



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

### Inside this issue:

Grower Cheque Pick Up Day	1
Tree Fruit and Grape Growers Get \$8M Boost	2-3
Information on Juice Grape Removal	4
Notice on Removal of Vines	4
Lobby Day in Ottawa	4
4th Annual Wine Tasting Challenge	5
OFVGA AGM and Convention	5
Annual Pen Centre Grande Parade	5
Innovative Diagnostic Technology for Grapevines	6
OnTrace Agri-Food Traceability	7
For Sale/Wanted and Grapes for Sale	8
BCGA Associate Membership	8

## Grower Cheque Pick Up Day

**I**t's the time of year again when all grape growers are requested to pick up their grape cheques:

**When:** Friday, November 16, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Grape Growers of Ontario Board Office

Please join us for coffee and snacks and take the opportunity to chat with our staff.

**NOTE:** For those growers who do not pick up their cheques by 2:00 p.m. on November 16, 2007, they will be put in the mail immediately following the scheduled pick up time.

If you wish to have your cheques held at the office after 2:00 p.m. on November 16, 2007, please call the office at (905) 688-0990 by noon and we will hold your cheques for you.

Please bring your completed "Grape Growers of Ontario Grower Update Form" (included in this newsletter) as we will be verifying and updating our records.



Debbie Zimmerman

CEO



### 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)



## Tree Fruit and Grape Growers Get \$8M Boost

*Reprinted with permission from the British Columbia Fruit Grower Magazine - Fall 2007.*

*By Judie Steeves*

**M**other Nature added her own gusty winds and a thunder and lightning show to the July announcement by the federal and provincial governments of \$8 million in funding for the grape and tree fruit industries.

Erecting a canvas shelter at the 64-year-old Bullock farm in East Kelowna turned out to be a wise move. A raging wind-storm interrupted the spell of hot weather just as the first speaker began to address those gathered for the announcement, and a sudden torrent of rain followed.

Although it flapped mightily, the canvas kept politicians, their handlers, the news media and all the electronic equipment dry. However, farmers in attendance had their fingers crossed the sudden summer storm wouldn't carry hail this year, as it had last.

While the \$3 million from the provincial government is an initial contribution toward implementation of the orchard industry strategy for the future (a document completed and approved last January by growers) the federal government's \$5 million is earmarked to help grape and tree fruit farmers adapt to changing markets by planting new varieties of fruit over the next four years.

Because of the interest in the orchard industry in replanting to new varieties of fruit, B.C. Fruit Growers' Association president Joe Sardinha said most of the provincial funding will also go toward a continuation of the replant program, along with the federal money.

That program ended this year, but he said he's hopeful it can now continue seamlessly into 2008.

Sardinha is also hopeful he can convince federal officials to permit some flexibility in the allowance of \$400 a hectare for replanting, since that would mean not all the \$5 million is likely to be used in the next four years in B.C.

Costs here are higher than elsewhere in the country, Sardinha noted, so he hopes to be able to increase that \$400 a hectare.

Although the program was announced as being for both grape and tree fruit growers to pull out old varieties and put in new ones, federal agriculture minister Chuck Strahl admitted in B.C., it's expected only tree fruits



*B.C. agriculture minister Pat Bell, left, and his federal counterpart, Chuck Strahl (who has since moved to another cabinet post) during July news conference in Kelowna.*



## Tree Fruit and Grape Growers Get \$8M Boost (Cont'd)

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will take advantage of the program.

“When an industry is doing well, it’s not as important to have government assistance,” he commented.

In Ontario, where a similar program will be announced, a pullout program for the grape industry is more important than in B.C., he said.

The federal funding also includes \$500,000 for strategic planning in both industries.

Sardinha expects that to include innovation studies, and says it could go toward some joint projects such as labour initiatives or weed control, which would benefit both the grape and tree fruit sectors.

Provincial minister Pat Bell had nothing but praise for the BCFGAs’ development of a strategic plan, which he said the province will continue to be on hand to help implement. With an industry focus on high quality fruit production and promotion of new varieties, he said the industry’s future is looking much brighter.

“It’s a model we’d like to replicate in other sectors of agriculture,” he said.

Replanting, said Sardinha, has transformed the industry in B.C. and given it a shot at being profitable in the long-term.

Hans Buchler, a director of the B.C. Grape Growers Association, attended the announcement and spoke about the importance of research in the future of the grape industry.

He also said that a focus on quality is vital to the future of the industry, and noted that the “grape sector benefits from a vibrant tree fruit industry.”

Farmers who convert acreage from tree fruits to grapes aren’t always situated on the best sites for healthy vineyards, he commented.

That’s a detriment to the industry, because of the importance of high quality grape production.

“The future is in production of a higher-end product,” he said.

Details of the programs announced still aren’t available, but it’s expected the replant program will now be continued in 2008.

