Products Marketing Commission brought in regulation changes in June of 2023 to update the “realigned district boundaries.” [Ontario Regulation 415 \(Grapes for Processing\)](#). These changes will be in effect and reflected at the 2024 Grape Growers of Ontario annual meeting.

The realigned district boundaries are as follows:

## Realigned District Boundaries

- District 1 is composed of the geographic area of the lower-tier municipalities of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls in the geographic area of Niagara.
- District 2, composed of the geographic areas of Dufferin, Halton, Hamilton, Peel, and Wellington, and the geographic area of the lower-tier municipalities of St. Catharines, Fort Erie, Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Port Colborne, Thorold, Wainfleet, Welland, and West Lincoln in the geographic area of Niagara.
- District 3, composed of the geographic areas of Brant, Bruce, Chatham-Kent, Essex, Elgin, Grey, Haldimand, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Norfolk, Oxford, Perth, and Waterloo.
- District 4 is composed of the geographic area of Prince Edward and all other geographic areas not included in paragraphs 1 to 3.
- Districts 3 and 4 each have two producers from their Districts.

**Growers whose District is changing due to the re-alignment will be notified directly of their new district through an email or letter.**

## Growers' Committee

Beginning in 2024, the Growers' Committee will be increased from 21 to 23 members. The April AGM will elect a full slate of Growers' Committee members.

## Board of Directors

The 10-member Board of Directors will be elected by the 23-member Growers' Committee at the first meeting following the Annual General Meeting and before April 30th, 2024, as follows:

1. Four Directors from District 1
2. Three Directors from District 2
3. One Director from District 3
4. One Director from District 4
5. One Director from either District 1,2, 3 or 4 (at large)

# Governance Update Continued

Board directors shall hold office for a three-year term with the “staggered terms” being established in 2024

1. For District 1,
  - The two board directors with the highest number of votes will be elected for a three-year term,
  - The board director with the third highest number of votes will be elected for a two-year term and
  - The board director with the fourth highest number of votes will be elected for a one-year term.
2. For District 2,
  - The board director with the highest number of votes will be elected for a three-year term,
  - The board director with the second highest number of votes will be elected for a two-year term and
  - The board director with the third highest number of votes will be elected for a one-year term.
3. For District 3, the board director elected shall hold office for a two-year term.
4. For District 4, the board director elected shall hold office for a one-year term.
5. The board director at large under paragraph 5 of subsection 4 (2) will be elected for a three year term.

In 2025 and subsequent years, the election of the board directors shall be staggered to replace board directors whose term of office expires.



# Industry Updates

## **Registration open for agricultural media training: March 26 or April 3, 2024**

Farm & Food Care will offer day-long agricultural media training sessions on Tuesday, March 26 or April 3, 2024 in Guelph.

This day-long, interactive session will give the participants the understanding of the media, the tools needed to prepare to face the media and an interview process that will give each person real life interview experience using cameras and interviewers.

The cost is \$400 per person (FFCO member rate) or \$500 per person (non-member rate) and includes coffee breaks, lunch and workshop materials.

The program is useful for board members and staff at commodity associations who speak regularly about issues related to their sectors or any primary producer who is asked to give farm tours or speak on behalf of agriculture at municipal council meetings or other events.

To register, email [info@farmfoodcare.org](mailto:info@farmfoodcare.org) and indicate which date you would prefer.

## **Have you implemented a Wetland, Grassland, or Riparian Area project since April 1, 2023?**

The Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) has launched a new program called the Nature Smart Climate Readiness Program (Nature Smart). Nature Smart helps support nature-based solutions to store and capture carbon, mitigate the impacts of climate change, improve water quality, and contribute to biodiversity on farms.

The current Nature Smart intake opened January 22, 2024, and supports retroactive costs to back to April 1, 2023, through to March 14, 2024.

Program information can be found on the OSCIA website: [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

Detailed eligibility requirements and PDF application forms can be found in the Program Guide: [programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org)

Any questions can be directed to [naturesmart@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:naturesmart@ontariosoilcrop.org).



## **Spotted Lanternfly**

**Spot it? Snap it, catch it and report it!**

To learn more about what to look for or what to do if you find a spotted lanternfly check out the resource links below.

