



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

Inside this issue:

Grape King Visits the Okanagan Valley	2
Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery	2
Grape Crop Alert Report	3
Financial Support for On-Farm Environmental Improvements	4-5
Agricorp Update	6
ASEV/ES Meeting	7
Triggs Lecture Series	7
Shores of Erie Wine Festival	7
Berry Sensory Analysis at Brock	7
For Sale	8

Grape Growers of Ontario Receives Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence

On June 18, 2008, Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi presented the GGO with the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence for the work on the GGO's VITIS Vine Management System. GGO Chair Bill George Jr. comments, "It is a privilege to receive the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence. The award recognizes the GGO's commitment to keep our growers on the leading edge of technology and to develop a system to trace the grapes from the vineyard to the table." He goes on to say, "I extend congratulations to our members, J.B. Puddicombe and Sons Ltd. and Featherstone Vineyard and Winery who also received the Premier's Award for their innovation in agriculture."

The VITIS vine management system is based on the latest GIS/GPS technology. With the launching of VITIS, and with our partners Agricorp and the Agricultural Adaptation Council, Ontario's grape industry became the first commodity organization to offer growers a web-based vine management tool. The most recent phase of VITIS is the automation of weigh bills, designed by the GGO with the assistance of our partner, The Strategem Group. The automation of weigh bills serves to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the current system of reporting harvest data and creates a food safety, quality assurance and traceability system.



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)



The Grape King Visits the Okanagan Valley

In May 2008, the 2007 Grape King, Kevin Watson and his wife Cathy went on a one week, 16-winery visit of the Okanagan Valley organized in minute details by Dave and Lynn Gamble. The trip included in-depth vineyard tours, barrel tastings and fine dining on patios overlooking lakes, vineyards and mountains in the distance. During the visit, the couple toured Sal D'Angelo's winery who also owns a winery in Amherstburg, Ontario; Hester Creek whose winemaker is Niagara native Robert Summers and past winemaker for several local wineries; and NK'Mip Cellars, the first Aboriginal owned and operated winery in North America. "During my trip, I talked to many established winemakers and received from them only positive feedback on our Ontario premium wines", says Kevin Watson.



From left to right: Dave Gamble and his wife Lynn Gamble - Trip Organizers; Cathy Watson and Kevin Watson - Grape King 2007.

The Grape King and his wife had a memorable experience of beautiful scenery, friendly people and great wines. Kevin found that the Okanagan Valley's close-knit grape industry, which is made up of generally younger growers, has similar grape growing practices as in Ontario. Furthermore, they use drip irrigation in the north and overhead irrigation in the south and most of the grapes are hand-picked. They also use extensively electrical fencing because of problems with bears.

Kevin and Cathy would like to thank Farm Credit Canada and the Grape Growers of Ontario for contributing financially to their trip to British Columbia.

Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery

On Tuesday, June 17, 2008, Wayne Gretzky attended the grand opening of his winery on King Street in Vineland. The winery, former home to Willow Heights Estate Winery, has been recently renovated. The inside of the updated building showcases hockey paraphernalia used during the hockey player's career as well as the red, black and white colours of the Gretzky's label.

It has been only one year since Gretzky partnered with Peter Jensen and Laura McCain-Jensen, but already sales of the Great One's wines have been strong at the LCBO. Within two months of its launch at the LCBO, the 2006 Merlot became the top-selling VQA wine in December. Production at the winery this year is expected to reach 55,000 cases.



From left to right: Bill George Jr. - GGO, Chair; Wayne Gretzky; Laura McCain-Jensen - owner of Creekside Estate Winery; and Debbie Zimmerman - GGO, CEO.



Grape Crop Alert Report - June 2008

This is the Grape Crop Alert for June 20 sponsored by the Grape Growers of Ontario prepared by Kevin Ker and Ryan Brewster of KCMS Applied Research and Consulting Inc. The 2008 publication 360 supplement is available online at: <http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub360/p360toc.htm>

The Niagara Irrigation Advisory is new for 2008, initiated by Ken Slingerland and there are reports on the WIN website (<http://www.weatherinnovations.com>).

