



Grape Growers of ONTARIO

Newsletter - Volume 4 - April/May 2010

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

2010 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on April 7, 2010 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:



- Ian Nichol (WIN) - *Presented their new website—vineandtreefruitinnovations.com.*
- Matthias Oppenlaender - *Presented an overview of the Ontario Grape and Wine Research Incorporated Projects.*
- Dorin Andres and Thomas Bachelder - *Presented an overview of the International Cool Climate Chardonnay Celebration which is being planned for July 2011.*

Award of Merit:

The Award of Merit for 2010 was presented to Hugh Fraser, Agricultural Engineer from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. This award is given by the Grape Growers of Ontario in recognition for outstanding contributions made by individuals to the grape industry in Ontario.



Matthias Oppenlaender announced the 2010 recipient. The award to Mr. Fraser was presented in recognition of his dedication and support of the grape and wine industry demonstrated through the research and implementation of bird control devices, frost protection equipment and wind machines.

Board of Directors (2010/11)

Chair:

- Bill George Jr. (3-yr term)

Vice Chair:

- Matthias Oppenlaender (3-yr term)

Directors:

- Trevor Falk (2-yr term)
- Steve Pohorly (1-yr term)
- Kevin Watson (3-yr term)
- Bill Schenck (3-yr term)
- Jim Morrison (1-yr term)
- Steve Fernick (2-yr term)
- Debra Marshall (1-yr term)
- Southwestern ON - Vacant

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- 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 2010-2011

PHONE**EMAIL****TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE – District 1 (8)**

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
Albrecht Seeger	905-651-7400	kaseeger@hotmail.com
Kevin Watson	905-651-4437	kevin@watsons.ca
Erwin Wiens	905-262-6261	edwiens@rogers.com

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES – District 2 (3)

Bill Schenck	289-213-0180	bschenck@cogeco.ca
George Wiley	905-682-0877	ghwiley@yahoo.com
Terry Yungblut	905-892-3326	-

TOWN OF LINCOLN – District 3 (6)

Bill George Jr.	905-984-0994	wgeorge@talkwireless.ca
Glen Koop	905-988-8055	kgkoop@wirelessworks.ca
Jim Morrison	905-933-8578	grapelan@vaxxine.com
Martin Schuele	905-328-0217	schuele@talkwireless.com
Roger Vail	905-658-6387	vailmont@xplornet.com
Tom Wiley	905-658-2530	conkyleahy@hotmail.com

TOWN OF GRIMSBY, TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN AND CITY OF HAMILTON – District 4 (2)

Steve Fernick	905-537-4711	-
Harold Ferrier	905-643-2555	-

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO – District 5 (1)

TBD

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY – District 6 (1)

Debra Marshall	613-476-4430	debra.marshall@kos.net
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR GROWERS

Many growers over the past number of weeks have been advised that the winery with which they have a supply contract intends to make unilateral changes to either the amount or varietal of grapes that the winery is prepared to purchase.



While supply contracts do vary from grower to grower, most are long term agreements which contain specific clauses or schedules as to the varieties and quantities of grapes to be purchased as well as clauses that limit the circumstances under which changes can be made to the contract. In addition, most contracts provide for the binding arbitration of any disputes about differences which may arise while these contracts are in effect.

We would urge all growers to consult with their legal representatives as to what rights they may have under their own specific contracts before agreeing to any changes. It is important that you have advice as to whether and how you might contest these changes in order to properly assess what options might be available to you.

Please contact the office at 905-688-0990 if you require further information.

Email Reminder!

Please ensure you have added the Grape Growers of Ontario to your 'Safe' Email Recipient List. If you have not been receiving emails or would like to be added to our e-blast list please contact Gillian McWilliams at 905-688-0990 x224 or gillian@grapegrowersofontario.com

Grapes for Sale?

Please call Julie Dixon at
905-688-0990 x228 or
download a form at
www.grapegrowersofontario.com
Please see enclosed form.

Agricorp Update



Reminder - Your AgriStability fee and new participate form is due April 30, 2010, and all 2009 AgriStability applications are due June 30, 2010. For more information please see the enclosed Agricorp Update or visit www.agricorp.com.

