

in the vineyard



Grape Growers
of ONTARIO

January 2014

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Annual General
Meeting - April 2



Chair's Update



Agricorp Online



OVIP Intake 4



Classifieds



66th Annual General Meeting

All grape growers are invited to attend the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Grape Growers of Ontario.

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

7:00 pm

Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines

IMPORTANT!

Voter Registration from 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm

Registration Requirements:

- Photo ID and GGO Number
- Must have sold grapes in 2012 and/or 2013
- NOTE: If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to vote, please ensure that your proxy presents written confirmation at the time of registration.

Report from your GGO Board Chair



The Grape Growers of Ontario take an active role in representing our members and their interests. Here is an update on a number of issues that the GGO has been working through on your behalf.

Cold Injury

It is still early in the season to predict the impact of the cold weather events on bud survival and vine damage. The GGO has contracted KCMS Applied Research and Consulting to conduct an extensive province-wide 2014 Bud Survival survey, with a report anticipated mid-to late February. Preliminary sample analysis conducted by CCOVI on a select number of vineyards show that primary bud survival rate is site and variety specific. It is important for growers to assess bud survival in their own vineyards and adopt strategies to mitigate the impact from cold damage. The impact of cold weather damage can be mitigated through pruning strategies that can make up for lower bud survival numbers and trunk damage.

For more information visit www.grapegrowersofontario.com or www.ccovi.ca/vine-alert

OF&VGA 155th Annual General Meeting

The Grape Growers of Ontario congratulate Ray Duc on being re-elected for a second, one-year term as chair of Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, and thank Art Smith for his commitment and dedication to Ontario's fruit and vegetable growers as the OF&VGA CEO for the last ten years. Art announced his plan to retire in June 2014. Wayne Roberts was posthumously named the recipient of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association Award of Merit at the organization's annual meeting.

Ontario Increasing Minimum Wage

The GGO appeared before the Ontario government's Minimum Wage Advisory Panel in November 2013. The GGO's position was consistent with other horticultural sectors; minimum wage increases should be based on a formula and avoid the significant lump-sum increases that we have seen in the past. Our recommendations were:

- Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) should be used to establish a regular, predictable, and sustainable mechanism for minimum wage increases.
- Setting minimum wage should occur outside of the traditional seasonal labour period of April to November to avoid increases during the season. We also recommend a 3 to 4 month notice period so employers can make adjustments.
- Agriculture should be exempt from any lump-sum increase that may be contemplated prior to implementation of an inflation-based formula (CPI).
- Consider the establishment of a minimum wage specific to agriculture similar to the approach currently used with students, liquor servers, hunting/fishing guides and homeworkers.

It was announced on January 30, 2014, that Ontario is increasing the minimum wage from \$10.25 to \$11 per hour on June 1, 2014. This new rate reflects the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since the last minimum wage increase in 2010 and is part of the provincial government's commitment to fairness. The government will also introduce legislation that would tie future minimum wage increases to the CPI to ensure the minimum wage keeps up with the cost of living. Under the proposed legislation, increases would be announced by April 1 and come into effect on Oct. 1. More information is available on the GGO website at www.grapegrowersofontario.com.

2013 Harvest Media Event



The GGO toasted the record grape crop and celebrated the Icewine harvest at the Queen's Quay LCBO with Premier and Minister of Agriculture & Food, Kathleen Wynne, and Minister of Consumer Services, Tracy MacCharles.

An Update on Agricorp's Online Services

The following update provides information regarding how Agricorp's services are changing to better serve customers.



Overview

- Agricorp customers can now sign in to agricorp.com to view program documents, download all forms and update their contact information online – all in one place. Customers only need to remember one user name and password that they create, for all their online program activities.
- Myagricorp.com, which provided online services for AgriStability only, is now closed. All the services that were available there are now available by signing in to agricorp.com.
- Agricorp has started sending email registration invitations for our new online services. Registration details will be sent to customers and their authorized contacts who have email addresses on file with us.
- No changes have been made to the Farm Business Registration website or the Data Management System website. The latter is a website operated in conjunction with grape, apple and tender fruit organizations.

