

Update from Your Board Chair

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- **Annual General Meeting**

Industry Updates

- Cuvée
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- Health Canada Ontario Pesticide Compliance Program 2024
- Federal Budget 2024
- Growing Future Opportunities Initiative

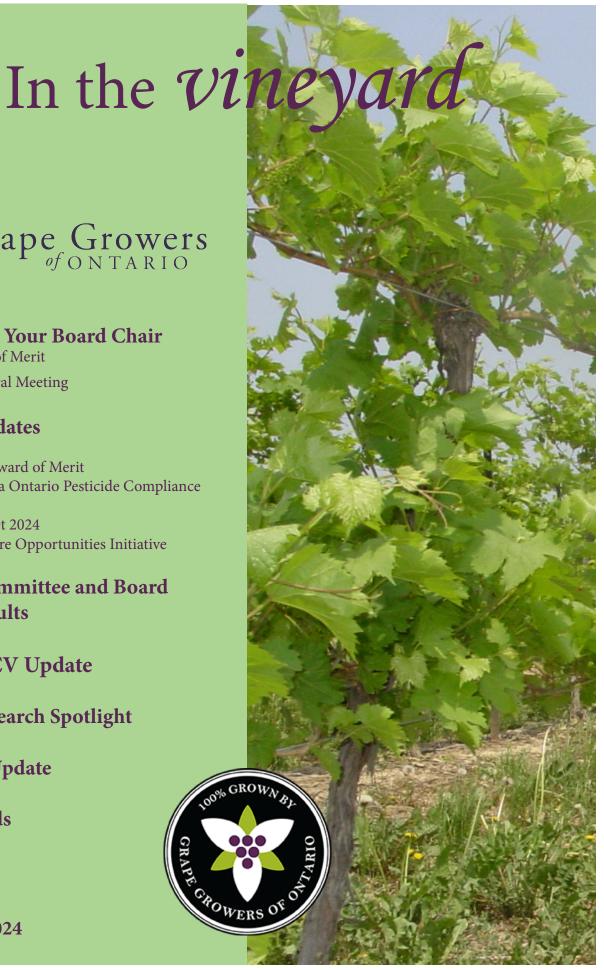
Growers' Committee and Board Election Results

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Update from your Board Chair





Grape Growers of Ontario Award of Merit

Congratulations to Dr. John Paroschy, who was this year's GGO Award of Merit recipient.

The Award of Merit is presented annually in recognition of outstanding achievements made by an individual to the Ontario grape growing industry.

Dr. John Paroschy is a renowned research scientist in the wine industry whose groundbreaking work has revolutionized the field. With a passion for understanding the intricacies of winemaking and a relentless pursuit of knowledge, Dr. Paroschy has made significant contributions to the industry

through his innovative research projects and collaborations.

Dr. Paroschy's journey in the wine industry began with a strong foundation in engineering. He attended the University of Waterloo, where he completed a degree in mechanical engineering. Building upon this knowledge, he pursued further education at Guelph University, earning a Master's Degree and Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering.

After completing his education, Dr. Paroschy joined Brights Winery in 1978 as the experimental winemaker. During his time there, he honed his skills and developed a deep understanding of the winemaking process. In 1982, he transitioned to Chateau des Charmes, where he served as the Director of Operations, Research, and Development until his retirement in 2013.



Dr. John Paroschy's unwavering dedication to advancing the wine industry, his diverse interests, and his passion for knowledge make him a true pioneer and deserving recipient of this prestigious award. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the world of winemaking, inspiring future generations to push the boundaries of innovation and excellence.



GGO Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all members who attended the 76th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, and to Minister of Agriculture Lisa Thompson who provided a video message about the provincial budget elimination of the 6.1% basic tax charged on wine at on-site winery retail stores and the opportunities for the grape and wine industry to contribute to the economy, to Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West and Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport who gave remarks on behalf of Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Agriculture Lisa Thompson, and to Dr. Sylvain Charlebois professor of food distribution and policy at the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University in Halifax, and the Senior Director of the Agri-food Analytics Lab who presented on current food and wine trends.

Industry Events and Updates

2024 Cuvée

Congratulations to Board Director Steve Pohorly, who was awarded the Cuvée Vineyard of Excellence Award for Best Red Vinifera - Merlot, and to Rob Power of Creekside Estate Winery, who was awarded the 2024 Cuvée Winemaker of Excellence Award at the Cuvée Grand Tasting held on March 30th.





The Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association Award of Merit

The Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association is pleased to announce that Mary Jane Combe, retired Market Analyst and Special Projects Consultant with Grape Growers of Ontario, is the 2023 Award of Merit recipient.

An event will be held on Wednesday, May 15th, at Honsberger Estate Winery in Jordan, Ontario, to honour Mary Jane.

Visit the Grape Growers of Ontario home page of the webiste (grapegrowerso-fontario.com) for the link to RSVP to the event.



Dave Lambert Agricultural Scholarship

The Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association (NPF&VGA) is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to any student accepted to or enrolled in post-secondary agricultural studies (returning to school for the fall term), who is from the Niagara Region and who demonstrates a passion and commitment to the industry.

The intake period is open from March 1st - May 31st. Applicants are encouraged to visit the website www.npfvga.org/scholarship to access the application outline and read the criteria for eligibility.

Health Canada Ontario Pesticide Compliance Program 2024 Ag Users- Grape Vineyards/Grape Growers

The Ontario Pesticide Compliance Program will be out to grape vineyards/grape grower(table/fresh) farms throughout the 2024 growing season to verify compliance with the Pest Control Products Act (PCPA) and provide information to growers pertaining to the Act and products that have (or are currently) undergone reevaluation.

Information about the program can be found **HERE**.

Industry Updates

Federal Budget 2024 Highlights for Growers

Interest Relief for Farmers

To ensure that Canadian farmers have access to the cash flow needed to continue producing food and supporting national food security, the government increased the \$100,000 interest-free limit on loans temporarily under the Advance Payments Program to \$250,000 in 2022 and to \$350,000 in 2023. These changes have supported over 10,000 farmers with the increased costs for agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers and fuel, triggered by Russia's illegal war against Ukraine, global supply chain disruptions, and rising interest rates.

Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$64 million in 2024-25 to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to support a \$250,000 interest-free limit on Advance Payments Program loans for the 2024 program year. The government will continue to review the Advance Payments Program to improve program delivery and reduce the administrative burden for producers.

Key Ongoing Actions

Investing \$3.5 billion in the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to strengthen the innovation, competitiveness, and resiliency of the agriculture and agri-food sector.

Artificial Intelligence

\$200 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, to boost AI start-ups to bring new technologies to market, and accelerate AI adoption in critical sectors, such as agriculture, clean technology, health care, and manufacturing. This support will be delivered through Canada's Regional Development Agencies.

New Carbon Rebate for Small Business

Budget 2024 proposes to urgently return fuel charge proceeds from 2019-20 through 2023-24 to an estimated 600,000 businesses, with 499 or fewer employees through a new refundable tax credit. This would deliver over \$2.5 billion directly to Canada's small- and medium-sized businesses. An average of \$4,167/year.

Click **HERE** to review the full Federal Budget for 2024.

Wine grape applications now open for Growing Future Opportunities Initiative

Last fall, the Canadian and Ontario governments announced funding of up to \$8 million over 3 years for Ontario apple, tender fruit, table grape, and wine grape growers through the Growing Future Opportunities Initiative, under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

The funding is intended to help growers plant varieties of produce that will improve quality, production, and marketability.

Once an intake period opens, applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until funding has been fully allocated or the intake period closes, whichever comes first.

Wine grape growers' intake period

The wine grape intake opened at 10:00 am on April 15, 2024. The application and guidelines are available **HERE**.

Should you have any questions during this process, please get in touch with Nick Lemieux at 905-329-2129 or Keara White at 289-929-7384.

Growers' Committee Election Results

We welcome Brad Brzeczka, Stanley Lament, Mat Vaughan, Keith Tyers, and the following members to the Growers' Committee.

District 1 - Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls

- Brad Brzeczka
- Ieff Duc
- Ben Froese
- Dan Lambert
- Stanley Lament
- Matthias Oppenlaender
- Steve Pohorly
- Pia Seeger
- Chris Van de Laar
- Kevin Watson
- Erwin Wiens

<u>District 2 - St. Catharines, Lincoln, West Lincoln,</u> Hamilton, Wellington, Dufferin, Peel, Halton

- Doug Funk Jr.
- Will George
- Chris Mullet-Koop
- Brock Puddicombe
- Joe Schenck
- Craig Schmidt
- Benjamin Whitty
- Chris Wismer

<u>District 3 - Southwestern Ontario, Waterloo, Perth,</u>

Huron, Grey, Bruce

- Murray Wilson
- Mat Vaughan

District 4 - Eastern and Northern Ontario

- Rob Peck
- Keith Tyers

Board of Directors Election Results

Matthias Oppenlaender has been re-elected as Board Chair and Kevin Watson has been re-elected as the Board Vice Chair. We welcome the following members to the Board of Directors.

