

# CRANBERRY WEB

The Newsletter of the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission and BC Cranberry Growers Association

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

The first part of the year is always very busy for the Commission. In January we held the second Young Grower's Leadership Forum at the Delta Town & Country Inn. The event featured excellent speakers and there was food and refreshments to be shared following the presentations. During the course of this year we hope to establish a core group of young growers that will take ownership of the group and go forward with the planning of events. The Commission will be fully supportive of their endeavors.

In February we held the Cranberry Congress which was well attended with a variety of excellent speakers. Thank you to all the attendees that filled out the questionnaires, these are very helpful in planning the next Congress. A huge thank you to Jeff Hamilton for chairing the event again this year - this is not a small project.

The Research Committee has met and determined the projects for the coming year. There is a report in this Newsletter on the research projects for 2016.

In February, all Commissions and Boards met with the BC Farm Industry Review Board for a seminar on the guidelines of the SAFETI process. It was a good session and I think everyone came away with a better understanding of how we are expected to perform.

In early March, all Commission and Board Chairs met with the BC FIRB and Minister Letnick. This was a very productive day, as we had a great interchange of ideas and discussion on the day to day challenges that we all have to deal with. Minister Letnick brought the Ministry's position on the future of agriculture in BC and the goals that they would like to see the industry attain over time. I got the sense that the Minister and staff are very supportive of our industry.

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## 2016 SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

The BC Cranberry Marketing Commission would like to remind you of the program to provide a \$2,500 scholarship grant for a family member of a grower licensee, towards the cost of post secondary education.

The scholarship grant is available for attendance at any recognized post secondary institution within BC or out of Province. Funds awarded must be used within an initial 12 month period. If you, or a family member may be interested, contact the Commission for more information on how to apply. Applications will be received until May 13, 2016 and will be reviewed by a designated Committee. One award will be made each year.

## CHAIR'S REPORT - continued

As most of you are aware, Dianne Driessen will be retiring this year. The process to find a replacement is underway. We hope to have a new person in place in the very near future so they can work with Dianne for some time to become familiar with how the Commission operates. Needless to say, this lady will be very hard to replace as I have found her to be an excellent Manager as well as a very good friend. Thank you, Dianne.

As spring has sprung, I'm sure that everyone in the industry is very busy with spring work. I hope everyone has a great growing season and a bountiful crop.

Jack Brown, Chairman  
BC Cranberry Marketing Commission

## COMMISSION DIRECTORS - BOB MITCHELL & JACK DE WIT

At the February 3rd Commission meeting the recommendation by the Cranberry Industry Advisory Committee to our Board regarding the position of independent member was reviewed. The Committee's recommendation to the Commission was that Bob Mitchell should continue this position. The Commission endorsed the Committee's recommendation and Bob accepted the position for a further three year term.

Jack DeWit was re-elected for a three year term at the Commission's 2016 Annual General Meeting. This is Jack's second term as a Commissioner. Jack is Co-Chair of the Field Day Planning Committee as well as being the Board representative to the BC Council of Marketing Boards.

### REGISTERING NEW ACREAGE

All Growers and Producer Vendors are reminded that you must register any additional intended acreage with the Commission prior to planting. A copy of the Commission's "Registration of New Cranberry Acreages" form can be found on the Commission's website.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The BC Cranberry Marketing Commission and BC Cranberry Growers Association's Annual General Meetings were held on February 23rd. Directors and staff presented a variety of reports. A copy of the AGM report has been posted to the Commission's website.

## BC CRANBERRY RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR 2016

Once again this year, researchers were asked to submit project proposals to address industry research priorities. Priorities are identified by the Research Committee as "High", "Medium" and "Longer Term". The Committee met recently to review submitted proposals. This year, projects recommended for full or partial funding include:

1. **Understanding Population Increase by Cranberry Tipworm in BC, Dr. S. Fitzpatrick**
2. **Characterization of Cranberry Decline in BC Cranberry Beds – Year Two, Dr. R. Harbut**
3. **Assessment of New Pest Management Tools that Address Priority Needs of the BC Cranberry Industry, Dr. K. Patten**
4. **Evaluating Varietal Performance at the BC Cranberry Research Farm – Year Two, H. Meberg and Dr. R. Prasad**

As well, Dr. S. Sabaratnam continues a project, **Surveillance of Cranberry Fruit Rot Pathogens and Grower Education**. Dr. Sabaratnam has obtained funding for this project under Growing Forward 2.

