



## 2020 BC WINE GRAPE COUNCIL

### AGM AGENDA

Welcome

Committee updates:

- Health Safety
- Lab Proficiency
- R&D Committee
- Fraser Valley & Emerging Areas
- Knowledge & Tech Transfer / Conference Committee
- Sustainability
- Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN)

Treasurer's report

Elections

## **Health and Safety Committee**

The Health and Safety committee has met quarterly this year. There was a full schedule of in-person training sessions set up for the year 2020 but when COVID-19 hit, only a couple of those had been held and the rest were cancelled. The committee has been disseminating health and safety information from various safety organizations (WorksafeBC, Agsafe and the Manufacturer's Safety Alliance) through its regular newsletter, and in turn the committee gives feedback to the safety organizations from the perspective of what challenges the industry is facing. The committee also looks to integrate safety into other meetings being held for those involved in the grape and wine industries including at conferences, AGMs and other industry events.

The committee has a good amount of participation from government organizations and safety support companies but is in need of more small winery members to get involved. If there are any winery owners, vineyard owners or employees that look to help us shape our programs and engagement they would be welcomed to become a part of this committee

Submitted by Sandra Oldfield, Chair H&S Committee and Rebecca Mikulic, BCWGC Board Member

## **Lab Proficiency Committee**

The B.C. Wine Grape Council coordinated the distribution of samples and the gathering of results for laboratory proficiency testing in February/March 2020. This was available to all wineries and growers in B.C. as well as independent laboratories. As well we invited interested parties from Ontario and Nova Scotia and USA labs. 59 wineries and independent laboratories participated with 45 from the BC mainland, 1 from Vancouver Island, 7 from outside BC and 6 independent laboratories. Kevin Usher from the Summerland Research & Development Centre assisted us in compiling results for each participant as well as statistical information, thus ensuring complete confidentiality of individual lab results. Results were distributed to each participant in May 2020 via email.

The BC Wine Authority requires all certified labs to participate in the lab proficiency testing.

Lab Proficiency Testing is performed for the following with comparisons of wet chemistry and FOSS analysis as well:

- Residual sugar
- pH
- Titratable Acidity
- Volatile Acidity
- Free SO<sub>2</sub>
- Total SO<sub>2</sub>

- Alcohol

- Malic acid

This is a great support for wine laboratories to ensure their analysis is accurate. As well it offers a network of contacts and valuable resources should you encounter problem analysis. Industry is very appreciative of the help given to us by Kevin Usher at the Summerland Centre.

**Committee Members:**

Alison Moyes – Chair, Liquidity winery  
Lynn Bremmer – BCWGC liaison  
Kevin Usher – Summerland R&D Centre  
David Gregory – Summerland R&D Centre

Nik Durisek – Okanagan Wine Lab  
Severine Pinte – Le Vieux Pin/La Stella  
Kai Hahn – Mission Hill winery  
Cameron Laverock & Jenn Oishi – Gray Monk

Submitted by: Alison Moyes, Chair Lab Proficiency Committee

**Fraser Valley & Emerging Areas Committee**

In February we held a workshop with Roger Sugden and his group to see what growers and wineries in the Fraser Valley were looking for in regard to research, development and education.

In association we also helped with a pruning workshop run by the BC Grape Growers Association.

The committee is also hoping to reach out to the new wineries and grape growers in the area to educate them on levies and the programs that are running in the Fraser Valley and other emerging areas.

Submitted by: Mary McDermott, Chair KTT and Fraser Valley Committee

**Knowledge & Tech Transfer / Conference Committee**

This has been a challenging year for the industry with COVID-19 restricting temporary foreign workers (TFW's) and social distancing. As a result, the board of directors for the BCWGC decided to delay the 2021 Enology and Viticulture Conference for one year. We have tentatively scheduled for July 2022. This was decided as the International Cool Climate Symposium was delayed for a year and would have been very close to our scheduled conference.

As education is one of the mandates of the BCWGC and the conference our major event to disseminate research materials to the industry, the KTT committee will be offering more online events to help with the transfer of any new technology or

knowledge that has been discovered. In addition, the council is engaged in several ongoing KTT activities which include:

1. The development of a Vineyard & Winery Resource Guide – a collaborative project supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, BCWA, and BCWI. The guide will be hosted on the BCWGC website and is scheduled to go live in September 2020.
2. Industry workshops – regional stakeholder meetings are being hosted with a goal of getting broad consensus on the long-term roadmap for BCWGC R&D and KTT investments. Final report and action plan are scheduled for fall 2020.
3. BCWGC branding – working to modernize the BCWGC logo and brand to create a better synergy with the Sustainable Winegrowing BC program.
4. Best Practice Guide – review and update. A working group of the R&D Committee is engaged in the update; KTT will publish the guide on the new BCWGC website and share through the various communication channels.
5. New BCWGC website – the existing BCWGC website is being updated for theme, brand and, most importantly, content navigation. Elements on the new site will include:
  - a. Quick links to important guides/manuals (ie: Best Practice, WorkSafe)
  - b. Dedicated main header for the Vineyard & Winery Resource Guide
  - c. Easier navigation to project reports via a searchable report library
  - d. Video feed on home page
  - e. GDD/Bud Hardiness and “Current Events” published to Home Page
6. Monthly Newsletters and email distribution list – the council has been publishing a monthly newsletter for almost 4 years. Ongoing work in this area involves maintaining and updating the subscriber list – in 2019 KTT undertook a review and update of the winery contacts; in 2020 KTT will do the same exercise with the grower contacts.
7. Publishing and distributing an Annual Crop Assessment – June 1 of each year.
8. Working collaboratively with the BC Grapegrowers’ Association, BC Wine Authority, and the BC Wine Institute to publish a 2020 Acreage Report