CFIA: [canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly](http://canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly)

OMAFRA: [ontario.ca/page/spotted-lanternfly](http://ontario.ca/page/spotted-lanternfly)



# Industry Updates



## CCOVI Lecture Series

The Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) Lecture Series has returned at Brock University campus for the 2024 edition. The free lectures, which are open to the public, take place weekly on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. in room H313 of the Mackenzie Chown Complex at Brock University. The lectures can also be [viewed live online](#). This year marks the 17th anniversary of the series, with twelve speakers from across CCOVI's network of researchers, scientists, fellows and professional affiliates participating. For full details, visit [brocku.ca](http://brocku.ca).

- **Feb. 7:** Wendy McFadden-Smith, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs — Spot the Lanternfly.
- **Feb. 14:** Kevin Ker, CCOVI Research Associate, Brock University, Grape IPM — The Nova Scotia Grape and Wine Industry: After the Polar Vortex February 2023.
- **Feb. 28:** Ron Jackson, CCOVI Researcher — Wine and Health: A Reasoned View.
- **March 6:** George van der Merwe, Associate Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Guelph — Characterizing and Developing Yeasts for the Fermentation Industry.
- **March 13:** Sudarsana Poojari, CCOVI Principal Scientist, Grapevine Virology — The Importance of Clean Plant Program for Grapevines.
- **March 20:** George Soleas, Chief Executive Officer of the LCBO — Uncorking Success: The Business of Wine in Ontario.
- **March 27:** Malkie Spodek, CCOVI Scientist in Entomology, Brock University — Laboratory trials of entomopathogens as a biocontrol treatment for Grape Mealybug.
- **April 3:** Jennifer Kelly, CCOVI Scientist in Oenology, Brock University — 100% Ontario: Consumer Liking, Interest, and Willingness to Pay for Vidal and Marquette Table Wines.
- **April 10:** Jim Willwerth, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Brock University CCOVI Researcher — Understanding Vitis Vinifera Cold Hardiness in Ontario After a Decade.

## Environmental Farm Plan Workshops

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a voluntary assessment that will help improve the sustainability of your farm business. Through the EFP process you will highlight your farm's environmental strengths, identify areas of concern, and set realistic action plans with timelines to improve environmental conditions.

If you have not previously participated in an EFP workshop, or if it has been a long time, you should attend a two-day, in-person workshop, which offers the opportunity to learn from knowledgeable OSCIA staff to help assess your soils, walk you through the process of completing an EFP, and learn about cost-share funding opportunities. Workshops also offer networking opportunities with fellow farmers.

Don't miss the opportunity to reduce environmental impacts on your farm. Register today for an upcoming in-person EFP workshop. There are many upcoming opportunities available across the province for you to participate.

Workshops are open to new and established producers. Farm families and management teams are encouraged to attend together. Attendance at both Day 1 and Day 2 is required. There is no cost to attend but registration is required.

For more information and to register, visit: [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org) Or email: [s-cap@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:s-cap@ontariosoilcrop.org)

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**BASF**  
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**BASF**  
We create chemistry



\*Actual technology may not be exactly as shown.

**Experience a new level of control with our unique binding action.**

Talk about technology you'll get attached to quickly. Cevya® fungicide uses exclusive binding activity to control biotypes that may be resistant to other fungicides, including Group 3-tolerant strains. This hook-like action delivers fast and continuous control of key diseases in blueberries, grapes, apples, pears, stone fruits, potatoes and vegetables. Visit [agsolutions.ca/horticulture](https://agsolutions.ca/horticulture) to find out what it can do for you.



**Always read and follow label directions.**

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# Industry Updates

## 2023-24 Bud Hardiness and Survivability Testing



The Grape Growers of Ontario have contracted Ryan Brewster of Brewster Consulting Services to sample and assess bud hardiness levels and bud survivability throughout the 2023-24 winter season for Niagara and Lake Erie North Shore regions.

Results of the bud hardiness testing and bud survivability assessments are available on [www.egraper.ca](http://www.egraper.ca) under the 'Overview' menu. New bud hardiness results are posted every other week. Bud survivability results will be posted once during the winter and once again in the spring.

When growers log into the eGrape database with their username and password, they can select the results that pertain directly to their sub-appellation of choice. Should you require your username and password for eGrape, please contact the GGO.

It is to be noted that the hardiness ratings and survivability assessments are site specific estimates only and the information provided is for general guidance. Any decisions made within your vineyard should be based on your own information and site conditions.

## Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative Program

The Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative (ATII) helps Ontario agri-food businesses expand production capacity and boost energy efficiency. Funding is available for machinery, technology and equipment that is innovative or advances productivity or reduces greenhouse gas emissions through energy cost savings.

