



IN THE VINEYARD

Dedicated to the Success of Ontario's Grape Growers

Newsletter Volume 2—March 2011

2011 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday April 6, 2011

7:00 pm at Club Roma

IMPORTANT!

Voter Registration from 6:00—6:45 pm

Registration Requirements: Photo ID, GGO #/Election Card, Sold grapes in 2009 and/or 2010

NOTE: If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to vote please ensure that your proxy presents written confirmation at the time of registration.

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Focus on the Grower: Len Crispino

Foreign Affair Winery is more than just a place to buy unique wine, it's a philosophy. Ontario Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Len Crispino, who co-owns Foreign Affair, says every business needs a philosophy, and the winery he owns with his wife, Marissa, "who is the true inspiration for the winery" and his brother-in-law Louis Camicata, is no different ...continued on page 5



Louis Camicata, Marissa Crispino and Len Crispino



2011 Annual General Meeting

**2011 Grape Growers of Ontario
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday April 6, 2011 at 7:00 pm
VOTER REGISTRATION: 6:00—6:45 pm
Club Roma—125 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines**

In November 2009, the Farm Products Marketing Commission approved a new structure to be implemented for the 2010 Grape Growers of Ontario elections based on the GGO's priority of examining its governance structure every five years to ensure that all grape growers and all grape-growing regions across the province are appropriately represented.

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting a full slate of Grower Committee members were elected resulting in a full slate of Board Directors. The new structure included three-year staggered terms to allow Board Directors the time to learn their roles and the workings of the Board.

At the 2011 Annual General Meeting, the following Grower Committee positions are open for election with Directors to be elected at the first Grower Committee meeting following the AGM:

District	Open Grower Committee Positions	Open Board of Directors Positions
1—Niagara on the Lake	5	1
2—St. Catharines	2	0
3—Lincoln	5	1
4—Grimsby	1	0
5—Southwestern Ontario	0	0
6—Prince Edward County	1	1
TOTAL OPEN POSITIONS	14	3

Current Grower Committee members:

District 1—Trevor Falk (1-yr remaining of Board term); Matthias Oppenlaender and Kevin Watson (2-yrs remaining of Board term); Don Forrer; David Lambert; Steve Pohorly; Albrecht Seeger; Erwin Wiens

District 2—Bill Schenk (2-yrs remaining of Board term); George Wiley; Terry Yungblut

District 3—Bill George Jr. (2-yrs remaining of Board term); Glen Koop; Jim Morrison; Martin Schuele; Roger Vail; Tom Wiley

District 4—Steve Fernick (1-yr remaining of Board term); Harold Ferrier

District 5—Bill Jansenberger (1-yr remaining of Board term)

District 6—Debra Marshall

Voting Procedures

- A. Each producer is entitled to be registered as a qualified producer to vote and hold office on the Growers' Committee if he or she produces grapes in the District, or sold to a licensed Ontario processor within 2 years.
- B. A producer producing grapes in more than one district is only eligible to vote and stand for election as a member of the Growers' Committee in one district.
- C. A producer described in point B shall elect in which district he or she wishes to register as a producer qualified to vote and stand for election as a member.
- D. No producer shall have more than one vote or stand for election to more than one District for the Growers' Committee.
- E. A producer which is other than an individual (i.e. a corporation, partnership or in group ownership) shall designate in writing to the election officer the name of the individual man or woman to be that producer's designated representative for purposes of voting and/or standing for election as a member of the Growers' Committee.
- F. No mail-in voting is permitted.
- G. A producer who is nominated for election as a member of the Growers' Committee who is not in attendance at the election meeting shall have filed with the election officer a consent to allow his or her name to stand for that election.
- H. Appointment of an election officer who is not a grower or processor will oversee the voting process at the Annual General Meeting.