<u>District 1 - Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls</u>

- Jeff Duc (Director at Large)
- Matthias Oppenlaender
- Steve Pohorly
- Kevin Watson
- Erwin Wiens

<u>District 2 - St. Catharines, Lincoln, West Lincoln,</u> <u>Hamilton, Wellington, Dufferin, Peel, Halton</u>

- Will George
- Brock Puddicombe
- Ioe Schenck

<u>District 3 - Southwestern Ontario, Waterloo, Perth,</u> <u>Huron, Grey, Bruce</u>

Murray Wilson

District 4 - Eastern and Northern Ontario

Rob Peck

The Board of Directors thanks Doug Funk Jr. for his 8 years of service on the Board, and thanks Doug for continuing to service on the Growers' Committee.

The Board of Directors welcomes their newest member, Jeff Duc as the Director at Large. Jeff is a third-generation grower raised on the family farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Before attending Niagara College and working full time on the farm Jeff had the opportunity to travel to Australia and work during a harvest in the small wine region of Mudgee. Jeff has been a coach and a trainer for the Niagara-on -the-Lake minor hockey league for the past 20 years and has also been a member of the Grape Growers of Ontario Growers' Committee for the past 6 years and several other subcommittees.

The Board of Directors also includes representation from across Ontario including Steve Pohorly and Erwin Wiens of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Will George and Joe Schenck of St. Catharines, Brock Puddicombe of Winona, Robert Peck of Prince Edward County, and Murray Wilson of Harrow.



Spot it? Snap, catch and report it

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) is present in the United States and getting closer to the Canadian border. It could be devastating for Canada's wine, fruit and forest industries.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR - LIFECYCLE







EGG MASS



EARLY STAGE NYMPH MAY-JUL



LATE STAGE NYMPH JUL-SEP



ADULTS JUL-DEC

WHERE TO LOOK FOR IT

OVER 100 SPECIES OF TREES AND PLANTS



COMMERCIAL AND LEISURE VEHICLES



OUTDOOR ITEMS



If you think you have found the spotted lanternfly pest or egg masses in Canada, report it to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Learn more at Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly





Spotted lanternfly

Spot it? Snap, catch and report it



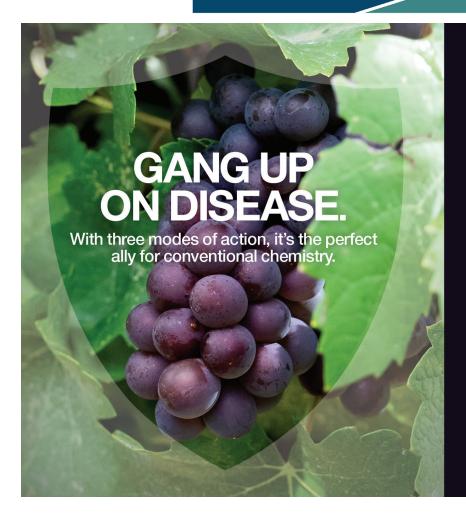
If you think you have seen the spotted lanternfly (SLF) or its egg masses, please let the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) know immediately. Call your local CFIA plant health office or report it online: Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly

Ontario Plant Health Offices

· Barrie: 705-739-0008 · Belleville: 613-969-3320 · Brantford: 519-753-3478 · Guelph: 226-217-1200 · Hamilton: 905-572-2201 · Kingsville: 519-733-5013 • London: 519-691-1300 · North Bay: 705-495-5995 · Ottawa: 613-773-8660 • St. Catharines: 905-937-7434

• Thunder Bay: 807-683-4370 · Toronto: 647-790-1100 · Walkerton: 519-881-2431

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> Serifel® **Funaicide**



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Get hooked on rapid disease control.*

Cevya®
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■ ■ BASF
We create chemistry



*Actual technology may not be exactly as shown.