Media Day 2010

(Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON) March 31, 2010 – The message at Grape Growers of Ontario’s annual state of the industry address today was clear: Focus on Ontario.

Bill George Jr., Chair of the Grape Growers of Ontario, Board of Directors, provided an overview of the steps taken throughout 2009 by the grape and wine industry and the Government of Ontario as they work together towards creating a mutually beneficial strategy to provide a market for Ontario grapes at sustainable prices. “2009 proved to be one of the most challenging years for Ontario grape growers with respect to the growing season as well as the business and political environment,” said Bill George.



The Grape Growers reported a total 2009 crop of 47,595 tonnes which translates into a farm gate value of \$56 million. 2009 was the smallest harvest since the 2005 short crop year with significant reduction in wine and icewine purchases.

“The Grape Growers of Ontario are advocates for a healthy business environment and the protection of growers rights under the Farm Products Marketing Act,” continues Bill George Jr., “The GGO have spent much of the past year defending the growers’ rights to collective bargaining.”

The CEO of the Grape Growers of Ontario, Debbie Zimmerman, presented their objectives for 2010 and the Grape Growers of Ontario’s action plan to build a strategy that strengthens the Ontario grape and wine industry and supports the growth of 100% Ontario wines. “The Grape Growers of Ontario remain focused on the Ontario industry as a whole and in creating an environment that allows both wineries and growers to prosper,” says Zimmerman.

To support the focus on Ontario theme, the Grape Growers of Ontario have launched a new wine bottle sticker. The stickers are available to all Ontario wineries to identify wine made with 100% grapes grown by grape growers of Ontario.

To place an order for the
 “100% Grown by Grape Growers of Ontario”
 bottle labels please contact
 Gillian McWilliams or Julie Dixon at 905-688-0990



- F.A.R.M.S -
Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services

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)**.

Industry News:

- ♦ **Niagara's Diamond Estates Wines & Spirits Ltd. has launched Sundance.** The bottle of wine will retail at \$8.95, and will be displayed in the Cellared in Canada section of the LCBO, although it is not a blend of international and local grapes. Diamond Estates' goal was to compete in the section that accounts for 80% of the volume sold of Canadian wine, but still wanted to support our local Ontario Grape Growers by making this wine using 100% homegrown grapes. Currently Merlot and Riesling are available for purchase at the LCBO, with Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Grigio coming out soon. For more information please visit <http://corp.diamondwines.com>.
- ♦ **Brock opens lab to Wine Industry.** Brock University has opened its testing label to the grape and wine industry. Growers will soon be able to bring samples (juice or wine) to the Brock lab where they will be tested for brix, pH, TA, VA, free SO₂, total SO₂, malic acid, YANC, residual sugar, and alcohol content. For more information please visit <http://www.brocku.ca/ccovi/>.
- ♦ **Pillitteri Estates Winery Brings the first "Amarone" Grape vines to Canada.** Pillitteri Estates Winery in NOTL proudly introduces, for the first time to Canada, three classical grape vine varieties of "Amarone" fame, the Corvina, Rondinella and Molinara. In 2010 and 2011 these grapes, originally from Northern Italy via California, will be planted commercially at Pillitteri to make wines using traditional old world drying methods. These varieties will also be used to make original Icewines, adding to Pillitteri's innovative Icewine varieties.
- ♦ **Brock's new webcasts link Canada's grape and wine industry.** The Cool Climate Oenology & Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) at Brock University, Ontario has taken its popular lecture series to live webcasts, making it accessible from coast to coast. Although most of the lectures take place on campus at Brock, this new initiative lets anyone with a computer and the internet to virtually "attend" the discussions and ask questions of the speakers. For more information please contact Nathalie Dreifelds, Marketing and Communications Officer, CCOVI, Brock University, 905-688-5550 x4471; ndreifelds@brocku.ca or visit <http://www.brocku.ca/ccovi/>.

Congratulations!

