



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
WINE GRAPE
— COUNCIL —**

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health and Safety Committee

The Health and Safety Committee is composed of a broad representation from the wine and grape Industry as well as from regulators (WorkSafeBC) service providers, and health and safety associations (AgSafe, Go2HR, MSA).

The purpose of the committee is to work cooperatively with industry members and service providers identifying, informing, and resolving health and safety issues to prevent occupational injuries and diseases in the workplace. The committee's mandate is to identify health and safety issues, educate industry by recognizing and communicating training program opportunities and creating resources for wineries and vineyards.

Current initiatives include the development of an on-line Health and Safety Roadmap. This tool is for BC wineries, vineyards and their associated hospitality sector to identify resources that support their health and safety objectives and options. This will inform wine grape industry members on educational programs promoting the health and safety of workers and compliance with the regulations.

We are actively engaged at expanding the industry representation across the province to better understand unique regional health and safety concerns.

Submitted by Kent Macdonald, 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 March 2024. This was available to all wineries, growers and independent laboratories in B.C. Participants included 49 wineries and 6 independent laboratories this year. 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 presented at BCBTAC and distributed to each participating laboratory in May 2024.

The BC Wine Authority requires all certified labs to participate in this annual testing program.

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

- Residual sugar

- pH
- Titratable Acidity
- Volatile Acidity
- Free SO₂
- Total SO₂
- Alcohol
- Cold Stability
- Malic acid

This is a great resource for wine laboratories to ensure their analyses are accurate. It also offers a network of contacts and valuable information should you encounter any problem analysis. Industry is very appreciative of the program support provided by Kevin Usher at the Summerland Research and Development Centre.

Committee Members:

Alison Moyes – Chair, Solvero Winery

Nik Durisek – Okanagan Wine Lab

Lynn Bremmer – BCWGC liaison

Severine Pinte – Le Vieux Pin/La Stella

Kevin Usher – Summerland R&D Centre

Jenn Oishi – Gray Monk

Submitted by: Alison Moyes, Chair Lab Proficiency Committee

Fraser Valley & Emerging Areas Committee

Fraser Valley and Emerging Areas had limited development in the current year. Future initiatives will include developing a new member onboard package to support new growers in the emerging regions.

Submitted by: Mary McDermott, Chair Fraser Valley & Emerging Areas Committee

Knowledge & Tech Transfer / Conference Committee

Through 2023/24 the Council supported KTT activities via the R&D Committee's Third Thursday monthly sessions. Research projects funded with BCWGC levy revenue were highlighted at the monthly meetings and gave industry an opportunity to connect with researchers directly. Meetings are shared via video format on the BCWGC website.

The Council co-hosted the annual Insight Conference in March of 2024 with the BC Grapegrowers' Association and Wine Growers of BC.

The Council supported the 1st Annual Southern Interior Horticulture Show in February 2024.

BCWGC is a member of the Cross Commodity Leadership Support Project (CCLSP) including a member of the Advisory Committee, Extension Sub-Committee, and the Innovation & Technology Sub-Committee.

BCWGC represents the wine grape industry on the Southern Okanagan Regional Extension Committee hosted by the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

The 2023 Annual Crop Assessment was released in June 2024 and is available to the public on the bcwgc.org website.

Growing Degree Day and Grapevine Bud Hardiness Reports are also available on the bcwgc.org website.

Information is shared broadly with a subscriber group of over 1,000 via our monthly newsletters.

Submitted by: Mary McDermott, Chair KTT Committee

R&D Committee

The monthly R&D Committee “Third Thursday” meetings have continued through the year using the Zoom online platform to connect researchers with industry. Each meeting consists of a short presentation by a researcher, BCWGC-funded or otherwise, followed by Q&A and a brief discussion on relevance of the research to industry and what further avenues of inquiry might be of interest. Third Thursday meetings will continue (12pm, 1 hour duration). Past presentations may also be viewed (www.bcwgc.org/videos).