Experience a new level of control with our unique binding action.

Talk about technology you'll get attached to quickly. Cevya® fungicide uses exclusive binding activity to control biotypes that may be resistant to other fungicides, including Group 3-tolerant strains. This hook-like action delivers fast and continuous control of key diseases in blueberries, grapes, apples, pears, stone fruits, potatoes and vegetables. Visit agsolutions.ca/horticulture to find out what it can do for you.

Always read and follow label directions.

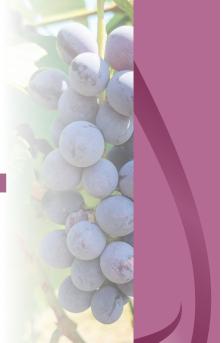
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Growing grapes?

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Syngenta offers a broad portfolio of fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, and biological solutions to protect your grapes and help your vineyard stand up against its toughest pests and stresses, year in and year out.

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			×XMiravis'Prime			
				(*In	spireSuper'	
				√R	evus'	
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CGCN-RCCV Update

CGCN-RCCV Funding Announced for Cluster Research and Clean Plant Network Development



CGCN-RCCV Treasurer Matthias Oppenlaender (left) Chris Bittle, MP, Lawrence McAulay Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Executive Director Darien Temprile and Vance Badawey, MP at the joint funding announcement for the Wine Sector Support Program and CGCN-RCCV's Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding on Friday, March 1st.

During an event at Trius Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on Friday, March 1st, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, officially announced funding granted to CGCN-RCCV to administer two different programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) until March 2028. The Minister announced an investment of \$5.9M, matched by industry contributions, to the Agri-Science Program - Clusters Component for the national Grape & Wine research cluster, and up to \$836,220, also matched by industry contributions, to the Agri-Assurance Program! Cluster funding will be used towards 14 research and development activities to help the sector adapt to the increasingly frequent extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change, as well as new pest and disease problems. Funding under the Agri-Assurance Program will support continued work to provide Canadian grape growers and wineries with the clean materials needed to plant certified virus-free grapevines in their vineyards. Nurseries that are members of the CGCN-RC-CV Verification or Certification Programs may access 50% subsidized virus testing services, which will ensure the long-term success of the sector.







Read the full press release: https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2024/03/minister-macau-lay-announces-177-million-extension-to-wine-sector-support-program.html.

Other Updates

- CGCN-RCCV is has been working with our Certification Committee since September 2023 to make various amendments to our Verification and Certification Program protocols. Final versions of the amended protocols are expected to be enacted in Spring 2024.
- CGCN-RCCV's fiscal year-end is March 31st, and our Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday April 30th. Formal invitations to the AGM will be issued to GGO representatives in advance of the meeting.

OGWRI Research Spotlight



A true-to-typing grapevine genomic test may be within closer reach to complement work towards accelerated tissue culture propagation.



Dr. Ping Liang is pictured by his computer working with genomic data.

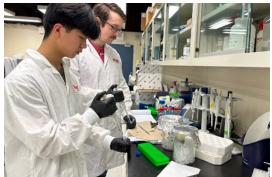
Dr. Ping Liang, Professor of Biological Science at Brock University, in collaboration with Dr. Helen Fisher Adjunct Professor at the University of Guelph Department of Plant Agriculture, are working towards developing a robust and easy-to-use trueness-to-typing test for V. riparia selections.

This project titled "Genomic analysis of wild V. riparia cultivars and development of a genetic test for their true-to-typing," started in April 2023 and will continue until end of May 2024. Funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) through the Marketing Vineyard Improvement Program (MVIP).

The objectives of this project are to:

- 1. Collect samples for 15 V. riparia clones from the field and process them for DNA extraction.
- 2. Perform whole genome sequencing for these V. riparia clones using the Illumina high throughput sequencing (HTS) technology. Analyze and identify genomic variants unique to each of these clones.
- 3. Develop an easy to use and cost-efficient DNA-based test that can distinguish amongst all of the targeted V. riparia clones. Drs. Liang and Fisher accomplished objective one by collecting 97 leaf samples of 15 selections of Vitis riparia clones. These samples were ground into fine powder for extracting genomic DNA and for long-term storage at -80°C. Despite some complications, they managed to obtain sufficient amounts of genomic DNA needed for performing whole genome sequencing. They also developed an analysis pipeline for whole genome sequencing data using publicly available grapevine genome data.

