



IN THE VINEYARD

Dedicated to the Success of Ontario's Grape Growers

Newsletter Volume 8—September 2011

2011 Grape King



Ed Hughes—2011 Grape King

The Grape Growers of Ontario congratulate Ed Hughes and his family of Beamsville on his selection as the 2011 Grape King.

Ed currently farms over 20-acres of VQA premium quality vinifera grapes and sells exclusively to Malivoire Wine Co. He is also involved in amateur winemaking with a number of wine clubs in Southern Ontario.

Ed is a graduate of Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute and is a 2010 winner of the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence for his innovative work in the vineyard with bio-controls, high density planting and cover crops.

The Grape Growers of Ontario thank all the 2011-12 Grape King nominees and look forward to working with Ed as the ambassador for Ontario's grape and wine industry.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Grape King.....	1
OVIP Update.....	2
2011 Grower Payments.....	2
Agricorp Reminder.....	3
Top 30 Under 30.....	4
Business Citizen Award.....	4
Ontario Young Farmers Forum.....	5
Industry Updates.....	5
SDRM Application Info.....	6
In Memoriam.....	6
Premier's Agri-Food Award.....	6
2011 Harvest Around the World....	6
GGO Events.....	7
Classified.....	8

OVIP UPDATE

An important update from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Grape Growers of Ontario regarding the Ontario Vineyard Improvement Program (OVIP) can be found on Page 2.

SAVE THE DATE

2011 CHEQUE DAY

**MONDAY
NOVEMBER 14,
2011**



Ontario Vineyard Improvement Plan (OVIP)

OVIP funding is still available!

The first OVIP intake began on August 2, 2011 and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has advised that 108 applications have been received to date. Once an application has been approved, OMAFRA will send an Offer to Proceed to the successful applicant. It is expected that approved applicants will be advised within the next few weeks.

If you have not yet applied for funding for Intake One you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible to ensure you have access to the remaining funding. It is important to note that any money not expended in this intake will not be available in the second intake. The current deadline for applications for Intake One is October 21, 2011. Expenses that meet the eligibility criteria and were incurred after April 1, 2011 will be considered as part of the program.

For more information and to obtain an application visit the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs website www.ontario.ca/improvingvineyards or visit www.grapegrowersofontario.com or call Nick Lemieux at 905-688-0990 at the Grape Growers of Ontario if you need further assistance.

IMPORTANT—2011 GROWER PAYMENTS

- All grapes harvested on or before November 6, 2011 will be paid to the grower on cheque day (November 14, 2011). All cheques **MUST** be at the GGO board office by 4:30 pm on Friday, November 11, 2011.
- All grapes harvested after November 6, 2011 will be paid to the grower immediately following receipt of the purchase summary from the GGO. All cheques are to be made payable to the grower and delivered to the GGO board office for pick up by the grower.

All grape growers are invited to pick-up their grape cheques on:

When: Monday, November 14, 2011
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: Grape Growers of Ontario Board Office
1634 South Service Rd, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P9

A reception will be held during cheque pick-up day, where you may take the opportunity to have a snack, coffee and chat with our staff.

NOTE: Those growers who do not pick-up their cheques by 2:00 pm will have their cheques put into the mail immediately following the scheduled pick-up time. If you wish to have your cheques held at the office after 2:00 pm, please call the office at 905-688-0990 by noon and we will hold your cheques for you.

Please bring all current contact information (ex. Email address, fax number, etc.) as we will be verifying and updating our records.

Reminders on Yield Reporting and Weigh Bills

Weigh Bills (WB) are beginning to roll into Vitis. As of Monday, September 26, 2011, we have received over 500 weigh bills. The majority of these have been successfully uploaded to the appropriate Vitis account and yields have been allocated and recorded to the appropriate vineyard blocks. Problems occur when block and vineyard ID's entered into the auto uploading WB system don't match the account. Successful attachment of yield information to your account is important for prompt processing of production insurance grape claims as well as a valuable historical record for both you and the verification processes of other programs such as AgriStability.

To ensure your account is complete and increase our success rate, please consider the following steps:

- Please make sure that you are using the right set of vineyard and block ID's when delivering your grapes
- Make sure that you are using either Agricorp assigned vineyard and block ID's in Vitis or the Alternate set of ID's. The system does not allow using both types of ID's in same WB
- If you are using alternate ID's and they need to be entered in Vitis, then:
 - ◊ If you have production insurance contact your Production Insurance Adjuster to enter alternate ID's in your Vitis account
 - ◊ If you don't have production insurance contact the GGO staff to ensure your alternate vineyard and block ID information is complete in Vitis
- Fill out the delivery slip with the correct vineyard and block information before arriving to the winery
- Ensure that your winery is entering the data correctly

Also, to improve accuracy, make sure that the winery is entering "rejected" grapes (if rejected at the winery) into the system. The weigh bill must be completed with an estimated or actual weight, at least one reason for rejection, and the original planned end use i.e. wine, sparkling, etc. If your grapes have been rejected in the field, a letter is required from the winery to document the reason for the rejection and the adjuster needs to estimate the yield and confirm the peril with a field inspection. The data can then be entered into Vitis by the adjuster.

