

CRANBERRY WEB

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



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Upcoming Events

- January 11, 2018:**
COGA Session, Abbotsford "Building Capacity: Social Media"
- February 1, 2018:**
COGA Session, Abbotsford "Building Capacity: Emerging Issues"
- February 19, 2018:**
2018 BC Cranberry Congress, Mayfair Lakes
- March 7, 2018:**
BC Cranberry Marketing Commission and BC Cranberry Growers Association Annual General Meetings, Mayfair Lakes

CHAIR'S REPORT

The cranberry harvest is complete, with the weather and the number of bogs under renovation the 2017 crop is down about 15% from 2016. The unofficial number for 2017 is 850,000 barrels, down from just over 1,000,000 barrels in 2016. Having said that, I believe that we will rapidly regain our volume as renovated acres come into production.

The Research Farm had another successful year with tours and grower open houses. The harvest there is also complete. This year's crop was 1,213 barrels, up from last year. The information on varieties and yields as well as insect and disease research will in my opinion be very important in the sustainability of our industry in the future. To remain economically viable we must increase our barrels per acre. Generally speaking our fruit quality is very good, it is the yield factor that need some attention.

The Commission has recently updated our communications file and we will be having a training session in the spring in order to be prepared to speak on behalf of the industry should the need arise. Most often the press is interested in harvest. Should we have an incident that requires an industry response this type of training is invaluable. We would like a few growers to consider joining us for the course. Something to think about!! There will be more information to follow.

As you are aware the commission has had three grower members and one none grower member for some time. Our bylaws allow for a fourth grower member to sit on the board. At this year's AGM we will be seeking to fill that fourth position. Please give it some thought. The commission feels that a fourth member will help to share the work load and be of assistance as time goes on in the succession of directors.

CHAIR'S REPORT (continued)

Some dates to remember. The Annual BC Cranberry Congress will be held at Mayfair Lakes on February 19, 2018. The committee has done another bang up job in getting speakers for this event. The BC Cranberry Commission Annual General Meeting will be held at Mayfair Lakes on March 7th 2018. This event will be in conjunction with the Growers Association AGM.

In closing, on behalf of Lorrie and myself, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Health New Year.

Jack Brown, Chair
BC Cranberry Marketing Commission



**2018 BC Cranberry Marketing Commission
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2018
Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club**

Are you a Cranberry Grower in BC?

The BC Cranberry Commission is fortunate to have wonderful volunteers on various committees that provide valuable input on key initiatives that support our industry. We are looking for interested growers to join these committees in 2018. Some of the committees include Congress Planning, Field Day, and Research.

If you would like more information, or would like to help, please contact Heather at info@bccranberries.com.

BC Cranberry Research Farm Update

The BCCRF completed its 3rd harvest in mid-October this year. Generally it was an interesting year for fruit development in BC, colour /TACY didn't develop as soon or as much as past years, yields were down from the previous seasons, but quality and firmness were better overall. The BCCRF followed these trends, but overall the total farms crop was 1,213 barrels, a slight increase as Fields 3 and 4 come into production.

One of the biggest jobs at the Research Farm is now data collection, especially varietal harvest data (size, weight, colour, firmness, and quality / rot). Not only are the Rutgers released varieties in Field 1 continually being evaluated, but future Rutgers (Vorsa) and Valley Corp (Grygleski) selections are being evaluated. There are over 60 unique cultivars currently being grown at the BCCRF in over 130 plots (replication is a critical factor in the varietal evaluation process).

Currently we have three years of good data on the first and second generation Rutgers selections. This is important as there are exciting trends with some of the new cultivars, showing high yields, acceptable colour range and good quality, some of these factors may be attributed to our unique BC Growing conditions. These varieties, when demonstrated to meet these criteria in BC, have the potential to be released and available to the BC Growers in the very near future.

Another very exciting feature BCCRF is the ability to compare the Valley Corp and Rutgers Selections side by side. This is the only location in any of the Cranberry Growing Regions where Growers have this opportunity. As the years go on, the data sets on all these varieties will grow and show us how they perform here in our own back yard.

The information the BCCRF is collecting is for the Growers. Reports are published on the BCCMC website and will be presented at the Cranberry Congress in February. We encourage you to visit the BCCRF on our drop in / open house days. Guest speakers and industry experts are there to help you, providing some clarity when working through the decisions of cranberry field renovation and production systems.

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018,

BC Cranberry Research Society / 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.