Cool temperatures and rainfall over the last three days in the Niagara region have enhanced the soil with high levels of moisture. The rainfall accumulated during the period of June 13-18th ranged from 52.2 to 58.8 mm. The rainfall during the last three days has enabled an increase of the soil moisture, as reported by the Weather Innovations monitoring instruments. With the rainfall of the past few days, all locations evaluated are presenting good soil moisture conditions for grapes. Irrigation is not required now, but growers should continue to pay attention to the weather forecasts.

We are currently entering into the bloom stage in cultivated vineyards for most cultivars. This growth phase is highly susceptible to infection by downy mildew, black rot and powdery mildew. Be aware of which products are capable of controlling each of these diseases. From bloom onwards fruit infections can take place and cause aborted berries or limit berry growth and result in split fruit and injured clusters. Now is not the time to skimp on product rates, water volume or spray intervals.

Protectant sprays should now be well underway for powdery mildew, downy mildew and black rot control. Recent weather conditions are conducive to mildew infections. Throughout bloom and the post bloom period is when you should consider using locally systematic materials. These materials are absorbed by the tissue and are relatively rain fast. From here on, be sure to follow a resistance management strategy and alternate product families.

We are not recommending a specific spray for botrytis at this time. For resistance management (and cost) each botrytis specific product should never be used more than once per season.

Use multi disease control materials that will protect against DM, Phomopsis and Black Rot.

According to the bees act, it is prohibited to apply an insecticide while grapes are in bloom.

Grape Berry Moth (GBM) larvae have been found at low numbers in monitored grape blocks. Multiple years of research results have shown that 1st generation GBM injury has not translated into economic loss by the end of the season. Growers that are concerned must be aware that this pest only attacks the fruit clusters. We are tracking their development and will advise when we anticipate 2nd generation egg hatch to begin.

Phylloxera galls have been picked up on susceptible cultivars with egg hatch underway.

Leafhoppers have started to move into cultivated grape blocks. The species that are primarily being found are the three-banded leafhopper (TBLH) and the potato leafhopper (PLH). Some stippling and leaf cupping has been observed up by scouts throughout the canopy with damage levels still remaining low. Watch for the mowing of nearby hay fields and ditches which may drive LH into vineyards. This is a site specific pest and the need to spray will depend on vine age, vine health and amount of injury observed.



Financial Support for On-Farm Environmental Improvements

Written by Donna Speranzini, OMAFRA Nutrient Management Program Lead, Horticulture

June 3, 2008, Vineland, Ont. - The **Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan Program** has extended funding of environmental projects for 2008. This funding bridges the gap between the **Agriculture Policy Framework** and the not yet announced **Growing Forward** federal initiative.

The maximum contribution per legal farm entity for **Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP)** and **Greencover Canada (GC)** combined is \$50,000 (the maximum contribution from Greencover Canada alone is \$20,000). An additional \$15,000 is available from the **Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program (COWSEP)**. This is an increase in coverage from the previous program.

Producers who participated in a COFSP, GC or COWSEP between April, 2005 and March 31, 2008 will carry forward into 2008 any federal cost-share received for projects claimed during that period.

Ontario producers with an **Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)** Third Edition deemed appropriate through peer review are eligible to apply for cost-share incentives through the Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program to implement actions identified in their farm plans.

The cost-share available is for new projects initiated on or after April 1, 2008. No cost-share will be offered for project invoices issued prior to this date. All approved projects must be completed and operational, and a final inspection arranged with local **OSCIA** Program Representative, by December 15, 2008.

The **Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan** has lots of opportunities for horticulture producers. Aside from the normal EFP things - like well head upgrades, fuel and pesticide storage, soil erosion protection and shelterbelts - money is available for the following horticultural items:

IPM

- Equipment modifications for improved IPM (spray curtains, air induction or low drift nozzles, injection systems, spray towers, pesticide recovery units, rate controllers, tank rinse systems, air assist, foam marker systems, or GPS)
- Weather monitoring/reporting and prediction equipment, materials and services from a qualified provider
- Record keeping software
- Traps and sampling equipment
- Costs of biocontrol or cultural control practices
- Mobile water tanks for mounting on a trailer or truck