When: Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Where: Club Roma

125 Vansickle Rd.,
St. Catharines, ON, L2S 3X5

Directions from Toronto & Hamilton:

- Exit QEW onto HWY-406 South toward Welland/Port Colborne/Thorold
- Take the 4th Ave. exit, turn slight right onto 4th Ave.
- Turn left on Vansickle Rd. to Club Roma

Voter Registration Requirements:

- ◆ Photo ID
- ◆ Grape Grower Voter Election Card/GGO number
- ◆ Have sold grapes either in 2009 and/or 2010

***Note** - If you are unable to attend the AGM, but would like to vote, please ensure that your proxy presents written confirmation at the time of registration.



Government Updates

Federal Ag Minister refuses program change

“The Federal Government has no intention of fundamentally changing business risk management programs now in the middle of delivering its five-year agricultural policy framework,” Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz says. The country’s agriculture ministers continue consulting with farmers on what’s working and what’s not in the programs. Ontario Agriculture Minister Carol Mitchell says that she has outlined the provincial agricultural industry’s concerns that change needs to happen. The federal government is committing to consultations on suggestions for programs to be included in the next agricultural policy framework. The current agricultural policy framework, Growing Forward, expires in 2013. Ritz says in the first two years of the framework “our governments have initiated more than 100 projects to help the industry maximize resources, innovate, reduce input costs and continue to drive our economy.” In Ontario, \$11 million is helping make the agricultural industry more innovative, competitive and profitable through the commercialization of new agricultural products.

Modernizing Ontario’s Alcohol Regulation System

The Ontario Government, through the Ministry of the Attorney General, announced on February 23, 2011 their plans to update alcohol laws to better serve Ontarians. The proposed changes will remove unnecessary barriers and restrictions for special events, festivals, and licensed establishments. This will provide Ontarians with a more enjoyable experience and improve tourism and local economies. The Government is also proposing to expand its enforcement options, including monetary fines, against licensees who violate Ontario’s liquor laws. Modernizing the province’s liquor laws is part of the province’s ‘Open Ontario Plan’ to strengthen our economy and create new opportunities for jobs.

Ontario is ‘Open for Business’

The agriculture and agri-food sector is pleased to have been asked by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) and Open for Business Initiative to analyze the regulatory regime in Ontario and to provide recommendations to the government on how to improve the regulatory process to promote economic development in our sector.

Specific to the agriculture and agri-food sector itself, on Tuesday March 1, the GGO participated in an “Open for Business” roundtable at Queen’s Park to present five priority issues and to provide recommendations to address them accordingly with representatives from Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Dairy Farmers, Roesch Meats, Maple Leaf Foods and the Ontario Cattlemen’s Association.

The Cuvée Award of Excellence in Viticulture for Best White Vinifera goes to...

Kevin Donohue



Scott MacDonald, BASF Canada Inc.;
Kevin Donohue, Colio Estates Wines Inc.;
Dr. Debbie Inglis, 2010-11 Grape King

Picture taken by Jeff Baker

The Grape Growers of Ontario congratulates Kevin Donohue for winning the Cuvée Award of Excellence in Viticulture for Best White Vinifera, presented at the Cuvée Awards on Friday, March 4th, 2011.

Kevin is the Vineyard Manager for Colio Estate Wines Inc. and won the award based on the consistency of his management throughout the growing season.



Matthias Oppenlaender; Bill Redelmeier, Southbrook Vineyards; and Kevin Watson at the 2011 Canadian Seriously Cool Chardonnay Wine Tasting Event in New York City on March 8, 2011

Focus on the Grower: Len Crispino

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Summed up, “it’s marrying the old world to Canada.” It’s a philosophy consistent with the Amarone-style wine Foreign Affair produces. “It started with a whole love affair with a style of wine,” he says. In the early 1990’s when Crispino was Ontario’s trade representative to Italy, he fell in love with this wine. His love of the wine sparked an idea—bringing the process to Canada. For the rest of the 1990’s, it remained a dream until “we finally just decided to do it.”

