

Augusta Van Muyen Selected as the 67th Grape King

St. Catharines, ON (Sep. 16, 2025) — Grape Growers of Ontario and Farm Credit Canada are pleased to announce that Lincoln vineyard manager Augusta Van Muyen has been chosen by her peers as the 2025-2026 Grape King.



Augusta Van Muyen, 2025 Grape King. *PHOTO CREDIT: Denis Cahill*

“Augusta has accomplished an enormous amount in her time as Vineyard Manager at Tawse. She is the fourth female Grape King to be honoured, and her knowledge of grape growing is the perfect blend for our industry’s ambassador,” says Grape Growers of Ontario Chair Matthias Oppenlaender.

“The annual crowning of the Grape King is a time-honoured tradition that began in 1956 to recognize exemplary vineyard management and understanding of the industry. Augusta exemplifies the very best standard of what it means to be a great grape grower,” says Debbie Zimmerman, CEO of the Grape Growers of Ontario.

“FCC is pleased to support the tradition of naming an Ontario Grape King and with it, celebrating the best in the business,” said Clinton Buttar, Ontario vice-president commercial and small business at Farm Credit Canada. “At FCC, we admire the passion that goes into every vineyard, every

harvest, and every bottle. Congratulations to all the past Grape and Kings, and special toast to the 2025-2026 Grape King, Augusta Van Muyen”.

The Grape King carries the distinction of being nominated by their peers and selected by industry judges who visit each of the nominated vineyards. The Grape King serves as a representative for Ontario’s grape and wine industry at events across the country, starting with the annual Grande Parade on Sep. 27 at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival and the Mayor’s Invitational Grape Stomp on Sep. 28 in Montebello Park.

Currently, vineyard manager at Tawse Winery, Augusta, followed a path to success that took her across Ontario and the world. Born in Prince Edward County, Ontario, Augusta grew up in a family that built ploughs for the region’s newly developing vineyards, instilling in her an interest in grapes and wine. She pursued her interest to Niagara and studied for a time at Brock University before transferring to Niagara College to learn the ropes of grape-growing.

Augusta’s studies at Niagara College took her to Tawse in 2009-10, then overseas to work in wineries in Germany’s Rhine-Hessen region. When she returned to Canada, she worked at a winery in Nova Scotia’s Annapolis Valley. Augusta returned to Tawse in 2013, serving as assistant winemaker. In 2019, she made the jump into the vineyard. Since 2021, she has served as vineyard manager.

Augusta places great importance on sustainability and leaving the land better than she found it. For her, the most important aspect of grape-growing is being present on the farm, dedicating time to scouting the vineyard to keep ahead of problems. “There’s nothing better,” she says, “than walking through the farm on a gorgeous sunny morning – the birds are singing, the bugs are out, everything feels alive and vibrant.”

Augusta is a valuable member of the Grape Growers of Ontario’s Next Generation Committee and the Board of Directors of Farm and Food Care.

Augusta will be officially installed as the 67th Grape King at Tawse Winery, located at 3955 Cherry Ave, Vineland, on Wednesday, Sep. 17, following the Grape Growers of Ontario’s annual Celebrity Luncheon.

Details and directions can be found at www.grapegrowersofontario.com or by calling 905-688-0990 ext 224.

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About the Grape Growers of Ontario

The Grape Growers of Ontario is the official organization that represents all of Ontario’s 475 farm families on 17,500 acres in the province’s three established viticulture areas – Niagara Peninsula, Lake Erie North Shore and Prince Edward County – as well as emerging wine regions. Follow Grape Growers of Ontario on X and Instagram [@Grapegrowersont](https://www.instagram.com/Grapegrowersont), like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Grapegrowersont) and get more information at grapegrowersofontario.com.

About Farm Credit Canada

FCC is Canada’s leading agriculture and food lender, with a healthy loan portfolio of more than \$44 billion. Our employees are dedicated to the future of Canadian agriculture and food. We provide flexible, competitively priced financing, management software, information and knowledge specifically designed for the agriculture and food industry. As a self-sustaining Crown corporation, we provide an appropriate return to our shareholders and reinvest our profits back into the industry and communities we serve. For more information, visit fcc.ca.

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