



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

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## Government Provides Financial Assistance to Horticulture Producers

On December 14, 2007, the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs announced that the McGuinty government will provide assistance to Ontario cattle, hog and horticulture producers in the amount of \$150 million. This funding will help producers manage lower returns as a result of a rising Canadian dollar, lower market prices and significant higher input costs. As part of the total funding, approximately \$30 million will be delivered to producers in the horticulture sector.

Horticulture producers are required to have at least half of their total commodity sales originating from horticulture to be eligible for this financial assistance. The Horticulture Payment to eligible producers will be based on historical allowable net sales. Payments will be generated using the database from the Federal Cost of Production Payment and the Ontario Cost Recognition Top-up program.

The payment rate for eligible horticulture farmers will be **two per cent** of allowable net sales. The payment will not be considered allowable income under CAIS. A total payment cap of \$3 million per individual producer will apply.

Payments are scheduled to be delivered to farmers starting February 2008. No application is needed to receive the Horticulture Payment.

For more information, please call Agricorp at 1-877-838-5144.

*Information compiled from the news release and backgrounder: McGuinty Government Provides Assistance to Ontario Cattle, Hog and Horticulture Producers (December 14, 2007) located on the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs website.*



### 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)



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs



## Tony Aspler Receives the Order of Canada

Congratulations to Tony Aspler, wine writer, on receiving the honour of Member of the Order of Canada for his contribution as a leading authority on Canadian wines. Mr. Aspler has been instrumental in the development of the Canadian wine industry.

Tony Aspler is an accomplished wine writer, educator and lecturer. He is the creator of the Annual Ontario Wine Awards and honorary governor of Cuvée. In 2001, Mr. Aspler co-founded a charitable foundation, Grapes for Humanity, with Arlene Willis. The foundation raises money through the wine community for the victims of landmines and children with disabilities.

## Inter-Provincial Trade Barriers between Quebec and Ontario to be Reviewed as Part of Accord

On December 19, 2007 Honourable Sandra Pupatello, Ontario Minister of Economic Development and Trade along with Raymond Bachand, Quebec Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade announced that Honourable Jim Peterson and Mr. Audet have been appointed chief negotiators for an expanded accord to strengthen the economies of Ontario and Quebec. Ontario and Quebec form the largest trading bloc in Canada.

Honourable Peterson and Mr. Audet will plan and implement an agreement to enhance the relationship between Ontario and Quebec fostering closer cooperation to make both provinces more prosperous. This follows the signing of a joint declaration by Premier McGuinty and Premier Jean Charest to negotiate "an agreement to strengthen the Ontario-Quebec region, notably by eliminating barriers to labour mobility, investment and trade."

### - Feedback Sessions on the Weigh Bill System Reminder -

#### St. Catharines Sessions

**When:** January 29, 2008 at 1 p.m.

January 30, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** GGO Board office, 1634 South Service Road, St. Catharines

#### Southwestern Session

**When:** February 4, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Pelee Island Winery, 455 Seacliff Drive, Kingsville

#### Prince Edward County Session

**When:** February 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Bloomfield Town Hall, 289 Main Street, Bloomfield

For more information, please call Julie Dixon at the GGO office at (905) 688-0990 Ext. 228.



## Grape and Wine Events

### 149th Annual General Meeting & Convention of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association Annual General Meeting and Convention will be held January 15-16, 2008 at the Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario. For more information, visit [www.ofvga.org](http://www.ofvga.org) or call Bethany Cardiff at 1-866-898-8488 Ext. 116.



### Niagara Icewine Festival



The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Niagara Icewine Festival will take place from January 18 to February 3, 2008 along the entire Niagara wine route. For more information, visit: [www.niagaraicewinefestival.com](http://www.niagaraicewinefestival.com).

### Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention 2008

The Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention will be held at Brock University, St. Catharines on February 20 and 21, 2008. This year's theme is *Growing for the Future*. For more information, please visit [www.ofvc.ca](http://www.ofvc.ca).



### Cuvée Weekend 2008



Cuvée Weekend will take place February 29 to March 2, 2008. The Cuvée Gala will be held on February 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Fallsview Casino Resort and Cuvée en Route will be from February 29 to March 2. For more event information and ticket sales, please visit: [www.cuvee.ca](http://www.cuvee.ca) or call 905-684-8688.

