



# Grape Growers of ONTARIO

## Newsletter - Volume 4 - April 2009

...Dedicated to the Success of Ontario's Grape Growers

### 2009 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on April 8, 2009 at Club Roma in St. Catharines. Approximately 300 members, staff and guests attended. Chair, Bill George Jr., and CEO, Debbie Zimmerman, presented an overview of the year. Other speakers included:

- Debbie Inglisi, CCOVI - *Update on CCOVI*
- Matthias Oppenlaender - *Overview of the Ontario Grape and Wine Research Incorporated*
- John Armstrong - *Overview of Structural Change Meetings*



### Award of Merit:

The Award of Merit for 2009 was presented to the Honorable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, MPP- Prince Edward County-Hastings.

This award is given by the Grape Growers of Ontario in recognition for outstanding contributions made by individuals to the grape industry in Ontario. Doug Hernder announced the 2009 recipient. Ms. Dombrowsky will accept the award at a later date. The award to Ms. Dombrowsky was presented in recognition of her support and dedication to the grape growing industry.

### Board of Directors (2009/10)

#### Chair:

- Bill George Jr.

#### Vice Chair:

- Matthias Oppenlaender

#### Directors:

- Trevor Falk
- Steve Pohorly
- Steve Fernick
- Bill Schenck
- Jim Morrison
- Kevin Watson

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### GGO Services

- Grape Research, Pricing & Promotion
- Grape Inspection
- Government & Industry Relations
- Government Lobbying
- Government Policies & Regulations
- Farm Labour Legislation & Program
- Chemical Registration
- Nutrient Management
- Crop Insurance Requirements
- KCMS Code-A-Phone
- Business Risk Management (CAIS & SDRM)
- Weather INnovations Incorporated (WIN)

## Growers' Committee 2009-2010

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After nominations and voting were completed on April 8, 2009, a new Growers' Committee was formed. Here is the new Growers' Committee:

	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE – District 1 (8)</b>		
Trevor Falk	905-651-0503	trevor@lakeviewharvesters.com
Don Forrer	905-658-7473	-
David Lambert	905-658-1876	grapes@mergetel.com
Matthias Oppenlaender	905-651-0658	mattcon@vaxxine.com
Steve Pohorly	905-329-7646	stevepohorly@hotmail.com
Lou Puglisi	905-651-9373	lucpuglisi@hotmail.com
Albrecht Seeger	905-651-7400	kaseeger@hotmail.com
Kevin Watson	905-468-9833	kevin@watsons.ca
<b>CITY OF ST. CATHARINES – District 2 (3)</b>		
Bart Huisman	905-932-9406	huisman@mergetel.com
Bill Schenck	905-684-5478	bschenck@cogeco.ca
Jon Wiley	905-688-4821	eriganvalley@talkwireless.ca
<b>TOWN OF LINCOLN – District 3 (6)</b>		
Bill George Jr.	905-984-0994	wgeorge@talkwireless.ca
Glen Koop	905-988-8055	kgkoop@wirelesspower.ca
Jim Morrison	905-562-4866	grapelan@vaxxine.com
Martin Schuele	905-328-0217	schuel@talkwireless.ca
Roger Vail	905-658-6387	rogervail@telus.blackberry.net
Tom Wiley	905-658-2530	conkyleahy@hotmail.com
<b>TOWN OF GRIMSBY, TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN AND CITY OF HAMILTON – District 4a (2)</b>		
Steve Fernick	905-537-4711	-
Harold Ferrier	905-643-2555	-
<b>SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO – District 4b (1)</b>		
George Smith	519-809-5867	smith.wilson@southkent.net
<b>PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY – District 4c (1)</b>		
Debra Marshall	613-476-4430	debra.marshall@kos.net

## Media Day 2009

The focus for this year's Media Day was "Owning Our Ontario Market". The event was held on April 3, 2009 at The Hilton Garden Inn, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Local politicians, media, growers, education and industry representatives attended the event.

Lou Puglisi, 2008/2009 Grape King, began the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Chair Bill George Jr. and CEO Debbie Zimmerman provided an overview of past, current and future initiatives that help to ensure the industry's continued success.

