

## **BC Health and Safety Committee Report for 2016/2017**

In the past 12 months the BC Health and Safety Committee has seen some very positive changes. After years of participating on the committee I became its Chair when Kathy Mercier stepped down. Kathy leaving the committee was a big loss but we took that opportunity to rethink and reorganize the committee and I think it is stronger for having done so.

First, governance has been strengthened. We established regular meeting dates 4 times a year that they made sense from a production standpoint. It was hoped that with this change each member of the committee would be able to commit to at least 3 of the 4 meetings held per year. Next we looked at the people on the committee and recognized gaps in membership representation. We have been able to add 7 new committee members from vineyards, wineries and suppliers including Gabriel Balint (Okanagan College), Jaskarn Dhaliwal (Sunshine Vineyard), Mark Gonczy, Reto Gebert (BCWGC, St. Hubertus), Tyrion Miskell (BCGA), Carol Bergeron (St. John's Ambulance) and Brad Fossett (Grower's Supply).

New activities include revising the "Health and Safety for Small and Medium Sized Wineries" reference book. A subcommittee reviewed the publication and made recommendations for changes and then secured WorksafeBC to implement the updates and publish it. Our goal is for a new manual to be completed in the winter of 2017/18. One of the big changes for this book is that vineyards will now be incorporated into it so it will be titled "Health and Safety for Wineries and Vineyards". Another new initiative is that we will present Health and Safety a bit differently this year at the Viticulture and Enology Conference in Penticton talking for 2-3 minutes about H&S tips before each of the major speakers in the plenary sessions—bring H&S to the people rather than trying to get the people to the H&S sessions.

We have continued our work on holding workshops with the help of AgSafe, MSA and the BCWGC (pruning workshop H&S, pesticides, air blast spray, tractor training) and are planning workshops for the rest of the year (confined spaces, supervisors course). We continue to ensure that the BCWGC knows about new regulations, new training courses and other Health and Safety initiatives for the monthly newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further clarifications on anything I have written here.

Sandra Oldfield

## **Fraser Valley Committee Report**

A Botrytis Workshop was run in Langley at Township7 Vineyards & Winery on May 10 at 1pm. Eight members plus Carl Withler attended the workshop that was led by Graham O'Rourke and Mary McDermott. Graham spoke about the physiology of botrytis and a spray program to control it. Mary McDermott spoke about winemaking techniques for dealing with Botrytis once it is present. Both presenters' PowerPoint presentations were distributed by Mary to all of the attendees.

Mary McDermott

## **Viticulture Education Project**

The efforts of the Viticulture Labour Market Project are finally coming to fruition.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, The Province of BC officially announced funding support for a two year pilot program for the Diploma of Viticulture, offered by Okanagan College. The BCWGC is a key supporter of this project providing \$20,000 per year towards the program.

By the end of April, enrollment applications were more than double the number of available places for the pilot program, indicating a pent-up demand. The course will start in September of 2017.

Okanagan College has recruited Dr. Gabriel Balint as Professor of Viticulture, Chair of Viticulture Department, Food Wine and Tourism, Okanagan School of Business. Dr Balint will be the anchor professor for this program.

The program's future success will be dependent upon industry support and involvement, primarily providing student placement and workplace training opportunities and ultimately careers for the successful graduates. Dr Balint is currently looking for industry partners for the program. If you are interested please contact the BCWGC for more information.

Submitted by James Hopper

Board Liaison for Education Committee

## **2017 LAB PROFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The B.C. Wine Grape Council coordinated the distribution of samples and the gathering of results for laboratory proficiency testing in February 2017. This was available to all wineries and growers in B.C. as well as independent laboratories. 40 wineries and independent laboratories participated. PARC assisted us in compiling results for each participant as well as statistical information, thus ensuring complete confidentiality of individual lab results. A follow-up meeting was arranged at PARC to present data with seminars by Kevin Usher on 'gold standards' for laboratories and Norm Cole of Artus Bottling on dissolved oxygen at bottling.

As well, for the first time this year, the Wine Authority is requesting all certified labs participate in the lab proficiency testing. This will become a requirement for laboratory certification in the future.