### Uncorked - Grape & Wine Industry Conference & Trade Show 2008

The Uncorked Conference & Trade Show will be held on May 27 and 28, 2008 at Niagara College, Glendale Campus, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Uncorked, designed for and by grape and wine professionals focuses on tackling today's challenges and opportunities. This year's theme is **Vision,**

**Vintage & Technology, Embracing the Future of Grape and Wine.** The trade show will host more than sixty exhibitors specialized in viticulture and oenological products and services. For more information, please visit [www.uncorked.info](http://www.uncorked.info).





# *Niagara Industry Tasting Guild*



## **ATTN: Winemakers and Grape Growers**

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year running. The Niagara Industry Tasting Guild is a private group of winemakers, cellar hands, growers, viticulturalists and vineyard workers who come together to sharpen their palates on wines of the world as they relate to Niagara. These educational tastings include over 15 international wines as well as Niagara wines.

Beginning January 30<sup>th</sup> the 2008 series begins. Thanks to the generous support of Brock University, the tastings will continue at Inniskillin Hall, in the lab (IH306). Tastings are on **Wednesdays** from 3 to 6 and the cost remains at \$170.00 for the complete series of 5 tastings. Parking passes are available for \$15.00 for the 5 tastings.

New this year is a tasting of the 4 regions of Prince Edward County, Erie North Shore, Pelee Island and Niagara. The aromatic white tasting allows us to work with Viognier, Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer and Sauvignon Blanc.

The 2008 schedule is on the next page. You must register in advance and indicate the number of parking passes you'll need. Parking passes will be distributed at the Icewine Gala on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

At each tasting you are invited to bring 2 bottles of your own wine(s) that are appropriate for the tasting theme. These wines will be included in the tasting sheets.

Send in your enrollment form and payment as soon as possible. Not only is there always a great selection of wines in the LCBO around the holidays but we're going to source wines from Premier Liquor in Buffalo and utilize the web for some interesting BC wines. Your payment in advance means we can take advantage of them all.

If you have any questions, or comments on the upcoming series, please don't hesitate to call.

I look forward to tasting some great wines with you in 2008.

Regards,  
Lynn M. Ogryzlo  
NITG coordinator

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# *Niagara Industry*

## *Tasting Guild*



### **2008 Tasting Schedule**

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Date:** Wednesdays

**Where:** Brock University, Inniskillin Hall

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tasting Theme</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 30</b>	Cabernet Franc.
<b>Wednesday, February 27</b>	Dessert wines: Select Late Harvest and Icewines.
<b>Wednesday, March 26</b>	Chardonnay - unoaked.
<b>Wednesday, April 23</b>	Aeromatic whites: Viognier, Pinot Gris, Gewurtraminer and Sauvignon Blanc.
<b>Wednesday, May 28</b>	Regional comparative: Prince Edward County, Lake Erie North Shore, Pelee Island and Niagara.  Wines: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Riesling and Cabernet Franc.



## PRESS RELEASE

November 26, 2007.

### **Wassail Royalty Crowned as Wineries Report Surge in Visitors**

Ed Neuser and Rita Kaimans, owners of Waupoos Winery, were crowned the first King and Queen of Wassail at the inaugural launch of Wassail held at Carmela Estates Winery on Thursday evening.

“Ed and Rita opened the first winery in the County selling locally grown wine,” said toast master Richard Johnston. “They were founding members of the Prince Edward County Winegrowers Association and set a high standard in their winery construction and presentation against which all the rest of us are measured.”

Rita was unable to attend as she is recovering from a recent surgery but will have a special crowning ceremony in her honour upon her return from Toronto.

There was some tongue-in-cheek concern about how much Ed Neuser seems to relish his new regal status, with requests for ring kissing and general subservience coming just minutes after the crowning was complete.

After toaster Lyle Van Clief reminded him of his first two dreams; to come to Canada and to open a winery in the County, his majesty professed to having a third which was to become a royal. “All my dreams are complete,” said King Eddie, the first of Waupoos.

Wineries did some tracking of visitors on the first weekend of Wassail and although all the results have yet to be tabulated there were a number of very positive trends.