To get ready to report information online

1. If you haven't already validated your email address, contact Agricorp.
2. After you have contacted Agricorp, look for an email invitation to "Get connected to Agricorp." You will be provided information which will enable you to complete the registration process.
3. After receiving the email invitation, visit agricorp.com and click Sign in, then Register now. Complete the process.

According to Agricorp's last annual customer satisfaction survey, about 80 per cent of customers are connected to the Internet (75 per cent with high speed). Already, more than a third of Agricorp customers use agricorp.com to find and submit program information online. Moving to a single sign-in is an important step towards offering customers more online services in the future.

Information for Agents

To share more details about the changes and help ensure a smooth transition, Agricorp is holding a webinar for agents (e.g., accountants and bookkeepers). They can also learn more about the new online services at agricorp.com/agentinfo. This webinar is in addition to our annual program information sessions. Material presented at this webinar is intended for business professionals who submit information to Agricorp on behalf of producers. The webinar will be presented in English.

The webinar will be hosted on Wednesday, January 15, from 1:30 to 3:00. Agents will be able to preview the new online services, learn how to register and receive answers for their questions.

For further information, farm organizations can contact: David Hughes, (Acting) Manager, Product Management and Industry Relations, Agricorp. Phone: (519)-826-4113. Email: David.Hughes@agricorp.com

OVIP Intake 4 Funding Still Available

Intake 4 of the Ontario Vineyard Improvement Program still has funding available and is accepting applications. This is the final intake of the program. The intake closes March 31, 2014 or earlier if demand exceeds available funds.. As this is the final Intake, growers are encouraged to apply so that they are able to maximize their funding if they have not already done so. Applications are available at www.grapegrowersofontario.com may be submitted in one of the following ways:

1. By email: ovip@ontario.ca
2. By fax: (519) 826-3398
3. In person or by mail at an OMAF office

OVIP YEAR 3 OVERVIEW

Year 3 is now in the last quarter of the fiscal year (Jan.-Mar. 2014). We want to ensure that all available funds under Intake 3 of the Ontario Vineyard Improvement Program are fully utilized. You can submit a claim any time after you have incurred costs for your project and you can submit multiple claims instead of just one claim after project completion.

If for some reason you are not intending to incur costs in accordance with your Offer to Proceed, please inform Brett McLennan as soon as possible at 519-826-3833 or by email at Brett.McLennan@Ontario.ca.

Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention February 19th & 20th, 2014



This year, the OFVC is on track to being the largest event to date. The trade show has increased in size and boasts 35+ first time exhibitors. The comprehensive speakers program addresses issues faced by growers across Ontario and will equip you to meet the challenges of the growing season to come. A variety of programming will take place on the Farm Credit Canada Stage including local chefs, dignitaries and the popular cider, beer and innovation award presentations. The Farmer's & Friends reception sponsored by Bayer, N.M. Bartlett and Provide Agro will feature more local food and wine. Registration is open and discounted prices expire February 11th. The OFVC website has show details, links, speaker bios and more! www.ofvc.ca. Do not miss this opportunity for education, networking and FUN!

Make sure to visit the GGO at Booth 533!

Classifieds

FOR SALE

- 500 L 2013 Cabernet Franc Icewine Juice 38.1 Brix; 2,000L 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Icewine Juice 40.0 Brix; 2,000 L 2013 Vidal Icewine Juice 38.0 Brix

Please contact Steve at 905-563-5516 or skocsis@cogeco.ca

WANTED

New start up distillery in Ottawa is looking for distilling grade grapes.

Please contact Jean at jeanlevac@rogers.com

WANTED

Small hybrid winery looking for a wine maker who has the following traits:

- Compassionate for what he/she does
- Organized
- Able to communicate
- Fully aware of all VQA and AGCO rules and regulations
- Comfortable working with small batches
- Willing to work in tandem with the viticulture team
- Punctual
- Must possess a reliable mode of transportation

This operation is a full, startup winery with modern equipment on site and the owners are looking for this integral part of the team to produce quality wines both from on-site grapes and also fruit purchased elsewhere under VQA rules and regulations.