To accomplish objective two, Drs. Liang and Fisher completed whole genome sequencing for a total of 20 samples covering at least one representative sample for each of the 15 selections, and additional samples for one of the selections to represent samples from different stages of the propagation process. Millions of variants were identified for each of the samples, as expected. The observation of around half million variants for all locally collected samples indicates that all these samples are genetically different at many genomic loci. This ensures the feasibility of developing genetic testing for distinguishing selections from each other, particularly those with desirable traits, such as responses in cold acclimation and de-acclimation. Furthermore, a whole genome-based phylogenetic analysis involving our 20 samples and additional 30 other sequenced riparia lines elsewhere revealed



Two undergraduate students (Robbie and Corbin) working in the lab to extract the genomic DNA from grape leaf samples.

the first-ever picture of the genetic relationships of all riparia materials from major sources worldwide and for the degree of genetic variations across different lines. Future work to accomplish objective three will examine the feasibility of selecting a set of variants for designing a testing protocol involving the use of Polymerase.

Chain Reaction (PCR) testing, which is quick and cost effective. As a back-up plan for genomic test development, whole-genome sequencing will be used. For the latter approach, with the genome sequence data generated from this project and those by other research groups, they have compiled a comprehensive reference database for V. riparia selections and clones. This means, for any new samples, it will be possible to determine the closest match with ultimate accuracy.

Having access to testing procedures as precise as this will allow for tissue propagated lines to be verified accurately without the need to wait for whole vine ampelography in the nursery fields, thus improving the confidence in tissue propagated material. In addition, the test will allow precise ascertaining a riparia root stock material to a very specific line.

For more information on this project and other MVIP research, please visit: www.ontariograpeandwineresearch.com/en/mvip.

For information on additional OGWRI funded research projects please visit our website <u>www.ontariograpeandwineresearch.com.</u>



ONTARIO CRAFT WINE CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024
NIAGARA FALLS CONVENTION CENTRE

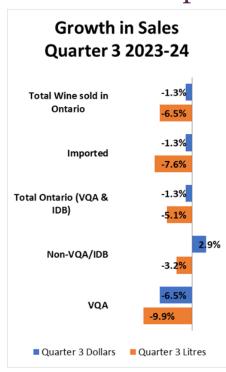
Roots to Resilience and Success for Ontario's Wine Industry



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Wine Sales Update - Quarter 3

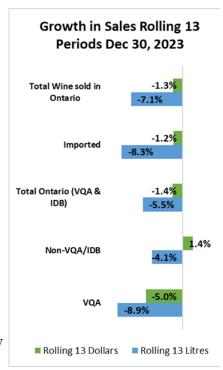


This is the third quarter report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year-end. All statistics are reported for the 12 months (13 rolling periods) ending December 30, 2023, unless otherwise noted.

Total sales of wine in Ontario, including imports decreased 7.1% in volume (litres) and decreased at 1.3% in value (dollars) in the rolling 13 periods.

VQA sales were down 8.9% in volume and down 5.0% in value. Non-VQA/IDB sales are -4.1% in volume and 1.4% in value.

Quarter 3 is from October 8, 2023 to December 30, 2023. Wine sales overall are down 6.5% in litres. VQA continues to show the greatest losses in Q3 YOY.



Percent Change in wine sales in litres by sales channel

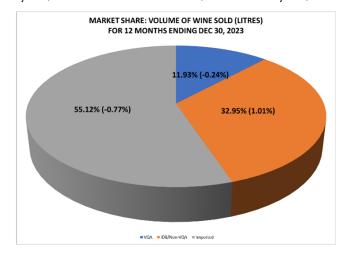
(excluding Coolers and Cider at WRS)

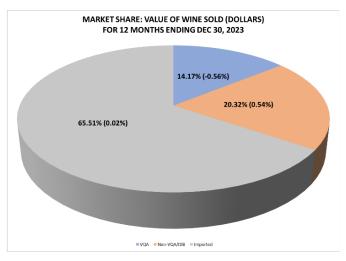
VQA Sales (litres)	QTR	Rolling 13
LCBO	-10.3%	-11.9%
WRS	-13.3%	-11.2%
Direct Delivery	-1.4%	4.0%
Total VQA	-9.9%	-8.9%

Non-VQA/IDB Sales	QTR	Rolling 13
LCBO	0.6%	-3.1%
WRS	-8.2%	-5.8%
Direct Delivery	-0.9%	2.4%
Total Non-VQA/IDB	-2.4%	-3.8%

Total Ontario wine sales (VQA & Non-VQA/IDB excluding coolers and cider) is -5.1% in Quarter 3 and -5.5% for rolling 13 periods.