The status of your WB's can be viewed in two ways in Vitis. When you are on the Grapes (GGO #) level on the navigation tree on the left, you can select on the view task box, either the "Weigh Bill Status in Vitis" or the "Weigh Bills in Setgo." The "Weigh Bill Status in Vitis" lists the WB's that have been approved in the GGO database and loaded into Vitis. The "Weigh Bills in Setgo" option provides a link directly to the Setgo database and lists WB's that have been currently entered by the winery upon delivery. If there are any variety or weight errors, contact the GGO staff directly.



Contact Agricorp
Phone: 1-888-247-4999
7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday
Fax: 519-826-4118
contact@agricorp.com
www.agricorp.com



Nominations for the 2012 Top 30 Under 30 are now open!

Visit www.theohi.ca to nominate online or to download the nomination form.

The Top 30 Under 30 is an annual recognition program that celebrates the hospitality and food service industry's top 30 young professionals in all sectors. This high profile recognition program celebrates and recognizes future generations of hospitality leaders who are and will make a difference!



CCOVI instructor receives business citizen recognition



A wine writer and longtime Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) instructor who teaches wine appreciation courses at Brock University has been presented with the RBC Business Citizen of the Year award.

Christopher Waters received the award for his exceptional service to Canada's wine industry, especially in Niagara.

"It's an incredible honour to be singled out by the Niagara grape and wine community," says Waters. "Especially since it was the local winemakers and grape growers who were my inspiration for starting out as a wine writer."

The RBC Ontario Awards event, which is part of the kick off to the annual Niagara Wine Festival, honours business citizens chosen from a list of candidates presented by members of Ontario's grape and wine industry.

"Chris has been an incredible supporter and cheerleader of Niagara's growing wine industry for more than 10 years," says Debbie Inglis, director, CCOVI. "He is a valued member of our CCOVI team and we are so proud of all his accomplishments."

Waters is co-founder and editor of *Vines*, a national consumer magazine aimed at Canadians who buy, drink and enjoy wine and are passionate about the subject. For the past 13 years, he has worked as a professional wine writer and educator.

His wine column, "Waters & Wine," is syndicated through Sun Media Corporation, Canada's largest newspaper publisher. It appears weekly in such papers as the *Toronto Sun*, *Calgary Sun* and *London Free Press*, as well as community papers throughout Ontario, including the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, *Niagara Falls Review* and *St. Catharines Standard* – where it originated in 2000.

In addition, Waters is head judge of the InterVin International Wine Awards and on staff at Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute, where he develops and teaches wine appreciation courses and instructs programs for the UK-based Wine Spirits Education Trust.

He received the VQA Promoters' Award for education in March 2011.



Christopher Walters

"Farm to Fork"

Sunday November 20th and Monday November 21st, 2011

Doubletree by Hilton, Toronto Airport



AT THIS YEAR'S FORUM YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT...

- Local Food and its importance in today's world
- Learn how to make the media a partner in regards to rural issues
- Breakout Sessions with successful, awarding winning young farmers
- Bring your ideas and participate in panel discussions
- Learn about how the CYFF is working for you

For more information, go to www.oyff.ca, call 519-780-5326, or for *fastest response* e-mail info@oyff.ca

Industry Updates

Following are highlights from the OFVGA board meeting held August 25, 2011. The purpose of this brief is to keep you up to date on the issues that the OFVGA is working on, as well as projects and initiatives the organization is involved in.

Labour

Worker safety: Labour section chair Ken Forth and Crop Protection section chair Charles Stevens attended a meeting with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) worker safety division for an update on safe handling of crop protection materials by employees.

Workplace Safety and Prevention Service: David Lambert and Norm Charbonneau will represent the OFVGA on the WSPS advisory committee. WSPS was created through an amalgamation of the Farm Safety Association, the Industrial Accident Prevention Association and the Ontario Service Safety Alliance, and is now housed within the Ministry of Labour. A portion of premiums paid to the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) was previously directed to the Farm Safety Association to fund prevention awareness programs. Concern was expressed that prevention incentive programs may be eliminated and replaced with enforcement initiatives.