## Additional Information on Juice Grape Removal (CAIS)

CAIS will not downsize juice grape growers who pull their vineyard as a result of the Cadbury Schweppes juice plant closure. This situation is considered to be an event beyond the grower's control. CAIS will continue to waive downsizing until the grower is back into production of another commodity, provided he/she continues to farm. For instance, if a grower decides to plant wine grapes, downsizing will be waived until the wine grapes are producing. As a result of CAIS waiving downsizing, CAIS effectively stabilizes growers' margin for years in which they were out of or had low production. This helps keep growers' reference margin relatively stable as they transition to a new crop. Please contact Steve Duff from OMAFRA at (519) 826-3468 to obtain more information.

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

## Lobby Day in Ottawa

On October 23, 2007 Grape Growers of Ontario's Chair Bill George Jr. and CEO Debbie Zimmerman, as well as Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Chair Len Troup met with the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Honourable Gerry Ritz in Ottawa.

During the meeting, they discussed a transition program for growers in Ontario. The program would be aimed at helping juice grape growers who delivered grapes this year but no longer have a buyer for their product.

For more information on lobby day, please read the St. Catharines Standard article that has been inserted in this newsletter.

## - IMPORTANT - Removal of Vines

Please call the Board office at (905) 688-0990 **before you remove any grape vines**, as this may affect your eligibility for a transition program.

## 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 x242 or email:

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



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Let us protect your grapes

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



## The 4th Annual Wine Tasting Challenge

**Event:** The 4th Annual Wine Tasting Challenge  
**Date:** Monday, November 26, 2007  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto



In the spirit of fellowship and fun competition, The Renaissance Project created the annual Wine Tasting Challenge in November 2004. With an ever-growing purse in excess of \$100,000 in prizes, cash, stemware, trips and scholarships for 2007, this competition is the largest and absolutely unique in North America. Directed and operated by volunteers only, this competition is open to all professional sommeliers and all wine enthusiasts who wish to challenge themselves. The Wine Tasting Challenge celebrates and profiles the excellence and supports the future excellence in Toronto/Ontario hospitality. You may enter as a professional or as an amateur. Depending on your formal wine education and wine-related career, you will be juried into either category.

There are no entry fees and everyone is welcome. The Renaissance Project does not keep nor publish any individual scores. Only the winners and runner-ups for each of the two categories are announced. For more information or to register, please go to: [www.winetastingchallenge.com](http://www.winetastingchallenge.com).

## 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 from January 15 to 16, 2008 at the Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario.



Election of directors and officers of the Association will take place plus discussion on resolutions presented, financial reports and any other business that may arise.

For more information, see [www.ofvga.org](http://www.ofvga.org) or call Bethany Cardiff at 1-866-898-8488 Ext. 116.

## Annual Pen Centre Grande Parade

The Annual Pen Centre Grande Parade took place on Saturday, September 29, 2007 in downtown St. Catharines, Ontario. This year, as part of the 60th anniversary celebration, former Grape Kings were the official Parade Marshalls for this event. We thank all of those who took part in the parade.



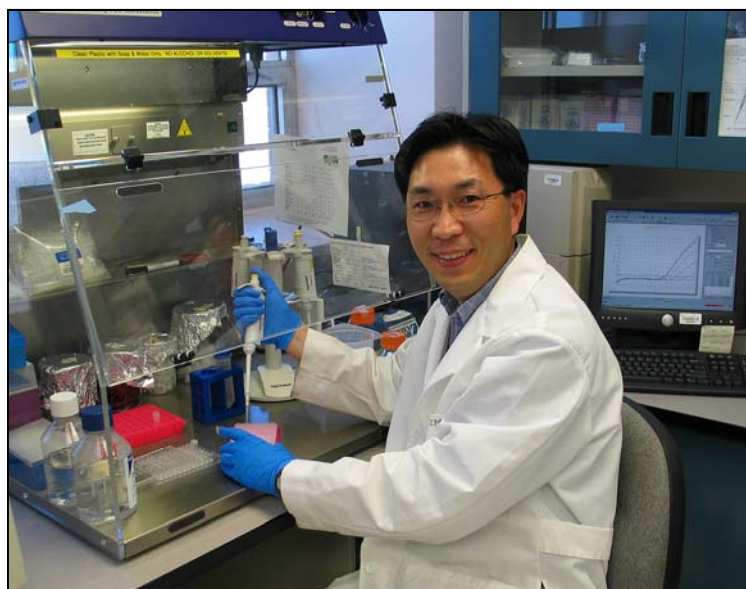
*Former Grape Kings taking part in the Annual Pen Centre Grande Parade.*

## Development of an Innovative Diagnostic Technology for the Detection of Phytoplasma Diseases of Grapevine

*Reprinted with permission.*

**P**lant disease diagnosis is one of the key components in the comprehensive field management of plant diseases. Crop failures result in serious economic loss and in the case of quarantinable diseases, possible destruction of the entire crop and restrictions of movement of propagative materials from a quarantine area. Early pathogen detection is paramount to prevent disease spread and having the right tools to reliably detect and identify disease causing agents is extremely important.