Topics covered in the Third Thursday meetings included:

- Sustainable management of grapevine trunk diseases;
- Managing crown gall in grapevines;
- Soil health & testing;
- Reducing the carbon footprint of fermentation, biodiesel from CO2 captured during fermentation;
- Health compliance for Okanagan wineries;
- Sustainable cutworm management through biological control tools;
- International Organization of Vine & Wine, opportunities for BC;
- Influence of temperature and heat-stress mitigation strategies on grape quality in BC vineyards;
- Assessing winter cold damage;
- Mitigating impacts of cold damage;
- UAT for disease detection

Final reports for the 2018-2023 Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Program have been received and can be accessed online using the QR codes below.

Follow the QR Codes to access the final reports for projects completed under the 2018-2023 Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program

Virus and Disease Management

Field Strategies for Mitigating Viruses



Grapevine Trunk Disease Research



GIS Mapping for Precision Management and Disease and Virus Detection



Cold Hardiness & Climate Change

Factors Affecting Winter Hardiness



Assessing Winter Injury



Wine Quality

Nitrogen in Viticulture & Enology



Crop Quality

Water & Nutrient Management



Crop Protection

Using Groundcover to Control Pathogens



Impacts of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes



Crown Gall Identification, Bio-Control and Sustainable Management



IPM Strategies for Cutworms



In February 2024, the industry associations representing wineries across the province submitted a joint request to the BC Ministry of Agriculture to redirect funds that were established under the Perennial Crop Renewal Program Stream 3 to be used to support resiliency research projects that had been submitted to the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program (S-CAP) via the Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN) between the years of 2023-2028. The BC Ministry of Agriculture approved the request which will ensure that S-CAP funded projects will be able to continue despite the significantly reduced BCWGC levy program which was a result of the extreme cold events in December 2022 and January 2024.

In March 2024, the BC Ministry of Agriculture announced the Enhanced Replant Program which replaced PCRFP Stream 3 funds for replant projects.

In April 2024, the BC Wine Grape Council entered into the 2023-2028 S-CAP funding agreement with the CGCN to formalize the funding for resiliency research projects approved by the BCWGC R&D Committee in 2022/23.

The BCWGC represents the wine grape industry in the BC Living Lab project under the Agricultural Climate Solutions Program.

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). Third Thursdays are open to all members in good standing, as well as our research partners and stakeholders.

Submitted by Carl Van der Merwe, Board Liaison R&D Committee

Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN)

- The 2023 AGM was held via Zoom call on April 25th, 2023.
- 2023 was a long year of waiting, with two applications to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) programming in review for majority of the year, but it was all worth it:
 - o On March 1st 2024, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, officially announced funding granted to CGCN-RCCV to administer two different programs under the SCAP framework:
 1. AgriScience Program - Clusters Component for the national Grape & Wine research cluster. CGCN-RCCV will administer up to \$5.9M of AAFC investment, matched by industry cash and in-kind contributions, to 17 activities.
 2. AgriAssurance Program was approved up to approx. \$836K until March 31st, 2028. This program will provide up to 50% subsidized grapevine virus testing services to nurseries and growers interested in obtaining CGCN-RCCV certification.
- CGCN-RCCV collected ~\$27,000 in vine levy revenue for 2023 sales of vines sold through the Verification Program.
- There were no additions to the CGCN-RCCV Generation 1 grapevine repository again for 2023-24 as it was very difficult to find enough cuttings of the desired

varieties. However, Itasca has been initiated to add to the repository as of April 2024, for FY 2024-25, and we plan to add more in January 2025. CGCN-RCCV continues to encourage industry feedback on this topic for next year's additions.