BC CRANBERRY RESEARCH FARM UPDATE - GRANT KEEFER



The 2016 growing season is upon us. The cool, wet weather over the past month has held the plants in check, but the coming warm weather will kick start the vine and we will be in frost protection mode very soon.

As the cranberries move out of dormancy, we will begin implementing the long and short term projects which we have been working toward with the input from our scientific/research community and ongoing grower input from the various meetings.

On the long term end of things, we have heard from growers that they would like to see different growing mediums, irrigation and

drainage development. Field five is still undeveloped at this point. This field will allow us the opportunity to address these issues guided by a steering committee.



Short term, Dr. Renee Prasad and Kim Patten will continue to evaluate the two breeding programs (Rutgers and Valley Corp). New fruit pathogen resistant cultivars will be planted this spring to begin the next trial phase. Additionally, continued observation and development of insect control, weed and herbicide screening, pathogen control, pollinator observation / evaluation, and nutrition management will be core work taking place at the farm.

There will also be some Grower Development days throughout the Spring and Summer at the Research Farm, dates to be announced. We hope to see you there. The Research Farm Committee is always seeking input, please do not hesitate to contact us.



A safe growing season to all. BC Cranberry Research Farm.

This project was funded in part by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC through programs it delivers on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

Funding provided by:



**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR CRANBERRIES IN WESTERN CANADA, 2nd Edition**

We are pleased to announce the production of the second edition of “Integrated Pest Management for Cranberries in Western Canada” by Sheila Fitzpatrick, Warren Wong, Miranda Elsby and Heidi van Dokkumburg. This full-colour booklet can be viewed on the BCCMC website at <http://www.bccranberries.com/bccmc-ipm-booklet.html> . Growers who attended the Cranberry Congress 2016 received paper copies of the booklet. Those who did not attend can obtain copies by contacting Dianne Driessen ([ddriessen@telus.net](mailto:ddriessen@telus.net) ; phone 604-897-9252; fax 604-677-6058) or Sheila Fitzpatrick ([Sheila.Fitzpatrick@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Sheila.Fitzpatrick@agr.gc.ca) ; phone 1-604-796-6076; fax 1-604-796-6133).

## CFIA NATIONAL VOLUNTARY FARM-LEVEL BIOSECURITY STANDARDS

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and partner organizations has developed a new voluntary biosecurity standard that will help protect Canada's fruit and tree nut industries from plant pests and diseases. The standard for the fruit and tree industry:

- Provides guidelines for biosecurity, including prevention and integrated pest management;
- Promotes a consistent approach across the country for mitigating the risks with clear guidelines for effective biosecurity;
- Enhances industry's knowledge of the risks associated with pests and diseases; and
- Helps identify potential gaps in current biosecurity measures.

The National Voluntary Farm-level Biosecurity for the Fruit and Tree Nut industries provides producers with a nationally consistent approach

to develop and implement a biosecurity plan. The self-assessment checklist in Appendix 1 of the Standard will help you determine appropriate biosecurity measures for your farm operation.

A copy of the standard can be found at: [Biosecurity Standard for the Fruit and Tree Nut Industry Now Available](#)

Our thanks to Neal Hamilton for participating in the Committee to develop the National Voluntary Farm-level Biosecurity for the Fruit and Tree Nut industries.



## BC YOUNG CRANBERRY GROWER'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

On January 20, 2016 young cranberry growers met at the Delta Town & Country Inn for the second Leadership Forum to encourage strong leaders and advocates for the coming generation of BC cranberry growers.

The event included **Jillian Robbins** a young farmer, involved in her family farm and direct market and with the BC Young Farmers. Jillian spoke about what leadership is, what young growers can do to contribute to the industry and to agriculture as a whole and the importance of being involved.

**Jim Collins**, Executive Director with the BC Farm Industry Review Board. Jim spoke to the group about regulated marketing and focusing on outcomes that matter through SAFETI (Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent and Inclusive).

**Orlando Schmidt**, Regional Coast Manager with the BC Ministry of Agriculture. Orlando spoke about AgriService BC and used examples of urban-rural conflicts and discussed with young growers how to identify potential conflicts and the importance of being good neighbours.

**Denise Parker**, CPA and CGA with MNP in Chilliwack. Denise shared and explained how to deal with intergenerational farm transfers and some of the major tax issues that need to be considered.