### *Grape Statistics - 2008*

2008 proved to be a challenging year for Ontario grape growers with warm spring temperatures giving way to rain and a cool fall. Despite the growing conditions, the harvest of 2008 was one of Ontario's largest crops with a total of 60,780 tonnes sold, generating a farm gate value of \$79.5 million.

### *Grape Pricing - 2008*

After the end of a 3-year pricing agreement as per the short crop Memorandum of Understanding, unsuccessful negotiations occurred in July and October with the final ruling decided at Arbitration in the favour of the GGO.



### *2008 Harvest Program*

The Grape Growers of Ontario appreciate the Ontario Government's Grape & Wine Industry Stabilization

and Restructuring Strategy/Harvest Program giving the growers \$4 million in late October to stabilize the industry, while the GGO works with the Wine Council of Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, and the Wine Secretariat to complete a sustainability strategy for the sector.



### *Owning Our Ontario Market:*

The Grape Growers of Ontario's approach to owning our Ontario market is the belief that wine regulations and industry strategies should aim at selling the Ontario crop at sustainable prices. The Grape Growers of Ontario has a strong interest in ensuring the long-term success of all players in the grape and wine industry.

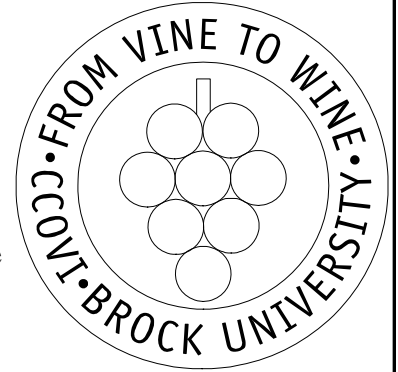
The Ontario industry needs wider market access through:

- Increases to VQA sales.
- A wider retail distribution of Ontario wines.
- More VQA promotion by the LCBO.

To translate our position into wine sales, Ontario should own its market. Ontario wines should represent at least 51% of Ontario wine sales in Ontario as a start. But despite an industry strategy of 50% by 2008, our wines made up just 43% of market share last year.

The **2009 Cuvée Awards** were announced in Niagara Falls at the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary Cuvée Gala celebration on Friday, February 27, 2009. This year, 41 winemakers tasted over 190 wines from 52 wineries to determine the winners. In addition, during the judging process the judges were asked to indicate if wines merited a Cuvée GOLD designation, demonstrating international standards for excellence in quality.

Although we have many graduates in positions as Assistant Winemakers and Vineyard Managers in wineries throughout Ontario, Canada and abroad, CCOVI is proud to announce the following winemakers who were awarded a total of nine **GOLD** Awards including ...



### **WHITE WINE CATEGORIES:**

#### **BEST CHARDONNAY:**

2007 Signature Series Chardonnay Sur Lie – Peller Estates Winery

**Lawrence Buhler, Winemaker** (Class of 2003)

#### **BEST LIMITED EDITION WHITE WINE:**

2007 Viognier – Creekside Estate Winery

**Rob Power, Winemaker** (Class of 2000)

### **RED WINE CATEGORIES:**

#### **BEST RED WINE:**

2006 Wine Makers Small Lot Cabernet Franc – Thirty Bench Wine Makers

**Natalie Reynolds, Winemaker** (Class of 2001)

#### **BEST LIMITED EDITION RED WINE:**

2005 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon – Creekside Estate Winery

**Rob Power, Winemaker** (Class of 2000)

#### **BEST GENERAL LIST RED WINE:**

2007 Cabernet Shiraz – Dan Akyroyd Winery

**Tom Green, Vice-President, Winery Operations** (Class of 2001) &

**Jason Roller, Winemaker** (Class of 2004)

#### **BEST MERLOT:**

2006 Merlot – Harvest Estates Winery

**Lydia Tomek, Winemaker** (Class of 2004)

#### **BEST SYRAH/SHIRAZ:**

2006 Broken Press Shiraz – Creekside Estate Winery

**Rob Power, Winemaker** (Class of 2000)

#### **BEST CABERNET FRANC:**

2006 Wine Makers Small Lot Cabernet Franc – Thirty Bench Wine Makers

**Natalie Reynolds, Winemaker** (Class of 2001)

#### **BEST RED ASSEMBLAGE:**

2006 Shiraz Cabernet – Wayne Gretzky Estate Winery

**Rob Power, Winemaker** (Class of 2000)

## Up Coming Events:

### VINTNERS CLASSIC - GOLF TOURNAMENT

*In Support of The St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation*

The golf tournament will be held on Friday, May 29th, 2009 at the Grand Niagara Resort. For more information please contact Michelle Dubois at 289-868-9624.