They went looking for land and with the help of a friend found 40-acres of prime farmland in Vineland with a southern facing vineyard. They started from scratch in 2001 and had their first production in 2004. Referred to as appassimento wine, the process involves hand-harvesting the grapes before they can break down, then placing them in ventilated plastic crates to dry. The result is a wine with “incredible depth, richness and complexity,” Len says.

“There was a lot of trial and error and we made a lot of mistakes (at the beginning),” he says, but like the Japanese, they chose to celebrate their mistakes. “We perfected our processes and learned a lot and we’re proud of that.” All their wines are made from 100 percent Ontario grapes, most of them from their own vineyard “We believe strongly in getting the best grapes for the wine,” he says.

Other wineries have started to experiment with the process, but Foreign Affair was the first to combine the old world style with Ontario grapes. Starting with vinifera grapes, they’ve gone further with white grapes with varieties like Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Pinot Noir. “We didn’t want to simply duplicate what others had done,” he said. “Innovation is the key.”

It’s something the team at Foreign Affair strongly believes in. “If you’re going to get into this industry, you better be doing something different,” he says. “Innovation is how this industry is going to succeed.”

Together with Ilya Senchuk, their wine maker, and Phil Clarke, from Glen Elgin Vineyard Management, their consultant viticulturalist, they’ve developed a unique, boutique winery that is family run. Opened two years ago, the winery is very much a reflection of their philosophy. They’re very involved with their customers, treating them the way they would like to be treated and allowing them to have an experiential approach to the winery with in-depth tours explaining the process and the philosophy.

Their label also reflects their philosophy: an Italian countryside with iconic Canadian animals like a bear, moose and flock of geese super-imposed on it. Even the Tasting Room reflects the philosophy. It has a Mediterranean feel but all the furniture is locally made.

Foreign Affair is happy to concentrate on the smaller niche market. “We can afford to because we’re not selling thousands and thousands of cases,” he says.

A strong believer in the industry, both here in Niagara and in Canada, Len believes, “We need to feel pride in what we do and what we achieve.” He also believes the industry needs to focus on competing internationally. When he was the province’s trade representative in Italy, he helped introduced Ontario wine to that country after a visit from Donald Ziraldo. This exposure helped Ontario wines win many international awards and increased sales.

“Our competitors are not our sister and brother wineries,” he says. “We should be competing internationally instead of competing domestically.”

KCMS Tree Fruit and Grape Crop Report 2011



With the growing season rapidly approaching, KCMS is now confirming clients for 2011 services including the delivery of our regional crop report and weekly meetings. This is the **ONLY** weekly crop report that covers ALL major pest activity, crop development stages and nutrition strategies for Peaches/Nectarines, Cherries, Plums Apples, Pears and Grapes in Ontario. It is the only report based on weekly region wide monitoring using site examinations, pheromone traps, computer modelling and weather data collection for tree fruit and grapes.

KCMS has full-time professional staff that has been providing these independent services for more than 30 years. As well KCMS has undertaken applied research and collaborative projects with government (OMAFRA-AAFC), research (CCOVI, UG, VRIC) and industry (GGO, OTFPMB) partners as well as private sector NRC IRAP projects.

If you are interested in subscribing to our crop report or having professional monitoring services (including soil/tissue sampling and recommendations) please contact us at 905 892-7050 or 905 688-8189 or by email at docjina@kcms.ca or ryanb@kcms.ca



Industry Updates

Is Solar Power Generation Right For You?

Many people have heard of the OPA (Ontario Power Authority) MicroFIT program, but very few understand what the opportunity to participate actually is. If you are a homeowner, farmer or small business owner, or if you manage an institution like a school or place of worship, you have the opportunity to develop a small or "micro" solar, renewable energy generation project.

