

August 2012

BCGA EXECUTIVE CHANGES

Tim Martiniuk has recently put forward his resignation from the BCGA Board and as President of our organization because of an increased workload for him at their family winery & vineyard. A tip of the hat to Tim for serving us so well on our Board for 2 ½ years!

Renée Martin is now President; Roger Hol, Vice-President; Ed Thibault continues as Treasurer and Fred Freese as Past-President. The Board of Directors also includes Bill Collings, Ed Schiller & Marc Beaudry.

FOCUS FOR 2012

At a Board meeting in May, the Directors set our priorities for the upcoming year:

- To grow and maintain membership
- To continue to improve and raise the profile of the BCGA within industry and governments
- To focus on industry issues

BC WINE AUTHORITY GROWER REGISTRY RULES

In response to our earlier meetings with members of the BC Wine Authority Board, we were asked for input on the proposed revisions to the Grower Registry Rules. After a careful review of the revised Rules, we provided the BCWA with a list of further changes and safeguards we would like to see included. Chiefly among these were that 1) growers found not in compliance, be given adequate warning by registered mail informing them that their registration may be revoked if they fail to rectify the deficiencies observed for the next vintage and follow-up inspection; 2) that the Annual Wine Grape Grower Registration Form (BCWA WGGR -2012) be aligned with the revised Rules (eliminating the unacceptable 'retroactive features' contained in the current document); and 3) that growers be provided with an information sheet, explaining the reasons why the Registry is needed and why growers are required to re-register every year.



SPECIAL RATES FOR BCGA MEMBERS!

Superior Propane is interested in providing BCGA members with a special rates program that could include special rates on propane tank rentals, per litre price reductions, or a rebate program. To pursue this further and get the best package possible, we need to collect the following information from our members:

- How many propane tanks (not cylinders) are you currently using?
- What size and approximately how many litres of propane do you use annually?
- Are you under contract with a current supplier? (termination clauses would have to be considered)

Please e-mail your information to our office at bcca@nethop.net

NON-PAYMENT FOR GRAPES IN THE 2011 HARVEST

Over the past months, the BCGA has received more than the usual amount of complaints from growers who sold grapes in 2011 but never received payment. The only recourse that we can recommend is Small Claims Court – a fairly simple and straight forward process. We also suggest that growers do their 'due diligence' before agreeing to sell to a winery that you haven't sold to before – ask your neighbours & others in the industry if there are any concerns you should be aware of.



INTRODUCING A NEW BCGA ASSOCIATE MEMBER – THE ARROW LAKES GRAPE SOCIETY

The Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society (ALGGS) was formed in 2010 with a mandate to research the potential of the Arrow Lakes as a wine region. Arrow Lakes is situated in the West Kootenay; the research area includes all the communities from Nakusp to Edgewood. The Society was founded by a group of volunteers who shared an interest and a similar approach to meeting this mandate. The research is being conducted in two phases, including a temperature study in the region and a research test plot of select grape varieties suited to the local climate and growing season

Phase 1 began in 2011 and is currently in year two of a five-year study. This phase involved the purchase and installation of 40 temperature data loggers throughout the region. These units are recording a temperature reading every 10 minutes with information downloaded once a year. The data for this study will continue to be collected for three more years. All information collected will be available on our website to any interested parties to be used for agriculture or other purposes

Phase 2 will begin in the spring of 2013 with the planting of a one-acre test plot of wine grape varieties that may be suited for our growing climate. The test plot will be planted with 15 to 20 different grape varieties and will include unique Blattner varieties such as Cabernet Libra, Cab Foch, and 4805-83(a Bordeaux style) for reds and Petit Melo and Epicure for whites. We also plan to include traditional varieties suited to our growing climate such as Ortega, Siegerrebe, Marechal Foch and possibly some clones of Pinot Noir. A site in Burton has been selected for this plot, with work already underway in soil testing and land preparation

All research was made possible through the commitment of dedicated volunteers and with funding from Columbia Basin Trust, Regional District of Central Kootenay, BC Hydro and Nakusp and Area Community Foundation. For additional information on the Society or on our research please visit our new website coming on line this fall at www.alggs.ca or contact Jerry Botti, Chair at jerry.botti@gmail.com