- CGCN-RCCV welcomed two new nurseries to Verification programming in FY 2023-24: 1) Vitis-import, located in Waterloo, Quebec; and 2) Seeger Farms, located in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. We now have 6 nurseries participating in CGCN-RCCV programming overall, and we look forward to welcoming more.
- All CGCN-RCCV programs were amended in FY 2023-24 to better align with advancements in technology and new and emerging threats. Bob Prange, the Certification Committee Chair, will go into a bit more detail on these changes.
- CGCN-RCCV has partnered with Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) and various other institutions and industry groups on their Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence (ORF-RE) application. This proposal aims to strengthen Ontario's grape and wine industry through Canada's first Clean Plant Program for grapes, and novel growing and fermenting approaches to increase resilience despite threats of climate change, pests, plant viruses, and global competition. Should this application be successful, the cash that CCOVI receives under the Cluster program will be used to leverage additional funding for the ORF-RE project.
- The CGCN-RCCV Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT) Committee remains active. Comprised of Board members Ross Wise and William Armstrong, Project Manager Ethan Churchill, and Executive Director Darien Tempire, the KTT Committee organized a three-part webinar series in 2023 focusing on the theme of climate change. These webinars touched on the topics of rootstocks, vineyard management, disease resistant varieties, and varietal selection. Additionally, CGCN-RCCV hosted a webinar in February 2024 on the topic of the Tomato Ringspot Virus. This virus is becoming an increasing concern in parts of eastern Canada, but it is still not widely known or understood. CGCN-RCCV believes it is important to stay abreast of arising issues by sharing this information with the industry as we continue to navigate the dynamic landscape of grapevines pests and diseases. All webinar recordings can be found on CGCN-RCCV's website and YouTube page. The KTT Committee also continues to release bi-monthly e-newsletters and remains active on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) to expand CGCN-RCCV's opportunities for outreach. Please continue sending relevant industry articles, press releases, resources, etc. to Ethan and/or Darien.

- Various CGCN-RCCV policies were developed this year and can be found on our website:
 - o Marketing, Communications, & Graphic Standards
 - o CGCN-RCCV Permitted Certification Claims
- CGCN-RCCV staff hope to travel to Nova Scotia this summer for the Grape Growers' Association of Nova Scotia (GGANS) annual Summer Tour. Over the course of the next 4 years, CGCN-RCCV will expand outreach activities by visiting client nursery facilities in-person and arranging meetings with each of the four provincial grape growing boards.

Submitted by: Darien Temprile, Executive Director CGCN-RCCV darien@cgcn-rccv.ca

Sustainable Winegrowing BC

Membership

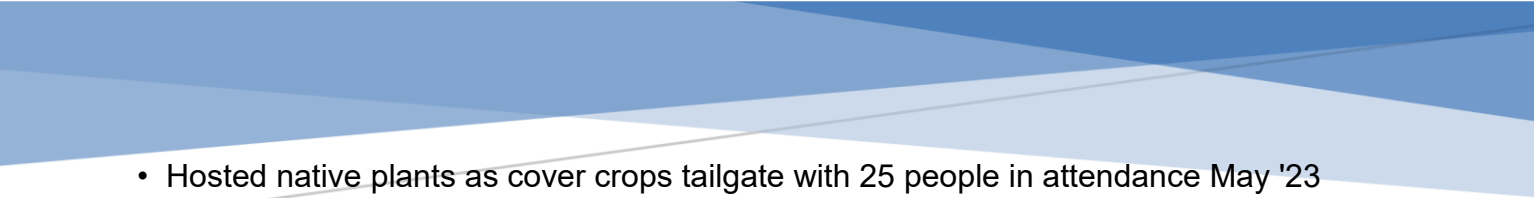
- Over 30 vineyard members & 6 winery members (~8% of BC vineyards)
- Grew vineyard membership by 58% adding 7 new vineyards YOY
- Grew winery membership by 20% adding 1 new winery YOY

Consumer Engagement

- Earth Day displays at 2 x LRS - these temporary displays grew sales by 214% YOY
- Earth Day social media collaboration with Steph the Somm created engagement
- Naramata Wine Vault tasting in August was postponed due to wildfires. Rescheduled for 4/20/24

Workshops & Events

- Southern Interior Hort Show - Feb. Shared a booth with BCWGC and facilitated a panel discussion on Replanting Vineyards also had ONLY SWBC wines available at event
- Hosted cover cropping workshop at Kalala with 75 people in attendance April '23

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- Hosted native plants as cover crops tailgate with 25 people in attendance May '23
 - Hosted secondary cash crop tailgate with 20 people in attendance June '23
 - Co-hosted Winter Damage Mitigation workshop with BCGA
 - Hosted Panel discussion at the BCGA AGM

Collaborations

- WSET & SWR Climate Action presentation Nov '23
- SWO x SWBC joint application for AAFC S-CAP AgriAssurance funding (re-submitting Aug '24)
- Attended Extension Conference hosted by MoA
- Contributed to SIHS steering Committee
- Contributed to WGBC Sustainable Development Goal Committee
- Contributed to UBCO WRC Advisory Board
- Participated in BCCAI workshop

Submitted by Ruth King, Program Manager, SWBC