The OPA is encouraging the development of these projects with their Feed-In Tariff or FIT, which will see the owners of these projects being paid a fixed rate (80.2 cents/kWh for 10 kW Roof Top systems), for a guaranteed 20 year contract period. The price being paid for the energy is intended to enable the owners to recover their cost for the system, as well as earning a reasonable return on their investment. At 80.2 cents/kWh, this is the most lucrative feed-in tariff in the world and a good indication of Ontario's commitment to a cleaner, greener future. Now is the time to get involved as future rates are expected to be reviewed in the fall of 2011.

Great Lakes Energy Inc., Ontario's largest MicroFit Contractor, is inviting you to an Open House at Bethany Community Church in St. Catharines on **Wednesday March 30** from 2pm to 4pm. Wine and cheese will be served following a short presentation with question and answer period. Their Electrical Engineer will be on hand so bring your questions and concerns and find out how you can take advantage of this great program. If you can't make the open house you can call Michael Larsh for a private consultation at 905.730.1992 or email mlarsh@greatlakesenergy.ca.

Nova Scotia Grape and Wine Visit

On January 31, 2011, Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute welcomed a group of Grape Growers and Wine Makers from Nova Scotia for a three-day Grapevine Winter Hardiness and Research Update Symposium. The group toured CCOVI, Niagara College, Lakeview Vineyard Equipment, Hillibrand, Pillitteri Winery, Chateau des Charmes, Schenck Farms and Henry of Pelham, as well as the Grape Growers of Ontario Board office where a working lunch was held to discuss networking between the GGO and CCOVI for research and outreach and some national initiatives.

CCOVI Welcomes George Kotseridis

Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) team is now complete, with the arrival of a new oenologist from Europe. Dr. George Kotseridis holds a PhD in wine analytical chemistry from the Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2 and brings years of expertise in wine flavour chemistry, fermentation, aging aroma compounds and winemaking technology.

OF&VGA Update

Following are highlights from the OFVGA board meeting held February 10, 2011:

New board members: Four new directors assumed their positions on the OFVGA board: Fred Meyers (tender fruit), Jan Vanderhout and Don Taylor (greenhouse vegetables) and Mary Shabatura (fresh vegetables – other).

Vice chair and management committee elections:

Mac James was re-elected to his second one-year term as Vice Chair of the OFVGA. Ray Duc, Norm Charbonneau, Mac James and Jason Ryder were elected to serve on the organization's Management Committee, joining Chair Brian Gilroy who is automatically appointed to the committee.

Lobby strategy priority setting: Work is underway to update the OFVGA lobbying strategy. OFVGA member groups are asked to provide their suggestions for the key issues they would like to see represented in the strategy.

Research and promotion fund: At their December 2010 meeting, Board members passed a motion to establish a two-year pilot program that would set aside \$300,000 per year to be allocated to provincial sector groups for research and promotion.

Safety Nets: The Safety Nets Section chair Mark Wales reported that the committee will be finalizing the outline of an infrastructure program proposal for horticulture, which will be brought forward to the Growing Forward II consultations.

Property: Property section chair Dave Lambert and OFVGA chair Brian Gilroy attended a water innovation forum in London. Water use and management is a societal issue, not just one for agriculture, and OFVGA believes that proper funding is necessary to support farmers in meeting government regulations related to water.

Crop protection: Section chair Charles Stevens reported that growers can now apply online for import certificates under the Grower Requested Own Use (GROU) program. GROU allows farmers to import identical but lower priced crop protection products from the United States, provided the products have been approved for the program.

Targeted product development to increase competitiveness of the fruit and vegetable sector: OFVGA CEO Art Smith reported that the organization has submitted a funding application to the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) for a project to help identify new ethnic vegetable crops that could potentially be grown in Ontario and Quebec. The goals of the project include identifying new products and varieties to meet the needs and demands of consumers, develop new varieties for testing, assess production and cultural issues related to the growth and sale of these new crops in Ontario and Quebec and complete consumer analysis of new varieties and packaging design options.