The ATII program has three project streams:

**Stream 1** – Agri-Tech Innovation (total Eligible Costs per Project less than \$100,000), up to 50 per cent (50%) of the total Eligible Costs to a maximum \$49,999 in cost-share funding for commercially available equipment and technology to support growth and productivity.

**Stream 2** – Agri-Tech Innovation (total Eligible Costs per Project \$100,000 and greater), up to 35 per cent (35%) of total Eligible Costs to a maximum of \$100,000 in cost-share funding for commercially available equipment and technology to support growth and productivity.

**Stream 3** – Agri-Tech Energy Costs Savings, up to 35 per cent (35%) of total Eligible Costs to a maximum of \$100,000 in cost-share funding for energy (greenhouse gas) cost saving equipment and technology. This stream is for processors only.

Guidelines are now available for download off the AAC website [www.adaptcouncil.org/atii](http://www.adaptcouncil.org/atii)

## Improve Your Composting



### Aerated Static Pile Composting will:

- Eliminates offensive odours, parasites, and pathogens,
- Reduces water runoff
- Improve soil quality, recycles soil nutrients, balances pH levels
- Hosts beneficial microbes, and retains soil moisture
- Compost piles do not require frequent turning
- Provides an easy and cost effective method for your waste management

For more information contact:

## Aquatic Aeration Solutions

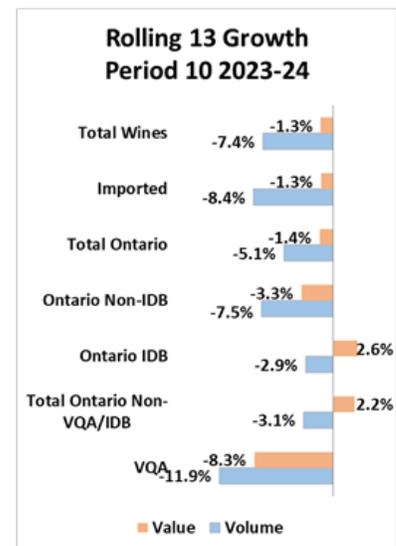
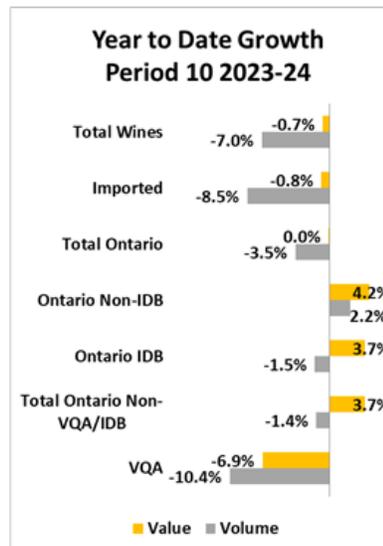
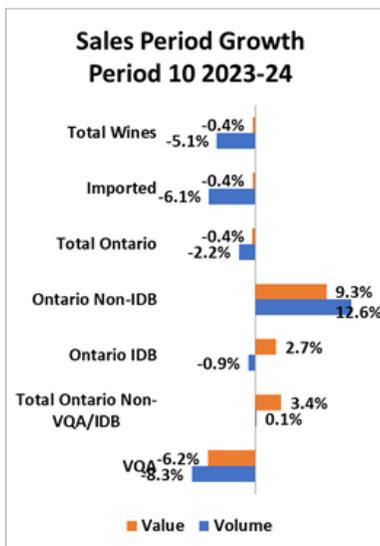
# Wine Sales Update