MARCH 7, 2018

BC CRANBERRY MARKETING COMMISSION - ELECTION

The BC Council of Marketing Boards will serve as the Independent Election Officer. All election information will be issued by regular post to registered growers in early January by the IEO. The Commission's Election Policy can be found on the website:

www.bccranberries.com

BC Cranberry Research Committee

In 2017, research projects that received funding included:

1. Tipworms, Aphids and Beneficial Insects in the Post-diazinon Era, Dr. S. Fitzpatrick
2. Assessment of New Pest Management Tools that Address Priority Needs of the BC Cranberry Industry, Dr. K. Patten
3. Characterization of Cranberry Decline in BC Cranberry Beds, Dr. R. Harbut
4. Evaluating Varietal Performance at the BC Cranberry Research Farm, R. Prasad, H. Meberg

As well, Dr. S. Sabartnam submitted a project, Efficacy of Fungicides against Cranberry Fruit Rot Pathogens. Dr. Sabaratnam has obtained funding for this project under Growing Forward 2.

Reports were received and reviewed by the Commission's Research Committee on December 6th. Reports will be posted to the Commission's website – www.bccranberries.com.

The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Todd May, also established priorities for 2018. This priority list is designed to identify some of the difficult production issues facing growers and to encourage the research community to propose projects to find solutions to those problems.

The Committee listed as **High Priorities**: Cranberry Field Decline, Cranberry Girdler, Cranberry Tipworm, Varietal Evaluation, Chemigation Design and Delivery, Perennial weeds and Fruit Quality.

Medium Priorities included: Irrigation Design and Delivery, Industry Innovations, Pollinators, Blackheaded Fireworm, Sparganothis Fruitworm/Cranberry Fruitworm, Dearness Scale, Rodent Controls, and Alternative Delivery Systems.

Longer Term objectives are: Cranberry Dieback Disorder (CDD), Nutrient Management, Beneficial Insects, Weevils, and Organic Production.

Requests for Proposals have been sent out to Researchers and others with the deadline to receive proposals by February 7, 2018.



2018 BC Cranberry Congress
Monday, February 19, 2018
Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club
Mark your calendars!

Once again, the Congress will feature noted North American cranberry industry experts who will share their knowledge and expertise with BC growers. The day will begin at 9am and conclude with a Meet & Greet with the speakers, including:

Renee Prasad, University of the Fraser Valley

Sheila Fitzpatrick, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Siva Sabaratnam, BC Ministry of Agriculture

Kim Patten, Washington State University

Rebecca Harbut, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Amaya Atucha, University of Wisconsin



Entertainment idea:

Prevent drinks from getting watered down by using frozen cranberries instead of ice cubes in fruity beverages.

BC Cranberry Growers Association News

Dear Partners in Water Stewardship:

On February 29, 2016, the provincial government brought the **Water Sustainability Act** into force along with the first phase of regulations. The *Water Sustainability Act* updates and replaces the old *Water Act* and delivers on an important government commitment to ensure our water stays healthy and secure.

The new laws include licensing requirements for non-domestic groundwater users, e.g., irrigation, waterworks, industrial, or power purpose. The one-time licence application fee waiver period for existing groundwater users has been extended until **March 1, 2019**, to make sure users have every opportunity to take advantage of the savings (minimum \$250), and to align with the deadline for existing groundwater users to submit an application and have their date of precedence recognized.

BC Cranberry Growers Association News – cont.

While all non-domestic ground water and surface water users have to register for a water license and pay water rental rates, there are some exceptions.

A municipality can be a surface water license holder of water in ditches originating from river and rainwater. Growers diverting water from these ditches will not be required to apply for a water license on their own, as the municipality holds the licenses. City taxes applied to these properties will include the appropriate rates for annual water rental and annual operation/maintenance of ditches. Growers should confirm with the City if the ditch that they are diverting their water from is indeed operated by the City with a water license. For example, The City of Richmond pays the province for the irrigation use of river water and rainwater collected in the ditch, so individual property owners and operators are not required to pay the province separately.

Government is making improvements to the application process for existing groundwater water users to make it easier to apply for a licence. Processing the applications is taking government longer than anticipated; however, existing use applicants can continue to use the water lawfully beyond March 1, 2019, as long as an application has been submitted.

There are benefits to getting your groundwater licence application in by March 1, 2019 and having your priority date considered. Groundwater licensing gives BC's businesses greater security by providing legal protection to your right to use the water for beneficial purposes. Licensing establishes your right, and provides fairness and clear rules for managing conflicts between water users during times of water scarcity. Licensing provides government with the information it needs to ensure our common resource is managed sustainably.

Domestic groundwater use is exempt from licensing and fees. A domestic groundwater user has a well and uses well water for household purposes, such as drinking, washing, watering a garden, or providing water for domestic animals and poultry. Domestic well owners are encouraged to register their well to make their water use known so it can be protected. Submit a well registration form to Groundwater@gov.bc.ca. Not sure if your well is already registered? Contact www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/contact/

Living Water Smart Team
Email: livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

FrontCounter BC: www.frontcounterbc.ca
Water website: www.gov.bc.ca/water WSA Blog:
<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact/>

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Vice-Chair, Scott May
Treasurer, Lynne Kemper
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Nicole Kelly
Kyle May
Kyle Botkin
Executive Director (staff),
Mike Wallis