Some reported first time visitor stats as high as 40 % on the Saturday, and a ratio of 35% out of region to 65% local customers. Among local customers many were attending a number of functions including the festival of trees, and the Regent auction, and many had visiting friends and family in tow. Most of the out-of-towners were staying overnight and while a minority was aware of Countylicious, almost all were planning on taking at least two meals in the County.

Wineries also reported a range of sales impacts from incrementally strong, to a doubling of sales over the first two weekends in November. One even reported doubling last year’s Thanksgiving sales. Increases in wine accessories and other non-wine sales were strong as well.

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Barley Days had an “unbelievable” weekend, packed both days with customers for their newly released cherry porter soaking up the ambiance and County Cider had many fans of their mulled cider and iced cider visiting their spectacular location.

“Even though weather conditions were not ideal, we were pleased that visitors came from as far away as Ottawa and Toronto for the first Wassail,” said Seaton McLean, Chair of PECWA and co-owner of Closson Chase Winery. I was surprised how many visitors really got the concept of the event. Some would extend a hearty ‘Wassail’ greeting as they entered our tasting rooms and others even broke into song. We are hopeful that word of mouth about the fun they had, and a little meteorological luck will give us equally strong numbers on the second weekend,” he added.

Wassail runs from 11am to 6pm on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> and on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The king will tour the various wassail locations to toast their vineyards and harvests on Saturday afternoon.

Participating locations include, Norman Hardie, Carmela Estates, Sandbanks, By Chadsey’s Cairns, Closson Chase, Sugarbush, Huff Estates, Barley Days Brewery, Black Prince, Waupoos Winery and County Cider. A good profile of the program for each participant can be found at [www.thecountywines.com](http://www.thecountywines.com).



*Prince Edward County Winegrowers’ Association Chair, Seaton McLean, crowning the inaugural Wassail King Ed Neuser, of Waupoos Estate Winery.*

## Turkey Time

Welland riding Liberal MP John Maloney challenged local organizations to sponsor the donation of locally grown turkeys to food banks for Christmas. John Maloney matched every turkey that was donated by an organization. The Grape Growers of Ontario was proud to be a sponsor. 161 turkeys were distributed to less fortunate families throughout Welland, Thorold and Port Colborne.



*From left to right: Betty-Lou Souter - Director, Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold; Debbie Zimmerman - CEO, Grape Growers of Ontario; John Maloney - MP, Welland; and Dan Hendriks - Mountainview Homes.*

<b>For Sale</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used basket press.</li> </ul>		(905) 980-1150
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 tonnes of Pinot Noir Icewine grapes.</li> </ul>	Julie	(905) 688-0990 X228
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 acres of National grape acreage contract for sale (Niagara/Concord).</li> </ul>	Don	(905) 682-5648
<b>Looking For</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual looking for a vineyard manager position on a contract or full-time basis. The individual is experienced in all aspects of large premium operations, including training and supervision of staff, pesticide scheduling and equipment operation.</li> </ul>	Please contact <a href="mailto:vineman07@gmail.com">vineman07@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Wanted</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winery looking for long term contract of 3-5 acres of Gewurztraminer, starting from next vintage.</li> </ul>	Ed Madronich	(905) 562-8994
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two row vineyard sprayer preferably recirculating.</li> </ul>		(607) 227-3237

## Director of CCOVI Returns to Teaching and Research

As of January 11, 2008, Isabelle Lesschaeve will be leaving her position as Director of CCOVI. Dr. Lesschaeve will continue to serve the grape and wine industry in her capacity as Associate Professor at Brock University where she will continue to teach and conduct research. We wish Isabelle success and thank her for her ongoing support of the Ontario grape and wine industry.

## In Memoriam

The Grape Growers of Ontario express sadness at the loss of Mr. Lionel Rancourt who passed away on December 30, 2007. Mr. Rancourt was a grower and owner of Vignoble Rancourt Winery. Our sympathies are extended to the Rancourt family

To advertise in the newsletter, please contact  
Nathalie Dreifelds at  
(905) 688-0990 Ext. 242

## Electronic GGO Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving the Grape Growers of Ontario newsletter in electronic format, please call Nathalie Dreifelds at: (905) 688-0990 Ext. 242 or email:

[ndreifelds@grapegrowersofontario.com](mailto:ndreifelds@grapegrowersofontario.com)