Market share rolling 13 periods: VQA wine sales represent 11.93% (last year 12.17%) of the overall sales of wine in Ontario by volume and 14.17% (last year 14.73%) in dollars. IDB market share is 32.95% by volume (31.94% last year) and 20.32% in dollars (19.78% last year).





Classified Ads

For Sale

Unverferth Maximus 100 Disc- \$7,250. Call Josh at 437-488-5769 or email at i.aiktken@cavespring.ca

5 5 ft. Disc available- \$1500 email bruzer81@gmail.com

Multiple items for sale- EnoVeneta Crusher / Destemmer. Capacity: 10 tons per hour, Willmes Membrane Press. 2 ton capacity (whole cluster) and 4 ton capacity (machine picked fruit), Open membrane press, Criveller semi-automatic corker. Variable bottle sizes and cork sizes. Please contact Fabian fabian@ferox.ca or Cubby cubby@ferox.ca

USED growing tubes- 60 cm Please call Israel at 9059880366

Two custom-made conveyors- \$1,495 each. Run off 110V. The belt requires some work on the second unit. Email Jay at jay@quaiduvin.com

1500 L Stainless Steel Tank -Lipco recovery hoods with hydraulically operated fans. Electric controls for spray valves and boom adjustment. Udor pump recently replaced. Newer tires. Contact Tony: 905-658-4392 or tmolek@megalomani-acwine.com

Maximus Disc 6 ft- \$6000 Schmeiser Disc 5 ft \$6000 International Seeder 5 ft \$1000 Triple K S cultivator 6.5 ft \$500 Email or text for photos 905-328-0064 <u>Aaron@huebelgrapesestates.com</u>

Gregoire Speedflow 1000 Progress (2 Row) - The sprayer is in good condition. Updated, winterized and maintained indoors through the winters. KEY SPECS • Adjustable axle and sprayer booms • Tank Volume: 1000 L • Annovi Reverberi sprayer pump • 1000L Poly Spray Tank (with rinse tank) • Annovi Reverberi Diaphram Pump • Swing Hitch to make tight turns • ARAG Spray Rate Controller • Electric Valves • 2 Row Full Coverage with Dyna Diff Diffusers • Central Fan • Electric over Hydraulic Boom Controls • Sold AS-IS EMAIL FOR PRICE andrew@pearlmorissette.com

Wanted

Wanted SS Storage tank 10'-13' in diameter - In search of a stainless storage tank 10-13' in diameter. It does not need to be in working condition. It must have a conical top. I will be cutting the bottom off. Only the barrel and lid are required to be in decent condition. The barrel wall height needs to be a minimum of 8'. garren@shaleridgeestatewinery.com

Harvest Accommodations in the Grimsby/Winona Area - Looking for short term accommodations for vintage '24 harvest season for international cellar hands, 3 to 5 people coming from abroad to join our cellar team, Move-in date mid-August, until end of November or early December, Needs to be furnished. Email Jessica.kerr@andrewpeller.com or ryan.gibson@andrewpeller.com or ryan.gibson@andrewpeller.com

Jobs

Vine Pulling service available - Vine pulling service available for 2024 season. If interested please email Evan at smithvineyards@gmail.com

Grape Pruners – Looking for individuals who can prune and tie grapevines at our 10-acre vineyard. Send email to lawrenceheavens@gmail.com

To place classified ads in the newsletter and online, visit grapegrowersofontario.com, or contact the Board Office at info@grapegrowersofontario.com or 905-688-0990 ext 224





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GGO Services

Grape Pricing eGrape Chemical Registration Crop Insurance Requirements Business Risk Management and Disaster Risk Programing Agricultural Policy Framework Bridge Funding Offshore Farm Labour Program Farm Labour Legislation Grape Standards Grape Inspection Grape Research Grape Industry Promotion Government Lobbying Land Use Issues Nutrient Management Market Research Liaise with Industry and Other Farm Organizations



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