### RETIREMENT LIFE SHOW 2009

The show will take place on September 19th and 20th, 2009 at Bingeman's Conference Center in Kitchener and will focus on trying to put pre-retirement, retirement and after retirement into a LIFE situation, rather than just exotic traveling arrangements and selling items most people cannot afford. They will be showcasing Financial Planners, Estate Planners, a Fashion Show tailored for the 50 plus crowd, cooking ideas and many other day to day products and services on display. For more information, please contact

[www.retirementlifeshow.ca](http://www.retirementlifeshow.ca)

## Orchard and Vineyard Transition Program - 2008 Summary

The Canada-Ontario Orchards and Vineyards Transition Program is a joint federal and provincial program to help grape, apple, and tender fruit producers adapt to industry pressures and changing markets. The program will run for three years, distributing \$17.96 M. Under the program, eligible participants will receive \$1,618.74 per eligible acre towards their orchard and/or vineyard stock removal and disposal costs, up to a maximum of \$800,000 over the lifetime of the program. A producer may submit an application form at any time before September 30, 2010. Applications can be picked up at the Grape Growers of Ontario's board office or by accessing the web at [www.agricorp.com](http://www.agricorp.com).

Total Dollars Paid Within Program: **\$5,579,311** (includes grapes, tender fruit and apples)

Program Review as of December 30, 2008 for Grapes:

Total Applications Received: **220**

Total Application Acres: **1,827**

Verified Acres: **1,468** (Acres GPS'd by Agricorp adjusters and verified as eligible for OVTP)

Total Applications Paid: **88**

Total Paid Acres: **616** (Removal is complete and producer has been paid)

## VQA Ontario Updates its Website...

[www.vqaontario.com](http://www.vqaontario.com)

In March 2009, VQA Ontario rolled out their new and improved website to the public. The new website offers information on appellations, wines, and wineries. For more information, please go to: [www.vqaontario.com](http://www.vqaontario.com).

VQA Ontario is a provincial regulatory authority that administers Ontario's wine appellation system. Its primary functions are wine testing, audits, inspections, compliance. It also acts as a resource for independent information about Ontario's appellations and wines of origin.



## GGO Thanks Board Directors for their Years of Service

Bill George Jr., Chair and members of the grape growing community would like to thank Bart and Doug for their years of service to the membership. They have enriched the lives and legacy of the grape growing community for generations to come.

The Grape Growers of Ontario would like to thank them for their years of service to the agricultural industry, and the knowledge they imparted to build a better grape growing sector.



*Bart Huisman with his wife Karen at the 2009 Cuvee Awards.*

Bart Huisman was a member of the Board of Directors for 8 years and is currently entering into his 19th year as a member of the Growers' Committee.

Doug Hernder was a member of the Growers' Committee for 7 years and the Board of Directors for 3 years, serving his last year as Vice Chair.



*Doug Hernder with his wife Laura and Bill George Jr. at the 2008 Icewine Gala.*

### - Mr. Harry Neufeld -

*It is with sadness that the Grape Growers of Ontario announces the passing of Harry Neufeld on Saturday, March 14, 2009. Our condolences are extended to the Neufeld family.*

### Get Your Grape Grower Sign!

**Find enclosed an application form.**

**If you have any questions email Julie at [jdixon@grapegrowersofontario.com](mailto:jdixon@grapegrowersofontario.com)**



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Disclaimer: This is a paid advertisement and as such do not reflect the views, support and/or opinions of the Grape Growers of Ontario.