Dr. Won-Sik Kim developed the Direct real-time PCR (DRT-PCR) and direct pathogen extraction buffer (DiPEB) while employed at Agricultural and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Vineland station working on fire blight. The DRT-PCR is 3 or 4 times faster and 4-6 times more cost effective than conventional molecular diagnostic methods. The DiPEB is now licensed in USA and will be available soon to global markets.



*Dr. Won-Sik Kim, Research Scientist for the Grape Growers of Ontario and AAFC.*

The DRT-PCR application has been successfully optimized and validated with different plant pathogen species (bacterial, viral and fungal) as well as some human viruses. Recently the benefits of DRT-PCR has been demonstrated on detection of plum pox virus.

As a research scientist jointly funded by the Grape Growers of Ontario and Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, Dr. Kim has been working on developing a phytoplasma detection system by using DRT-PCR in collaboration with Dr. L. Stobbs (AAFC). Several diseases caused by phytoplasmas are spreading throughout Europe and potentially could be introduced into Canada where the vectors are already present. Research is focused on detecting Bois noir (BN) and Flavescence dorée (FD) that cause serious problems in European vineyards.

The new system is able to generate a simple line graph in about 90 minutes (contrarily to old systems that could take up to 5 hours) and can determine whether or not the grower's vine is affected by the disease. Furthermore, it costs less than a dollar to use this system which can process 500 samples a day when compared to the older systems that could only process 50 samples at \$7 each diagnosis.

Progress has been made over the last six months by developing specific molecular detection makers to detect FD and BN in the real-time PCR system. Those detection markers are distinctively unique and specific to detect BN and FD respectively. Based on this progress, Dr. Kim is working on ways to overcome some of the problems associated with the application of DRT to detection of phytoplasmas in grape leaves and application for testing of dormant wood and nursery stock.



## OnTrace Agri-Food Traceability

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### Who is OnTrace? What is its role in agriculture and food traceability?

OnTrace is the not-for-profit corporation created to lead food traceability programs and initiatives in the province of Ontario. OnTrace's goals are: to deliver traceability solutions that will enable the agriculture and agri-food industry in Ontario to become more innovative and competitive, and; to strengthen the capacity of industry and government to respond to emergencies related to agriculture and food.

OnTrace's focus is to deliver an Agri-food Premises Registry infrastructure for Ontario. By infrastructure, we mean the technical foundation, legal relationships and organizational capacity to support the premises registry.

OnTrace has completed a pilot project that has delivered a small-scale working model of the infrastructure. The pilot project included four counties (Niagara North/South, Waterloo, and Middlesex) and a number of producer groups including the Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board, Chicken Farmers of Ontario, Turkey Farmers of Ontario, the Egg Farmers of Ontario and the Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission. We are now working with other producer groups as they choose to participate, and this fall we will begin scaling up the system to encompass the entire province.

### How important is premises identification traceability?

We all know that infectious animal and plant diseases can have a devastating economic effect because of loss of animals or crops and the potential continuing loss of market access. In many cases, the financial cost of recovering an agricultural sector's reputation can be greater than the cost of eradicating the disease. Traceability is also increasingly becoming a requirement for export markets.

Premises identification assists industries and governments in managing an animal health or food safety issue by geographically referencing traceability information. Premises information allows officials to quickly define which areas are affected by a disease or food safety event, keeping markets open for unaffected producers.

Benefits to the producer include:

- Strengthened customer confidence in food safety;
- Improved international trade and trade credibility;
- Improved market access;
- Reduced producer losses arising from disease and loss of profits from sales.



For additional information on agriculture and agri-food traceability, please refer to OnTrace's website at: [www.ontraceagrifood.com](http://www.ontraceagrifood.com).



<b>For Sale</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whilmes press type 2300.</li> <li>Icewine juice.</li> </ul>	Jim	(519) 676-5512												
<b>Wanted</b>														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 tonne grape dump trailer.</li> </ul>	Clarence	(905) 562-3495												
<b>Grapes for Sale</b>														
<p>The following varieties of grapes are available:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Baco Noir</td> <td>Cabernet Franc</td> <td>Cabernet Sauvignon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Concord</td> <td>Kerner</td> <td>Merlot</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Niagara</td> <td>Pinot Noir</td> <td>Riesling</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vidal</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Baco Noir	Cabernet Franc	Cabernet Sauvignon	Concord	Kerner	Merlot	Niagara	Pinot Noir	Riesling	Vidal			Kathy at the GGO office	(905) 688-0990 X224
Baco Noir	Cabernet Franc	Cabernet Sauvignon												
Concord	Kerner	Merlot												
Niagara	Pinot Noir	Riesling												
Vidal														

## British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association Associate Membership

The Grape Growers of Ontario is now an Associate Member of the British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association. The British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association is a non-profit organization representing commercial grape growers (for the wine and fresh table grape industries) in the province on agricultural issues and concerns.

The British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association represents growers on the following topics:

- Plant Import Regulations
- Risk Management Programs (Crop Insurance & CAIS)
- Farm Practices
- Rural/Urban Land Use
- Water Use & Conservation
- Environmental Farm Planning Program



For more information on this organization, please visit [www.grapegrowers.bc.ca](http://www.grapegrowers.bc.ca).