Irrigation

- Irrigation equipment (low pressure nozzles, pipes, hoses, booms, filters and emitters, installation costs, soil moisture monitoring equipment, flow meters with totalized outputs, rain gauges)
- Water treatment units to meet fruit and vegetable washwater standards, irrigation water quality standards, or to remove ions and odour
- Water meters

Continued on next page



Financial Support for On-Farm Environmental Improvements (Cont'd)

Continued from previous page

Water Supply Expansion

- Drilling and construction costs for new wells, test drilling and deepening current wells for agricultural use
- Well development (pump testing, water quality samples, consulting fees)
- Hydrologic impact assessments fees for professionals
- Cisterns where required for agricultural use from low flowing wells
- Construction and consulting for new pond/reservoir (sized for drought, water quality sampling, hydro-G)
- Expansion of current pond
- Pond aeration systems, pond liners and intake works, and fencing

Fertigation

- Fertigation equipment (tanks, mixing, blending, metering systems, backflow valves)
- Planter modifications to include drip tape
- Repairs and improvements to water intake systems

On-Farm Composting

- Infrastructure and specialized equipment for composting (pads, walls, covers, vessels, conveyers, mixing, watering and monitoring)

Cull Fruit and Vegetable Management (liquids and solids)

- Modification and construction of storage and treatment facilities for liquid and solid fruit and vegetable waste
- Recycling systems for waste waters (conservation tools to reduce water, storage, collection and transfer systems)

Protection from Wild-Life

- Fencing to protect high value crops and drip irrigation systems
- Scaring and repellent systems (electronic, netting, noise, guard animals and chemicals)

Funding is provided for anywhere from 30 to 50 per cent of the project, depending on the particular details of the project. You have the opportunity to credit your time and machinery use as in-kind support for the project. Participants are also encouraged to take advantage of other sources of funding, for example your local conservation authority.

Although there is lots of money available, it is available on a first come first serve basis. So, if any of the projects identified above are on your to do list, the time is now for horticulture producers to take advantage of this program.

This money can all be accessed through your local EFP coordinator. You can find this information on the **OSCIA web site** or by calling 1-800-265-9751.



Agricorp Update

Agricorp Update

To provide Ontario producers with more efficient and specialized customer service, Agricorp's Call Centre will be introducing a new menu of self-service telephone options. These options, available when calling any of our toll free lines, will allow you to route your calls to the appropriate Customer Service Representative.



Production Insurance

With the varying weather conditions throughout the province, Agricorp would like to remind growers to call in damage to their crops as soon as it occurs. As fruit crops enter the post bloom period, Agricorp would like to remind growers with Production Insurance (PI) to:

- Use registered chemicals and follow good farm management practices, as outlined in the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' publication Fruit Production Recommendations, Publication 360
- Keep up-to-date spray records
- Report damage to your grape crop as soon as it occurs by calling Agricorp
- Be aware of the terms and conditions outlined in Agricorp's Contract of Insurance

If you have any questions about your PI plan, want to report damage to you crop, or for a copy of the Contract of Insurance, call Agricorp at 1-888-247-4999. You can also request to speak with a PI Adjuster to help you fully understand plan requirements.

Production Insurance is a business risk management program that protects Ontario producers from yield reductions and crop losses caused by adverse weather and other insured perils. For more information about PI, or the other business risk management programs we deliver, call Agricorp or visit www.agricorp.com.

Canada-Ontario Orchards and Vineyards Transition Program

Producers have submitted applications for removal of orchards and vineyards totaling approximately 3,000 acres. Out of this total, producers have submitted applications for the removal of approximately 920 acres of vineyards. Agricorp is busy verifying producer applications. Producers who have submitted an application will receive a letter verifying their eligibility and program payments will begin late summer.

Contact Agricorp:

Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AgriStability & CAIS: 1-877-838-5144

PI & OVTP: 1-888-247-4999

Visit www.agricorp.com

33rd ASEV/ES Meeting

The 2008 ASEV/ES meeting will take place July 14-16, 2008 at the Four Points by Sheraton in St. Catharines. Please visit www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/asev/conference.php for more details.

- Day 1: Visits of Niagara vineyards and wineries.
- Day 2: Presentation of contributed and student papers.
- Day 3: One-day symposium on aromatic whites entitled *Anything but Riesling*.