Allied trades were very generous with door prizes - great gifts were drawn throughout the evening. Thanks to our industry partners!

The event was well received and participants appreciated the knowledge provided by our speakers and networking opportunities.



## Changes to the BC Water Sustainability Act & What it Means for Cranberry Growers

- Submitted by Kathleen Zimmerman, P.Ag., AgResults Consulting

The new BC Water Sustainability Act (WSA) and its regulations covering groundwater licensing were recently brought into force. This is the first time that groundwater licences are available. This change will allow the Province to manage surface water and groundwater as one interconnected resource.

Now is a good time to review your current water usage, and apply for a groundwater licence if you need it.

### Q – What type of groundwater uses must be licensed?

All types of groundwater uses (aka purposes), except for domestic uses, must be licensed. Domestic use includes water for your home, small personal garden, minimal animals and poultry kept for household use, and pets. If you have a well that has more than one type of purpose, e.g. domestic and irrigation, you must license the other purpose and its amount.

### Q - When did the licensing process start?

The licensing process started on February 29, 2016. If you have an existing well, and you apply to license it within the first three years (with the appropriate documentation), you can backdate your priority date (i.e. date of first use).

### Q – How much will it cost to license a well?

If your groundwater use started prior to 2016, the fee to license it will be waived if you apply by March 1, 2017. This is another excellent reason to complete the licensing process in the first year. If you have a new groundwater use in 2016, the licensing fee will typically range from \$250 to \$500, depending on the purpose. The table below lists the licensing fee changes.

**New Application Fees for Water Licences**

Water Use Purpose	Surface Water Users 2016 Fee	New Groundwater Users 2016 Fee	Existing Non-Domestic Groundwater Users 2016 Fee**
Domestic	\$250	N/A	N/A
Crop Harvesting/ Protection	\$250	\$250	Waived
*Irrigation (<250,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year)	\$250	\$250	Waived
*Irrigation (250,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year - <1 million m <sup>3</sup> /year)	\$500	\$500	Waived
Storage (<30,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year stored)	\$250	\$250	Waived
Storage (30,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year – 1,250,000 m <sup>3</sup> /year stored)	\$500	\$500	Waived

\*Private irrigation, as opposed to water conveyed by a local authority for irrigation purposes.

\*\*Apply by March 1, 2017 to be exempt from application fee.

**Changes to the BC Water Sustainability Act - continued**



**Q – What type of documentation will I need to provide to establish my date of first of use on existing groundwater uses?**

Establishing your date of first use will be key, because it will establish your priority use to the water if your area experiences water shortages in the future. The type of documentation that will be accepted is varied, including signed statements, well reports, water quality tests, flow tests, pumping records, invoices related to the construction or testing of the well or the installation of the well pump, a document issued by a local government (e.g. building permit, business licence), or other types of documentation that the decision maker may accept.

**Q – What does the groundwater licence application process look like?**

The groundwater licensing process is available online at: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/guides/water/new-water-licence/overview/>

The licensing process is made easier if you register for a BCeID. This ID allows you to work on your application process over a period of time, and save the changes that you made previously. This link allows you to register for one of three different types of BCeIDs: <https://www.bceid.ca/register/>.

**Q - Who can I call if I need assistance with the application process?**

FrontCounter BC staff are available to assist with licence applications. If you do not own a computer, or live in a rural area with a dial-up modem, you can call 1-877-855-3222 to find the location of the nearest office.

The following link provides the phone numbers, e-mail address, and FrontCounter BC locations: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/contact/>.

**Q – How much water can I apply for?**

An online water demand calculator is currently being developed, and will be available to help you with an estimate of how much water to apply for. The definition of “beneficial use” allows you to apply for more water than you are currently using if you are able to make use of the additional water within the next three years.

**Q – After my well is licensed, how much will I pay for the annual water rental fees?**

The annual rental fees vary depending on the type of use, but all of the rental fees (with the exception of non-power storage) are increasing from 2015 to 2016. For example, the minimum fee for irrigating will increase from \$25/year to \$50/year, and allows for the irrigation of up to 58,824 m<sup>3</sup> or 47.7 acre feet of water. The table below outlines the new water rental fees.



The table below outlines the new water rental fees.