Crop protection

GROU program: All OFVGA member organizations are asked to submit their crop protection product nominations for the GROU program to Charles Stevens or Craig Hunter. This fall, OFVGA will submit its annual list of products that farmers would like to see on the GROU list of products approved for import for the next growing season. Some nominations may not be eligible due to patent protection and other parameters brought forward by CropLife Canada. The GROU product list can contain a maximum of 30 products.

Product registrations: The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is looking at changing its long-standing policy of first submission in, first approval out regarding product approvals. PMRA would like the ability to move submissions ahead in their approval queue so that products that address a pest issue that has been identified as a priority by farmers can be dealt with in priority sequence.

Property

Property section chair David Lambert represents OFVGA on a committee working to develop a national sustainable water strategy for horticulture. This initiative is taking place as part of the national Horticulture Value Chain Roundtable. The committee will next meet in September to continue its work on a draft outline for the strategy.

Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC)

CHC has been involved for some time in discussions on how seasonal agricultural workers could legally immigrate to Canada. The horticulture industry is changing with farmers needing more management time to run increasingly complex operations, especially ones that involve expansion projects or value-adding activities. Many seasonal agricultural workers have years of training and are highly skilled employees that are essential to farm businesses. One suggested option is to have an agricultural farm manager position included on the eligible sponsor list for Ontario, which would allow long-time seasonal agricultural workers to become involved in farming operations on a more permanent basis. OFVGA's CHC representative, Murray Porteous, recently met with Haldimand-Norfolk Brant MPP Toby Barrett to discuss the issue.

Innovation and technology information session

A special technology and innovation session will be offered at the Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Niagara Falls in February. The session will feature speakers and presentations on technological innovations across the sector, and will be coordinated by Vineland Research and Innovation Centre in conjunction with the OFVGA.

SELF-DIRECTED RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Applications for the Self-Directed
Risk Management Program have
been mailed by Agricorp.

Please see the insert in this
newsletter or visit

www.grapegrowersofontario.com

for more information.



In Memoriam

The Grape Growers of Ontario extend our deepest sympathies to the families of Gail Nicholls and Sadie Walters.

Gail Nicholls passed away at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 in her 67th year. Gail was married to Ted Nicholls who is a long-time grape grower and former employee of Cadbury's.

Sadie Walters passed away at her home in Beamsville on Friday, September 2, 2011, at age 60. Sadie was married to Buck and together they ran Walters Estates which has produced quality Vidal, Niagara and Concord grape juices as well as Cherry juice for over three generations.

2011 Harvest Around the World

New Zealand - 2011 was a record harvest at 328,000 tonnes. Wine sales are ahead of expectations in 2010-11 with a 12 month total volume of 221 million litres (11% increase over the prior year). Wine production from the 2011 vintage is estimated at 235 million litres, requiring an increase of 7% in sales to keep supply and demand in balance. There has been a significant increase in low priced bulk wine sales. Grape prices were the lowest they have been in a decade. According to the 2011 New Zealand Wine Annual report, "Current pricing levels raise real questions about whether growers are being given the right incentives for quality production. ... From the grower side, it indicates that fewer contracts and lower prices are incentivising a lower cost, higher volume production model."

Australia - Growing conditions were cooler than normal, with prolonged rain and then humidity, resulting in a lot of rejected damaged fruit. Despite the growing conditions, the harvest increased 1% over 2010 to 1.62 million tonnes. (Winemakers' Federation of Australia Vintage Report June 2011). Wine Grape Growers Australia warns that the industry is still capable of being in over-supply, and it estimates that 1.1 to 1.2 million tonnes is needed for profitable wine production, and the remainder is assumed to be used for concentrate and low cost bulk wine.

California - Harvest is expected to be higher than 2010, but a third year of unfavourable weather (hard rain and a freeze in northern California in spring 2011) means a shortage of some varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Pinot Noir, in particular. Prices are expected to stabilize and increase in some varieties over 2010. ...Los Angeles Times Sept 21, 2011.

Chile - Cool growing season in most of the major wine regions resulted in below average yields in 2011. This follows the earthquake in February 2010 that destroyed 125 million litres of wine and then a small crop in 2010. Growers are reporting labour shortages due to the booming Chilean economy. Grape and wine prices are expected to increase. ... Wine Spectator 2011 Southern Hemisphere Harvest Report

Argentina - As with the other wine regions, growing conditions were a challenge with early frost damage in some vineyards, followed by a cool growing season, then above average rainfall. Grape quality is good, but yields are lower than normal. ...Wine Spectator 2011 Southern Hemisphere Harvest Report

PREMIER'S AWARD FOR AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION EXCELLENCE The Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence program is accepting applications now until November 14, 2011. The program recognizes innovators who contribute to the success of Ontario's agri-food sector.