The Grape Growers of Ontario would like to extend our congratulations to Wes Wiens for being awarded the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year "Agriculture Enterprise Award." As well, we would like to congratulate Whitty Farms for receiving the 2010 Friend of the Greenbelt Award.

Up Coming Events:

4th-Annual Ontario Consumers' Riesling Challenge (O.C.R.C. 2010)

The event will be held in Guelph at store #495 (615 Scottsdale Drive) on Sat. May 15, from 12:00 noon to 4 p.m. Wineries will feature multiple styles of Riesling, from dry to off-dry. Trophies, home made of course, will be awarded for the winner in each category. We will only accommodate 16 participant wineries. Consumer participants will pay a \$10 admission fee allowing them 4 samples with fees once again being donated to braceletof-hope.ca.

For more information please contact Product Consultant, Orest Poluch, at LCBO # 495 Guelph. Tel: 519-823-8050 or orest.poluch@lcbo.com

Diamond Estate Wines and Spirits Ltd. - 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament Monday June 7, 2010

The 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament, in support of The Ride to Conquer Cancer 2010, will be held at Twenty Valley Golf & Country Club, Vineland. All proceeds will benefit the Campbell Family Institute at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Registration is \$175pp or \$700/foursome which includes 18 holes of golf, power cart, use of practice facility, welcome BBQ lunch, buffet dinner, thank-you gift bag, team prices, hold competitions, raffle prizes and auction prizes.



For more information or to register please contact Kathleen McCutcheon at 905-563-6063 x25 or wine@diamondwines.com.

2nd Annual Twenty Valley Wine Country Run Saturday, June 12, 2010



The 2nd annual Twenty Valley Niagara Wine Country Run will be taking place in the Town of Lincoln. Starting at 3:00 p.m. this event offers participants and spectators alike the chance to sample award winning wines from the Twenty Valley Region while participating in one of four events including a Half Marathon, Half Marathon Relay, 10K or 4K Stroll/Walk.

Join as we celebrate the Twenty Valley wine region at Canada's premier wine run event. For more information about this event, to register or volunteer, please visit www.winecountryrun.com.

For Sale	Contact	Telephone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006 Wilderness Trailer, 12 ft. wide / 32 ft. length, excellent condition, very clean, smoke-free, lots of space. Price \$29,990 or best offer. 	Christine	(905) 701-5148 christine.hostettler@talkwireless.ca
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed sprayer - \$1,000. 200 U.S. gallon trailer sprayer. 2 year-old Hypro diaphragm pump. 	Chris	(905) 468-3984
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valium grape press wooden slats barrel, 11' x 7' x 6', made in New York. All accessories. Originally used in small winery. Could be used for display. Asking \$2,000. 	James	(519) 676-8401
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure treated 4 x 4 or 6 x 6 posts with anchors and wire. 	Jim	(519) 676-5512
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Deere 1830 Tractor. Best offer. 	Lilo	(905) 468-3092
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-acres vineyard planted white/red winter hardy grapes in the Eastern Township of Ontario available for lease now. Special offer. 	Andre	1-877-533-2117 andredelage@eastlink.ca
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbo Mist Sprayer, Slim line, 1,440 litres, new paint, frame and turbine. 	Thomas	(905) 651-6514
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V Plow—\$200 Gamberini sprayer 1,000 L - \$1,500. Howard Rotovator (50 inch, totally rebuilt) - \$1,500. Broadcast spreader - \$300. 	Barb	(905) 468-1951
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ropak Storage Bins, 40" x 48", made of tough, durable high-density polyethylene (HDPE). Best offer. 	Paul	(905) 562-9500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kuhn VKD 155 shredder, 5 ft., \$1,500. Clemens leaf remover, new adjusting frame, hardly used, \$1,000. Stainless steel dual compartment water tank, 12,000 L + 2,500 L, \$10,000. 	Deb	(905) 682-4098
Wanted		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winery requires additional Syrah and Pinot Gris grapes for the 2010 grape harvest. 	Stu	(289) 213-5119
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 Hectolitre Bladder Press in good working condition. 		keithpyers@gmail.com