Industry Updates

Building a Better Grape **Dr. Annette Nassuth, University of Guelph**

More than a decade of research into developing a line of frost-resistant grapes has started to bear fruit. Dr. Annette Nassuth, assistant professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Guelph, spoke at Brock University last month about her research in this field. Her talk, entitled "Using Molecular Tools to Select for Freeze Tolerant Grapes," detailed the promising results of research her team has been conducting since 1999. Dr. Nassuth explained the process they've been using by describing the well-known practice of visually selecting grapes by colour in order to cross breed different strains of red or white grapes. Wine growers have long been able to cross-breed various kinds of grapes deliberately when it comes to colour, but selecting for an invisible trait, like freezing tolerance, is much harder. The process is made easier if one can identify the specific genetic traits involved and pass them along through gene modification. "What we want to do in the future is analyze further to see what genes seem to be desirable," she said, noting that some research has already been done with grapes. "We made a cross between Riesling and Riparia. Those seedlings are now two years old. What we want to do now is look at that progeny and see if we can correlate markers... we want to see if all the plants that are surviving have this allele or that allele," she said.

Ken Slingerland set to retire from OMAFRA

After 36 years with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the past 17 years as a Tender Fruit and Grape Specialist, Ken Slingerland has decided to retire. Ken is the designated authority on grape production in the province, providing education, training, applied research and demonstration projects to growers. Ken has been a liaison with grower organizations, agri-businesses, and marketing and research personnel to identify new trends and issues. Ken was a resource for many OMAFRA policy programs affecting grape growers, including the Orchard and Vineyard Transition Program (OVTP), the Concord Grape Removal Program and land use planning. He was called as an expert witness in several trials involving grower compensation resulting from land use issues. Ken published the "Establishment and Production Costs for Grapes in Ontario" over the last several years and was a key leader in the CanAdvance Wind Machine Project to Reduce Winter Industry to grapes.

The Grape Growers of Ontario thank Ken for his many years of dedicated service to the growing community and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Award of Merit Winner

The Grape Growers of Ontario extend congratulations to Dr. Helen Fisher who was named the recipient of the 2011 Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Award of Merit on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at Niagara College's Benchmark Restaurant.

Helen's career has touched many people in the grape and wine industry in Ontario and beyond. She started as a research student under Ollie Bradt at Vineland, then spent five years as a Fruit Crop Advisor at Harrow. After two years as an instructor in Fairview, Alberta, she returned to Vineland as a researcher in breeding and plant physiology with OMAFRA. Helen is currently the Associate Professor of Viticulture at the University of Guelph.



***Helen Fisher and Ken Slingerland
at the 2010 Grape King Crowning***



For Sale	Contact	Telephone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insulated grape harvest bins, complete with lids. Canadian made, high quality. Reasonable prices - FOB Cornwall. Order early for Vintage 2011, numerous sizes and profiles available. Email vailmontvineyards@gmail.com. 	Roger	905-658-6387
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Grape contract for 7.7 acres of juice grapes 	Louie	905-865-6521
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Willmes Presses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60 hl screw press broke down in 2010, needs repair - 40 hl screw press works great, used 2010 vintage - 16 hl screw press on wheels (portable) and used in 2010 	Rob	905-468-7738 x 25
<p>To place an ad, please contact Sylvana Lagrotteria at 905-688-0990 x231 or slagrotteria@grapeandtenderfruitontario.com</p>	<p>Grapes for Sale? Please call Nick Lemieux at 905-688-0990 x228</p>	

In Memoriam

Irene McLaughlin Hatch

It is with great sadness that the Grape Growers of Ontario announce the loss of Irene McLaughlin Hatch. Brights Wines, the second oldest continuously operating winery in Canada, was owned by the Hatch family from 1927 until the company merged with Inniskillin and Cartier wines in 1993 to form Vincor.

GGO Services

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