Testing was performed in February 2017 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, offering a network of contacts and valuable resources should you have a problem analysis and we are anticipating even more participants in the future.

### Committee Members:

Lynn Bremmer – Chair, Mount Kobau Wine Services  
Alison Moyes – Vice Chair, Liquidity winery  
Kevin Usher – Summerland R&D Centre  
David Gregory – Summerland R&D Centre  
Nik Durisek – Okanagan Wine Lab  
Severne Pinte – Le Vieux Pin/La Stella wineries  
Jen Oishi – Gray Monk Cellars  
Kai Hahn – Mission Hill winery

Submitted by Lynn Bremmer

## **Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN) Report to the BCWGC**

Early this year the Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN) was incorporated under the Federal Not For Profit Corporations Act and the first official board meeting was held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 where Hans Buchler, Research Coordinator for the British Columbia Wine Grape Council was nominated to the position of Chair and Bill Schenck, Vice Chair of the Grape Growers of Ontario was nominated to the position of Vice Chair.

The six-member Board also includes James Hopper, Director of Viticulture and Operations at VMF Estates, Matthias Oppenlaender, Chair, Grape Growers of Ontario, Fabien Gagné, Director, Association des vigneronns du Québec and Robert Prange, Director, Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia.

The CGCN will make a long-term contribution to the continuous pursuit of excellence of the Canadian wine sector by ensuring that the best quality, disease free propagating material is available to the grape industry.

The CGCN has actively engaged with CFIA, researchers and nurseries across the country in order to work toward the common goal of ensuring Canadian growers and wineries have access to clean grapevine material. One of the first orders of business for the CGCN was to establish an industry Certification Committee, who will recommend certification standards to the CGCN Board within the next year. This effort is well under way with Certification committee chair Robert Prange actively engaged in developing draft standards and procedures with the goal of having a certification scheme in place in the spring of 2018.

In addition to working toward a certification program the CGCN will also be leading the national grape and wine research cluster under the Next Policy Framework. Currently we are assembling proposals from BC, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia to be ready to submit a Canada wide application for funding to the Science Cluster Program as soon as the application process officially opens sometime later this summer or fall.

Hans Buchler

## **R & D COMMITTEE**

The R&D Committee received applications for annual funding from 8 researchers, and approved 7 projects, commencing April 1, 2017.

In preparation for the next round of federal funding, “Next Policy”, previously known as “Growing Forward”, the committee completed a brain-storming session, a call for proposals and evaluations of Letters of Intent from researchers. We were informed early this year that the federal government would give priority to applications submitted by national clusters so we have joined the other provinces under the national wine and grape research cluster, administered by the Clean Grapevine Certification Network-- the CGCN (Hans Buchler BCWGC representative). Our final recommendations have been made to the CGCN and we anticipate completion of the vetting process to allow for April 2018 commencement of research on our behalf.

Funding for annual projects (if any) for the 2018/2019 cycle will be determined pending approval of our Next Policy applications, and will be assessed on an annual basis as levy collection allows.

The R & D Committee will meet late summer to receive progress reports and news from the research community. This 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))

Kathy Malone, Chair

## **2017 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

2017 marks the 18<sup>th</sup> year for the Viticulture and Enology show which is in itself an accomplishment and pushes us closer to 20 years which we will hope to celebrate in style.

This has been a busy year for the conference which has attracted speakers from around the world, including speakers from New Zealand, Germany, France, the United States, and of course, our local researchers who contribute so much to this show. With over 106 exhibitors this year, the show is sold out again which tells us that interest in this show as a venue to access our industry is strong. However, our delegate registration numbers are slightly lower this year than in past years for various reasons which we will assess after this year’s event.

On the administration front, we continue to outsource the conference and tradeshow coordination which allows Kate, ED to focus on strategic priorities of the council. We also endeavour to continue running this event on a cost recovery model.

Investment in our own registration system in 2017 has allowed us better data for planning, more accurate financial tracking and elimination of third party processing fees for a registration system. We look forward to further refinements in the coming year.

Our conference and tradeshow continues to be an important member benefit.

Submitted by Mark Sheridan