AGRI-STABILITY – IMPORTANT DEADLINES FROM THE BC MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

- The deadline to submit the 2011 AgriStability/AgriInvest Harmonized form (without penalty) is 30 September 2012
- Producers can still submit their 2011 AgriStability/AgriInvest Harmonized forms (with penalty) until 31 December 2012
- The penalty for late filing is \$500.00 per month; the maximum penalty is \$1500.00
- Producers who miss the 31 December 2012 deadline will not be eligible for the 2011 program year

Website: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/agristability>; Toll-free number: 1-877-343-2767

Fax number: 1-877-605-8467; E-mail: AgriStability@gov.bc.ca

UNWANTED & OBSOLETE PESTICIDE COLLECTION

An unwanted/obsolete pesticide collection is happening this year in the Interior, Kootenay area and Okanagan. The collection locations and times are: Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna and Oliver the week of 23-26 October 2012. This will be a travelling road show with one day at each location, Creston October 31st. Further information will be sent out via e-mail. For further info contact: Madeline Waring (Pesticide Specialist) at the Plant and Animal Health Branch at 604-556-3027

CELEBRATION OF HARVEST

To know a good wine is to know the grape grower! We invite all growers to join us at the 1st Annual Celebration of Harvest on Wednesday, September 12th at Thee Vineglass Vineyard in Cawston. Bring along your favourite wines from your cellar to share with others for an evening of food, music, fun, laughter. Call your neighbours, get a party together, hop on the bus and have some fun celebrating this year's harvest! Bus transportation is being provided by Engage Agro/BASF.



MEMBERSHIP DECALS

Included in the package for members is a decal that we hope you will display to make others in the industry aware of the BCGA and hopefully generate some opportunities for members to encourage non-members to consider membership. We thank all members for their on-going support!

STARLING CONTROL PROGRAM DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their contributions to the Starling Control Program. Every dollar that is donated goes directly into trapping. Please encourage others to make their 2012 donation!

Platinum Sponsors (\$5,000 +)

Andrew Peller Ltd

Gold Sponsors (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Tinhorn Creek Vineyards Ltd (& Winery)

****Burrowing Owl Estate Winery & Burrowing Owl Vineyards Ltd****

Our special thanks to Burrowing Owl for their generous financial support in donating well over the \$10/acre requested!

Silver Sponsors (\$500 - \$999)

Blue Mountain Vineyard & Cellars Ltd

Bronze Sponsors (\$101 - \$499)

Parallel 49 Vineyards Ltd - Intersection Winery

Munckhof Vineyards

Chandra Estate Winery Ltd

Symbioses Vineyard

Arrowleaf Cellars & Suncrest Vineyard

A.R. Casorso Ltd

Thornhaven Estates Winery

Paydirt Vineyards (Gray Monk Cellars Ltd)

Noble Ridge Vineyard & Winery

K&V Vineyards

Gehring Brothers Estate Winery

King Family Farms Ltd

Supporting Sponsors (up to \$100)

Denmarc Vineyard

Paxon Family Farm & Vineyard

Raisin D'Etire Vineyards

Boulder Beach Vineyard

Remuda Vineyard

Stone Ridge Vineyards

Black Bench Vineyards

Quail Estates

Roesler Vineyard

Ronald Johnson Vineyard

Slow Vineyards

Stonehouse Vineyard

Ebneter Vineyard

Starz Vineyard

Sumac Slopes Vineyards

Watkins Vineyard

Wine Plus+

B6 Ventures Ltd

Black Widow Winery Inc

Celantano Vineyard

Cornish Vineyard

Dry Creek Vineyard

House of Rose Vineyards

Matheson Creek Farm

Rock Oven Vineyards

The Dude Ranch Vineyard

Fiume Vineyard

Redrows Vineyards

Silver Barrel Vineyard

Trout Creek Vineyard

La Dolce Vita Vineyards

The Terraces

Knorr Vineyards Ltd

Robert Hancock Orchard

Heckmann Vineyard

Stag's Hollow Winery & Vineyard

Munson's View Vineyard

Coulombe Vineyards

Lake Breeze Vineyards & Winery

Lindale Farm

Okanagan Crush Pad Winery Ltd

Paynter Family Vineyard

Phantom Creek Vineyard

Suncrest Vines

Artemisia Vineyard

We apologise for any names we have missed – if you sent in your donation and are not included in this list, please contact us

BC Grapegrowers' Association - 451 Atwood Road, Grand Forks, BC, V0H 1H9 Toll Free: 1-877-762-4652

E-mail: bcga@nethop.net Website: www.grapegrowers.bc.ca