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR
ENOLOGY & VITICULTURE
Eastern Section

Triggs International Premium Vinifera Lecture Series

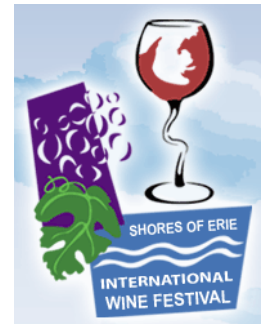


Announcing the 5th Annual Triggs International Premium Vinifera Lecture Series at CCOVI. The speaker Dr. Daniel Roberts is from Integrated Winegrowing, California. For more information, please visit <http://www.brocku.ca/ccovi/>

- **September 2, 2008:** Vineyard visits/technical workshops
- **September 3, 2008:** Public lecture entitled *Influence of Climate on Variety Choice and Wine Quality*

Shores of Erie International Wine Festival

The Shores of Erie International Wine Festival will take place September 4-7, 2008 at Fort Malden, Historic Site of Canada in Amherstburg, Ontario. "The festival combines the perfect blend of regional wines, fine cuisine, and an eclectic mix of live entertainment." The Grape Growers of Ontario is a VQA Sponsor at this event. Come and join us!



For more information, please visit www.soewinefestival.com.

Berry Sensory Analysis at Brock University

CCOVI is offering for the first time in Canada a Continuing Education Course on *Berry Sensory Analysis*. Dr. Gianni Trioli from Vinidea, Italy will be the presenter for this seminar.

- **When:** September 11, 2008
- **Where:** Inniskillin Hall, Brock University
- **Cost:** \$195 Early Bird Registration (after July 15, 2008 the cost is \$225) includes health break, lunch, binder and parking
- **Contact:** Barb Tatarnic at (905) 688-5550 X4652 or email ccovi@brocku.ca





For Sale	Contact	Telephone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-sided U-shaped Ero hedger (does one complete row). \$4,300. 		(905) 563-9739
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and used bushels. • 7 foot steel posts, good condition. Best offer. 	Anton	(905) 643-2423
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilmes grape press, 3-4 tonnes. • Icewine juice. 	Jim	(519) 676-5512
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2003 Ford E350 super duty diesel refrigerated truck. 	Fred	(905) 932-3207
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 gallon Rittenhouse sprayer for grapes with single row canopy, very good condition, Dynesco diaphragm pump (IDS1000). \$2,000. 	Don	(905) 682-5648
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Deere 5500N tractor, semi-automatic, cop air-conditioned, 4-wheel drive. \$26,100. • Clemence grape reduce 856, 3 attachments, very little used. \$5,800. • High density wire: #2, excellent condition, 900-feet, 25 rolls, \$10/roll; #2, 600-feet, 40 rolls, \$6/roll; #9, 900-feet, 12 rolls, \$9/roll. • 28 - 3" end-posts, filled with concrete. \$7/post. 	Michael	(905) 562-5940
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second hand third and fourth wine barrels in good shape, gamajeted and ozonated before shipment, some available now but mainly MT in August 08, ready to reuse for winemaking, mostly white barrels with some reds. \$75/barrel NOTL for a minimum order of 5 barrels. 	JL	(905) 468-1806 X222
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 108 total acres on Huycks Point Road, Prince Edward County overlooking Lake Ontario. 3 acres planted with Pinot Noir and 2 with Chardonnay. Pinot Noir is 7 years old. \$349,000 firm, priced to sell with possibility of owner financing. 	brucefrombklyn@aol.com	
Looking to buy or sell grapes.	Julie at the GGO Office	(905) 688-0990 X228

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

MCLARTY & CO

Value Beyond Service

Did you introduce a new grape variety?
 Or perhaps a new growing or winemaking technique?
 Have you attempted new cultural management or planting strategies?
 Are the yields with this new product/process less than your target?
 If so, your vineyard could be eligible for Scientific Research & Experimental Development Tax credits for up to 70% of your costs.
 Contact Kevin Goheen, Director of SR&ED Tax Services, McLarty & Co, 613.726.1010 x227, kgoheen@mclarty.co.ca, for a free consultation.

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