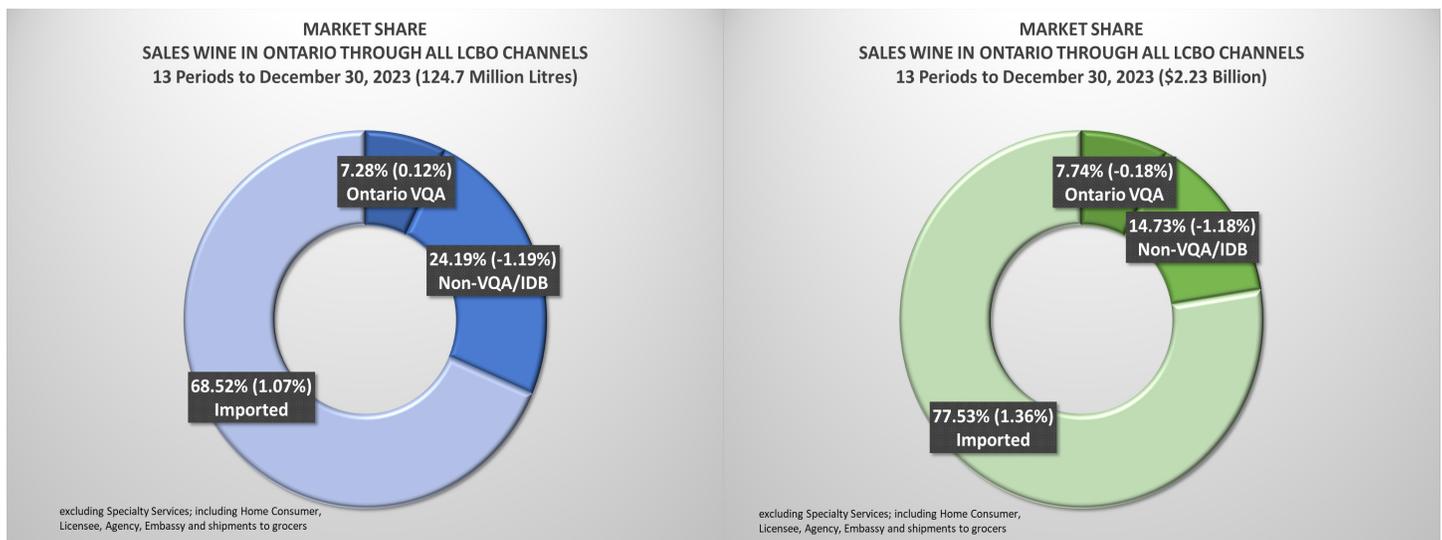
All sales statistics that follow are for the 13 Periods ending December 30, 2023, unless noted and reflect sales through ALL LCBO channels excluding Specialty Services; including Home Consumer, Licensee, Agency, Embassy and shipments to Grocers. All data exclude flavoured wines and ciders.

## Highlights:

- VQA wine sales overall are -11.9% for rolling 13 periods (litres)
  - VQA wine sales in the LCBO stores are declining (-10.2% litres)
  - VQA wine sales in grocery are declining (-18.6% litres)
- Ontario Non-VQA/IDB is declining (-3.1%)
  - Ontario non-IDB (100% Ontario) is declining (-7.5%)
  - Ontario IDB is down (-2.9%)



## Market Share (LCBO, Vintages, Grocery)





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# Classifieds

For Sale

## **Semi-automatic Pressure Sensitive Labeling Machine**

MEB Labeler Model ADS/1 can apply either a single body label or a front and back from the same roll.

Winery closing. \$1,000 (CDN). Contact Brian Moreau at 289-383-5601 or [brian.moreau@bell.net](mailto:brian.moreau@bell.net) for more info, photos or copy of manual/specifications.

## **Plastic Storage Sheets for Wine in Bottle**

Plastic storage sheets for finished wines available. Two types for sale. Burgundy/Bordeaux bottles format which holds 38 bottles per layer and Riesling bottle format which holds 36 per layer. These sheets are re-usable. \$5 plus HST per sheet. Contact Alex Baines for more information at [abaines@hiddenbench.com](mailto:abaines@hiddenbench.com).

## **New (Unused) 2023, 225 Bordeaux Shape Oak Barrels**

We have red or white new (unused) 2023 wine barrels. The barrels have our winery logo on them. This can be removed or left on barrels. Email [chris@mooncurser.com](mailto:chris@mooncurser.com) for more information.

## **WINE MAKING PRODUCTS**

1 case of 750ml bottles; 2 large demijons; 1 CellarClassic Wine Kit makes 23L 100% varietal juice with tubing; 1 Buono Vino Wine Filter Mini Jet; 1 bottle drying rack and 1 bottle cork press \$250.00 for everything. Email [karen@carriageandcoachhouse.ca](mailto:karen@carriageandcoachhouse.ca) for more information.

## **One used 1,000 Variable Capacity Tank with all Accessories - \$850**

High quality Criveller-made Stainless Steel Tank. Winery closing. \$850 (CDN) for tank and all accessories. Contact Brian Moreau at 289-383-5601 or [brian.moreau@bell.net](mailto:brian.moreau@bell.net) for more info or photos.