Water Use Purpose	New Annual Rental Fees for Water Licences	
	Surface Water Users 2016 Fee	Groundwater Users 2016 Fee
<b>Domestic</b>	Minimum \$50 or \$2.25/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	N/A
<b>Crop Harvesting/ Protection</b>	Minimum \$50 or \$0.85/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	Minimum \$50 or \$0.85/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>*Irrigation (&lt;250,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year)</b>	Minimum \$50 or \$0.85/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	Minimum \$50 or \$0.85/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>*Irrigation (250,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year - &lt;1 million m<sup>3</sup>/year)</b>	Minimum \$50 or \$0.85/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	Minimum \$50 or \$0.85/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Storage (&lt;30,000 m<sup>3</sup> /year stored)</b>	Minimum \$25 or \$0.02/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	Minimum \$25 or \$0.02/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Storage (30,000 m<sup>3</sup> /year – 1,250,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year stored)</b>	Minimum \$25 or \$0.02/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	Minimum \$25 or \$0.02/1,000 m <sup>3</sup>

\*Both private irrigation, as well as water conveyed by a local authority for irrigation purposes.

**Changes to the BC Water Sustainability Act - continued**

**Q – What other requirements do all groundwater users have to follow?**

Under the new Groundwater Protection Regulation, there are a number of requirements to protect groundwater – here are some examples. A qualified professional must be hired to drill a new well and install a pump. Well construction requirements have been enhanced, including: surface seals are required for all cased wells; plastic casings and liners must now be certified for drinking water; setbacks have been established to protect wells from contaminants and minimize the interference between wells; flowing artesian wells must be controlled; new well pits are restricted; there are more well maintenance obligations for owners, and mandatory well reports.



**Q – How will the WSA affect surface water licences?**

The immediate key change for surface water licence holders/applicants is that the fees for new applications and the fees for the annual water rentals are increasing in 2016.

The other change that surface water licence holders may notice in the future is how water shortages will be managed. As groundwater users obtain licences, the

relevant aquifer and any hydraulically connected surface water bodies are noted on the licence application. In case of a water shortage, under a temporary protection order, all of the licences in an area may be restricted, according to priority date (date of first use) and by type of use.

Here's a hypothetical example. A cranberry grower has a surface water licence for irrigation that was issued in 1948 (his/her priority date). A nearby groundwater user on a hydraulically connected aquifer obtains an irrigation licence this year, and is able to prove that his/her family drilled the well in 1940. If there is a water shortage in that area next summer, and the provincial government decides to implement a temporary protection order, the owner of that newly registered well will have priority access to the water, because of their earlier date of first use.



**BC CRANBERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION NEWS: MIKE WALLIS**

**SAWP 2016**

The Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) enters its twelfth year in BC and has become a mainstay of reliable labor, accessible to BC farmers with an approved Labor Market Impact Assessment through Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC; formerly HRSDC).

The 2016 basic SAWP wage rate is \$10.59/hour although the National Commodity List (NCL) Wage Rates may change during the year if minimum wage rates are changed.

In order to work legally in Canada, Temporary Foreign Workers need a work permit (provided by Citizenship and Immigration Canada) and they need to have a Social Insurance Number (SIN). New SAWP workers and returning SAWP workers need to renew their SIN in person this year. At this time, there is NO option for doing this at YVR when the workers arrive. This means that that the employer needs to take their SAWP worker(s) to the nearest Service Canada Centre office soon after arrival, along with the worker's passport and work permit, to apply for and/or reactive their SIN.

There has also been some changes to the seasonal housing inspection list of inspectors; contact the BCCGA office for a list if you require it or visit the BC Agriculture Council website at [www.bcac.bc.ca](http://www.bcac.bc.ca).

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## BC CRANBERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION NEWS: CONTINUED

**BCCGA Website**

The BCCGA has re-tuned its website and now has an active member log-in area accessible with a password.

The log-in area has posted the entire “Cranberry Production and Irrigation Management Rules, Publications, Reference Materials, and Irrigation System Assessment” disc compiled by the WSU Extension, USDA-NRCS and WSDA Pesticide Management, as distributed at the February 7, 2013 BC Cranberry Congress. In addition, the 2015 Canadian Pesticide Chart (2016 to be posted when confirmed) is available on-line and in a mobile device format for quick checks in the field. The Member's log-in password is cranberry123.