## - F.A.R.M.S -

### Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services

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When completing an application for the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), please ensure the following has been completed:

1. **Seasonal housing inspection** for previous year MUST BE ON FILE at F.A.R.M.S., if not, the order may be approved, however, it will not be released to the foreign country.
2. When filling out your '**Employer Information Booklet**' please note the following:

**Application completion – EVERY BOX ON APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT.**

Provided below are common boxes left empty:

- (a) **Box # 1 CRA Business Number** – enter your unique nine digit number assigned to your business by Canada Revenue Agency.
- (b) **Box # 42 Total # of workers requested for this job title** – enter the number of workers only that are being requested on this order.
- (c) **Box # 43 Source Country** – enter the country selection from which the workers are being requested. **DO NOT** place an order for workers coming from two different countries. **ALWAYS** one order per country is required.
- (d) **Box # 49 Wages** – enter the wage rate taken from the list of 'Agriculture Wage Rates' list sent to you with your annual year end report from F.A.R.M.S..
- (e) **Box # 50 HR plans** – enter details of your recruitment activities for Canadians (you will receive a call if left blank).
- (f) **Box # 52 Number of named/unnamed workers** – enter start and end dates for the workers being requested **AND SUBMIT** the F.A.R.M.S. year end report indicating only the names requested or another legible list.
- (g) **Signature of Employer** – **ONLY** the individual(s) on record at F.A.R.M.S. as the designated signing officer(s) can sign the application.
- (h) **FAX / MAIL ONE COPY ONLY OF THE APPLICATION TO F.A.R.M.S.**

If you are uncertain with any part of the application,  
please contact F.A.R.M.S at the Toll free line **(1-866-271-0862)**.

<b>For Sale</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
• 2 Dump wagons, side dump, independent control for raising and dumping.	After 6:00 pm	(905) 563-4657
• Cabotta tractor, farm equipment (farm sold). Best offer.	Peter	(905) 562-6295
• Grape truck, single axle tractor trailer, holds 4 x 4 ton bins. Best offer.	Chris	(905) 984-9288
• Niko air pruner. Best offer.	David	(905) 468-7027
• Mature 5 acres vineyard on County Rd 18, Cherry Valley, ON; 2 acres Baco Noir, 1-1/2 acres Gewurztraminer, 1-1/2 acres Chardonnay. Priced for quick sale.	Bruce	(203) 576-6808
• Vidal Icewine juice, 2009/10 harvest, 14,000 litres, 26-27 Brix. • Wilmes press, 4 ton capacity, 3 phase power, with or without 3 phase converter. • Trellis wood posts, wires, anchors.	Jim	(519) 676-5512
• 75 GMC 650 Steel Deck, runs well. Best offer.	David	(905) 468-7027
• Galvanized sheet metal "V" Stakes, price depends on length.	Dennis	(519) 599-2299
• John Deere Manure Spreader # 34.	Don	(905) 682-5648
• Cabernet Franc Icewine juice, 1,500 litres, 37 Brix, non VQA	Abdul	(905) 397-7568
• Turbo-mist sprayer, subsoiler, cultivator, disc, new grape hoe, hedger, fertilizer spreader, gator, new mower shredder, enviromist weed sprayer. Good condition.	Malcolm	(905) 651-6514
• Rittenhouse 300 gallon sprayer, 2 speed fan, IDS 1000 pump, manual controls, \$1,000.	John	(905) 687-6579
• Sprayer with new pump, very good condition. • Used wires.	Tony	(905) 643-2423
• Small weigh scale (0-250 lbs) in working condition.	Wayne	(905) 562-6083
<b>WANTED</b>		
• 4 ton grape bins.	Chris	(905) 984-9288
• Full-time Vineyard Manager position in Ontario.	Harold	vinodepago@gmail.com
• Niagara College Winery & Viticulture Tech Students looking for Practicum (intern) positions for fall 2009 & summer jobs.	Barbara	(905) 641-2252 Ext. 4471
• Farmers who need someone for grape tying.	Brian	(905) 701-9727
<b>Grapes for Sale?</b> Please call Julie Dixon at <b>905-688-0990 x228</b>	To place an ad, please contact Sylvana Lagrotteria at 905-688-0990 x231 or slagrotteria@grapeandtenderfruitontario.com	