## **Two 5,000 litre capacity Jacketed Double Wall/Insulated Tanks**

Premium quality jacketed Brite tanks crafted from 304 stainless steel. \$12,500 (CDN) each + HST Other equipment available. Winery closing. Contact Greg Downey at 416-816-4189 or [gregdowney@hotmail.com](mailto:gregdowney@hotmail.com) for more info or photos.

## **Winery closing - extensive equipment inventory for sale**

Winery in New Brunswick closing. Extensive inventory available or turn-key winery. All equipment meticulously cared for. Prefer to sell as a complete package. Email [Mattblack1@zoho.com](mailto:Mattblack1@zoho.com) for more information.

# Classifieds

## For Sale

### Tanks

Selling 4 x 2,000 Liter variable lid non jacketed stainless-steel tanks. Please email for inquiry [fabian@ferox.ca](mailto:fabian@ferox.ca)

### Mulcher Machine

Mulcher machine 1.50 cm A mulcher with pickup patented by TMC Cancela. Compact and maneuverable. Please contact Israel 9059880366

### Used Trailer sprayer machine

Used Trailer sprayer machine 3000 litres Deucenfort V2. Reinforced fiberglass tank, High pressure pump 155 litres, 3 full rows. Please contact Israel 9059880366

### Demi-Johns for Sale! Elgin County pick-up (or share delivery cost for 10x or more).

At least a dozen Demi-Johns are available for sale! \$40 per DJ, includes a basket. For pick-up in Elgin County (Sparta) but will ship for multiples (minimum 10). Contact Tiivo at [tiivo@quaiduvin.com](mailto:tiivo@quaiduvin.com).

## Wanted

### Hydraulic press or ice wine press

Looking for used upright hydraulic press or ice wine press. Email [Hayfieldmcmillan@gmail.com](mailto:Hayfieldmcmillan@gmail.com)

### Wanted used pre pruner

Looking for a used pre pruner. Email [quinton@jenkinsvineyards.com](mailto:quinton@jenkinsvineyards.com)

### Winemaker

Macedo Winery is a family-owned and operated winery located in the heart of Toronto. We are looking for a full-time winemaker to join our team. The winemaker will contribute to all aspects of the winemaking process and will help oversee and participate in all cellar operations from grape to bottle. Full time 40 hours. For more information email [daisy@macedowinery.ca](mailto:daisy@macedowinery.ca)

## For Lease

### Vineyard for Lease

14 acres of Vidal for lease in Vineland. Call or email Krishna 647-982-4568 [krishna.komandla@gmail.com](mailto:krishna.komandla@gmail.com)

To place classified ads in the newsletter and online, visit [grapegrowersofontario.com](http://grapegrowersofontario.com), or contact the Board Office at [info@grapegrowersofontario.com](mailto:info@grapegrowersofontario.com) or 905-688-0990 ext 224



## Foundation in Viticulture (Online)

**WHEN?** February 26 to April 12 (7 weeks)

**WHO?** Winery and vineyard owners; winemakers and production staff; seasonal or full time vineyard employees; winery non production staff; or wine enthusiasts who are seeking a formal foundation in grape growing.

Just 25 spots available to ensure the best possible learning experience.

**MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR**— Ryan Brewster, owner of Brewster Consulting, with over 20 years of experience consulting for the grape growing industry.

**WHAT?** CCOVI's Foundation in Viticulture provides:

- An overview of viticulture and its practical application in the vineyard.
- Study the intersecting elements of site, grapevine and grower, and how it impacts grape quality.
- Asynchronous delivery; work at your own pace.
- Weekly live (online) sessions with your instructor to review content, address questions and the opportunity to network with peers in the program from across Canada!



**CONTACT** for more info: [ccovi@brocku.ca](mailto:ccovi@brocku.ca)



Grape Growers  
of ONTARIO

1634 South Service Road  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2R 6P9

Tel: (905) 688-0990

Fax: (905) 688-3211

[grapegrowersofontario.com](http://grapegrowersofontario.com)  
[localgrapes.ca](http://localgrapes.ca)

## GGO Services

- Grape Pricing
- eGrape
- Chemical Registration
- Crop Insurance Requirements
- Business Risk Management and Disaster Risk Programming
- Agricultural Policy
- Framework Bridge Funding
- Offshore Farm Labour Program
- Farm Labour Legislation
- Grape Standards
- Grape Inspection
- Grape Research
- Grape Industry Promotion
- Government Lobbying
- Land Use Issues
- Nutrient Management
- Market Research
- Liaise with Industry and Other Farm Organizations

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