**BCCGA 2016 AGM**

The BCCGA AGM was once again held in conjunction with and followed the BCCMC AGM on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club. Grant Keefer presented the Chair's report and Mike Wallis, Executive Director, gave the 2015 Board Report. The BCCGA, in conjunction with the BCCMC, funded Health Research Projects vetted by the Cranberry Institute to a total of \$15,000 in 2015. Combined with contributions from members of the Canadian Cranberry Growers Coalition, Health Research Project funding from Canada totaled \$32,000 USD.

Kristina de Strake completed her term on the BCCGA Board and did not let her name stand for re-election; other pressing priorities like a toddler took precedent, and rightly so. Thanks you, Kristina, for your past efforts on the Board. The following BCCGA Director's were nominated and elected by acclamation: Darshan Banns, Grant Keefer, Kyle Botkin and new to the Board this year, Nicole Kelly. Welcome aboard, Nicole! Thank you to all Directors for volunteering their time to represent the industry.

**BC CRANBERRY CONGRESS - February 2, 2016**

The Congress Planning Committee would like to thank all of the cranberry growers and other industry stakeholders for attending the recent Cranberry Congress. A special thanks to our speakers, which included:

- **Todd May**: BC Cranberry Research Farm - Update
- **Dr. Kim Patten**, WSU and **Dr. Renee Prasad**, UFV: Evaluating Varietal Performance at the Farm
- **Dr. Renee Prasad**, UFV: Demonstration Bumble Bee Garden
- **Dan Schiffhauer**, Ocean Spray: Cranberry Pollination - What the Vines Need and What the Bees Provide
- **John Wilson**, Cranberry Institute: CI Update on Pesticide Registrations, MRLs and Research Activities
- **Dr. Frank Caruso**, Black Veil Consulting and University of Massachusetts., Emeritus: Evaluation of Fungal Pathogens as it Relates to Fruit Rot Incidence in BC
- **Dr. Siva Sabaratnam**, BC Ministry of Agriculture: Surveillance of Cranberry Fruit Rot Pathogens
- **Dr. Rebecca Harbut**, KPU, **Dr. Les Lavkulich**, UBC and **Dr. Peter Oudemans**, Rutgers University: Characterization of Cranberry Decline
- **Dr. Peter Oudemans**, Rutgers University: Solving Problems in Cranberry Production Often Requires very Small Changes
- **Dr. Kim Patten**, WSU: Assessment of New Pest Management Tools that Address Priority Needs of the BC Cranberry Industry
- **Dr. Sheila Fitzpatrick**, AAFC: BC Integrated Pest Management Guide for Cranberries in Western Canada

A copy of the 2016 Congress presentations are now included on the Commission's website: [www.bccranberries.com](http://www.bccranberries.com).

## BC Cranberry Communications Update

January to March 2016 – Geraldine Auston

### New recipes

Work is underway on the development of three new cranberry recipes, with photos. As last year, each recipe will be created with the “West Coast” consumer in mind.

### Sugar

We are working with the Cranberry Institute and Registered Dietitian, Patricia Chuey, to develop a consumer friendly piece on sugar sweetened cranberry products.

### Dietitians of Canada

Planning is underway for the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission’s attendance at the Dietitians of Canada National Conference this June in Winnipeg. The information developed for the public on sugar, will also be distributed at this conference.

### News on sugar

Since the release of a position paper by Dietitians of Canada in early February, calling for an Excise Tax on sugar sweetened beverages (raising the shelf price), the UK has introduced a Bill to raise the price of added sugar drinks, with a focus on fizzy drinks. As of this week, in the UK, soft drinks giants are poised to sue the government over the ‘sugar tax’ which is slated to be implemented in two years. The lawsuit will pose that the tax is discriminatory as it will not tax fruit juices and other drinks with sugar.

Ironically, this news comes in the same week that the Dietitians of Canada posted a piece “Rethinking sodium: Reflections on research and implications for practice”. As many people have moved to very reduced salt diets, health issues are emerging and it is now recognized that salt is an important element in a diet – in moderation. Truly, moderation in sugar intake and choosing foods that offer health value, over a product that does not, should be our focus.

### Your industry representatives

#### BC Cranberry Marketing Commission

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#### Commission Directors

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#### BCCGA Board

Chair, Grant Keefer,

Vice-Chair, Scott May

Treasurer, Lynne Kemper

Dave Duchek

Darsh Banns

Nicole Kelly

Kyle May

Kyle Botkin

Executive Director (Staff)

Mike Wallis