Submitted by: Mary McDermott, Chair KTT and Fraser Valley Committee

### **R&D Committee**

The R&D Committee deferred to the strategic planning process in 2019. The Council contracted a group from UBC Okanagan, under the guidance of Roger Sugden and J.O. Pesme, to help industry determine and prioritize research needs and strategize how funds are allocated in the short and long-term. A survey was conducted, followed by several town hall style meetings in various regions with participation solicited from industry.

A second survey is planned based on the input from these meetings, and will be followed by conclusions and recommendations from the UBCO group.

The R&D Committee plans to again hold regular meetings, for now electronically, in the coming year. The first meetings will be to receive and discuss the results of these strategic planning initiatives.

The BCWGC R&D Committee is a voluntary body comprised of industry members interested in steering the direction of grape and wine research in our regions. Anyone with an interest in involvement is asked to contact Kate Durisek ([info@bcwgc.org](mailto:info@bcwgc.org))

Submitted by Kathy Malone, Chair R&D Committee

### **Sustainability Committee**

- April 1 launch of Certified Sustainable BC program postponed due to Covid 19. Newly anticipated launch date is Nov. 2, 2020.
- 'Benefits of Sustainability Certification' report completed July 2020.
- Tasks to be completed to launch:
  - o Update self-assessment on web-site to reflect the new Standards
  - o Finalize Restricted Materials List
  - o Host Online auditor training
  - o Minor odds/ends
- Including this year, three years of funding remain from the Ministry of Agriculture, \$20k per year. 20/21 budget still unclear as allocation from BCWGC has not yet been determined. Proposed budget/workplan are attached. Requesting the BCWGC contribute \$30k to program for this fiscal.
- The completed pricing strategy for the certification program as well as anticipated revenue for year 1 is attached. Revenue from the program could go directly back to BCWGC or used to fund additional programming for SWBC.
- For the upcoming year we will be completing the tasks above to launch the program on Nov. 2. Then shifting our focus to online workshops to share the specifics of 'how to certify' and communications. Updating the website will be the bulk of the budget and work for this year.

Submitted by Katie Pease, Program Manager SWBC

### **Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN)**

The Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN-RCCV) was formally incorporated in February 2017. The CGCN is the culmination of a collaborative effort between the British Columbia Wine Grape Council, Conseil des vins du Québec, the

Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia and the Grape Growers of Ontario. The objective of the CGCN is to advance the Canadian grape and wine industry by ensuring a sustainable supply of certified propagative grapevine material and to manage national research through the Canadian Grape and Wine Science Cluster.

***Grapevine Certification:***

The CGCN-RCCV is currently running two programs in parallel; the Interim Verification Program that tests grapevines used for propagation for four viruses (Leafroll 1, Leafroll 3, Pinot Gris Virus and Red Blotch Virus). Plants that test negative for these viruses can then be used to collect material for the production of CGCN-RCCV Verified plants. There are currently three nurseries enrolled in this program (Northshore Nursery, Viticulture A&M and Vineland Growers/Canadian Fruit Tree Growers. This program is currently also available to growers and wineries wishing to test material that they want to use for custom propagation. The Agriculture and Agri Food Canada AgriAssurance program covers 50% of the testing cost.

The Long-Term Certification Program is based on plants that the CGCN-RCCV keeps at the CFIA Centre for Plant Health in Sidney, BC. These plants are tested and found free of all major viruses affecting grapevines in Canada and are available to participating nurseries for the production of CGCN-RCCV Certified Virus Free Plants. Some of this material will also be tested for crown gall (*Agrobacterium vitis*). So far there are two tissue culture labs involved in the programs: Upper Canada Growers (ON) and AgriForest Bio-Technologies (BC).

So far we have 6 Pinot Noir clones, 4 Chardonnay clones, 3 Sauvignon blanc clones, 3 Riesling clones, 2 Cabernet Franc clones, 2 Cabernet Sauvignon clones, 2 Syrah clones, 2 Merlot clones, one clone each of Viognier and Gewuerztraminer and a number of hybrid varieties (Frontenac, Marquette, Foch, Vidal, Seyval, Leon Millot, etc.) available for propagation. More clones will be released every year once they have completed and passed the CFIA testing process. See [cgcn-rccv.ca](http://cgcn-rccv.ca) for more details.

***Canadian Grape and Wine Science Cluster:***

The Grape and Wine cluster is now in its third year of the five-year program. Most activities run by academic or private institutions are on track or will experience only minor delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while some of the work done by federal research centres is expected to be delayed, in some cases considerably, to the point that some work plans may have to be adjusted accordingly.

Submitted by: Hans Buchler, Chair CGCN-RCCV