- This is a part-time position
- Wages - to be discussed

Please forward a full resume to the following email: nextmoveT3@gmail.com. Only those who qualify for an interview shall be contacted.

WANTED

Seasonal Farm workers for 2014 season, 60 hours per week, accommodation on site with laundry.

Please contact John at 905-687-6579

FOR RENT

33.8 acre vineyard on East West Line, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Varieties planted include Riesling (14.4 acres), Merlot (11.7 acres), Gewurztraminer (4.5 acres) and Vidal (3.2 acres).

Please contact Alex at 905-328-1719

WANTED

Seasonal Farm Workers for the 2014 growing season available 7 days a week.

Please contact Steve at skocsis@cogeco.ca

WANTED

Vineyard workers needed for 2014 season. Start March 7 and finish Nov 7, 66 hrs/week, biweekly pay schedule, bunk house on site with laundry facilities.

Please email resumes to kevin@watsons.ca

WANTED

Seasonal Farm Workers for the 2014 growing season available 7 days a week. Eastern Ontario region.

Please contact dsmangus@gmail.com

Classifieds

WANTED

Seasonal Farm Workers for the 2014 growing season available 7 days a week.
 Please contact Tom at 905-658-2530

WANTED

Seasonal Farm Workers for the 2014 growing season available 7 days a week.

Type of Farm Operations: Vineyard grape

Specific Skills: Plant, cultivate and irrigate crops, harvest crops

Work Conditions and Physical Capabilities: Fast-paced environment, repetitive tasks, physically demanding, attention to detail, hand-eye co-ordination, combination of sitting, standing, walking, standing for extended periods, walking, bending, crouching, kneeling

Transportation/Travel Information: Own transportation, willing to travel regularly

Work Site Environment: Outdoors

Work Location Information: Various locations

Essential Skills: Oral communication, working with others

Please contact Dave at 905-658-1876.

WANTED

Over the row hedger, preferably to fit on Binger Seilzug mast, but can accommodate others.

Please contact Ian Kaye @ 902-790-4062 or ian@avondalewine.ca

FOR SALE

1 – 10,000 L red fermenter with insulated jacket \$11,500

2 – 7,500 L red fermenters, double jacketed and insulated \$9,800 each

Please contact Lou at 905-651-9373

BROCK UNIVERSITY CO-OP PROGRAM

Brock has a small but dedicated group of Oenology and Viticulture students looking for a viticulture summer work term from May to September 2014.

For more information, visit career-zone.brocku.ca/ or contact alesia.dane@brocku.ca

When you hire a Brock Co-op student, you may be eligible to receive a tax credit for 30% of eligible costs, up to \$3000 per student. For more information, please call the Ministry of Finance, Corporations Tax Branch (905) 433-6513 or visit www.gov.on.ca/fn.

2014 CCOVI Lecture Series

February 3: Narongsak Thongpapanl, “Unveiling the influence of consumer wine appreciation dimension on purchasing behaviour”

February 10: Alexandra Mayeski, “Current legal issues facing the Ontario wine industry”

February 24: Linda Bramble, “The influence of wine writers on consumer behaviour”

March 3: Michael Ripmeester, “Wine as heritage across Niagara”

March 10: Jim Willwerth, “Cold hardiness: current issues and research developments”

March 17: Belinda Kemp, “Tannin Alert: A wine tannin management system for Niagara wineries”

March 24: Andy Reynolds, “Mediterranean horticulture: Travels in Tunisia and Portugal”

March 31: Antonia Mantonakis, “Consumer perceptions: The influence of subtle label changes on consumer behaviour”

April 7: Gary Pickering, “SNPs, snobs and snouts: The influence of biology, expertise and taste in wine preference segmentation of North American consumers”

For more info: *Kaitlyn Little, Marketing and Communications Officer, CCOVI, Brock University, 905-688-5550 x4471; klittle@brocku.ca*



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grapegrowersofontario.com

GGO Services

- Grape Pricing
- 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
- Weather INnovations

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