Eligible applicants could receive a Premier's Award of \$75,000, a Minister's Award of \$50,000, one of 45 provincial awards of \$5,000 each, and new this year, one of three Leaders in Innovation Awards of \$25,000 each.

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2011.

For more information, contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or visit www.ontario.ca/agrifoodinnovation

Grape Growers of Ontario Events



The Grape Growers of Ontario Celebrity Luncheon took place on Wednesday, September 14 at Club Roma in St. Catharines. Over three hundred guests joined us to hear award-winning Canadian national affairs writer, political commentator and author, Chantal Hebert.

(Left to right: Carolyn Hughes, 2011 Grape King Ed Hughes, Moira Hughes, Chantal Hebert, Margaret Hughes and Eric Hughes)



Ernie Reimer and Howard Staff at the Celebrity Luncheon



Ed Hughes being introduced as the 2011 Grape King



Debbie Inglis, Ed Hughes, Bill George and Debbie Zimmerman at the 2011 Grape King Installation



Allison Watson, Debbie Inglis, Tucker Inglis, Kevin Watson, Katelyn George & Bill George at the 2011 Mayors Grape Stomp



For Sale	Contact	Telephone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2100 litre GB Sprayer with new aluminum schroud. With new pump • 500 litre Rittenhouse weed sprayer • Table Top Bottle Labeller • 40 x 40 plate & frame wine filter • 650cc John Deer ATV- 4 years old, great condition • Narrow 6 ft vineyard Discs for narrow rows. • 2007 New Holland TN95FA Tractor with ALO forks attachment and rotating head attachment 	Lillian	905-380-4577
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCOUNTED GLASS FOR SALE: 770 cases of (6 x 1.5L) Flint Stelvin/BVS glass for sale. Will sell for rock-bottom price. 	Dave	289-687-2142
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratus is selling a spectrophotometer to measure numerous wine constituents. It is a Thermo Spectronic 20+ -340 to 950 nm wave length from 2004. It is in very good condition ready to use and coming with the original manual. \$500 OBO 	JL	905 468 1806
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratus is parting ways from 6 red barrel fermenters- The barrels are 225 L Bordeaux Export with a door at the end to add red grapes directly in the barrels to macerate right into a small barrel with maximum wood and oxygen contact. Price \$150 per barrel with the door kit 	JL	905 468 1806
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award winning 50-acre established Vineyard & Winery located along the Tourist Wine Route in Essex County. Highly productive and fully equipped to take over. This valuable property can be purchased as a whole or, possibly within a syndicate purchase arrangement. 	Tracey	519-425-2000

100% Grown by Grape Growers of Ontario



Bottle labels and bin stickers are available by calling the Board office at 905-688-0990 or emailing

[**mjcombe@grapegrowersofontario.com**](mailto:mjcombe@grapegrowersofontario.com)

To place an ad, please contact
Gillian McWilliams at 905-688-0990 x224 or
gillian@grapegrowersofontario.com

Grapes for Sale?
Please call Nick Lemieux at
905-688-0990 x228

GGO Services

- Grape Pricing & Promotion
- Government Lobbying
- Nutrient Management
- Grape Research
- Government Policies & Regulations
- Crop Insurance Requirements
- Grape Inspection
- Farm Labour Legislation & Program
- Business Risk Management

Edible horticulture producers can now participate in new SDRM September 28, 2011

Ontario producers of edible horticulture can now receive help mitigating farm risk by participating in the new self-directed risk management (SDRM) plan, which is part of the new Risk Management Program.

Under the plan, participants can open an SDRM account and deposit funds, which are matched by a government contribution. These funds can be used to cover a reduction in income, an investment in risk management tools, or other expenses related to a participant's farm operation.

For 2011, participants are not required to make a deposit, but must complete and return a deposit request. To begin withdrawing funds this year, participants are to submit the necessary forms by October 31.

Ontario producers of edible horticulture who filed a T1163 with the Canada Revenue Agency or a Statement A with Agricorp for 2010 will receive a participant package in the mail. Producers who filed a T2042 can contact Agricorp to inquire about the program.

To learn more, producers can visit agricorp.com.

About Agricorp

As an agency of the Government of Ontario, Agricorp works with partners to contribute to a vibrant and sustainable agriculture industry. Serving more than 47,000 producers province-wide, Agricorp delivers programs that help producers manage risk and remain financially secure. The agency was established in 1997 by the provincial government under the authority of the *AgriCorp Act, 1996*.

Agricorp delivers a variety of programs and payments on behalf of the federal and provincial governments, including AgriStability, Farm Business Registration, Production Insurance and the Risk Management Program. A full list of programs is available at <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/Programs/Pages/Default.aspx>.

For more information, contact:

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