

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

January 22, 2016



Next week is the BCFGA Annual Convention, so the next edition will be February 5.

Federal Brief to Agriculture and AgriFood Parliamentary Secretary

On January 21, an important first contact was made with Parliamentary Secretary of Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, Jean-Claude Poissant. The meeting was organized and attended by Stephen Fuhr, MP Kelowna-Lake Country. Also in attendance was Andre Boubonniere, Research Analyst for the Canadian Horticulture Council who provided valuable input and translation, and Legislative Assistant Jeremy Ghio, as well as BCFGA President Fred Steele and BCFGA General Manager Glen Lucas.



The BCFGA presented the Parliamentary Secretary with Ambrosia and Salish apples.

After reviewing the economic contribution of the BC tree fruit sector, BCFGA presented a brief that emphasized:

1. support for the CHC and Canadian Federation of Agriculture positions to restore and enhance AgriStability and AgriInvest.
2. appreciation for recent progress in filling vacant research positions at the Pacific AgriFood Research Centre (now called Summerland Research and Development Centre).
3. a concept for funding tree fruit plantings not eligible under the provincial replant programs.

The meeting exceeded the expectations of the BCFGA, as Hon. Poissant is very familiar with agriculture having been a dairy farmer and involved in the Union des Producteurs Agricole (UPA) in Quebec. The next steps will be to engage the other tree fruit producing provinces to develop a proposal and seek the support of government. The project will be vigorously supported by the BCFGA under the auspices of a national approach, in partnership with the other apple producing associations in the provinces, under the leadership of the Canadian Horticultural Council.

Convention

The Provincial Minister of Agriculture Hon. Norm Letnick has advised that he is available for the social (6-8 pm, Friday, January 29, 2016) but will not be available for Saturday, as indicated on the initial agenda. Also, the Federal Minister of Agriculture sent his regrets that he will be unable to attend the Annual Convention. In their place, the BCFGGA is planning a presentation on the new Water Sustainability Act and MP Stephen Fuhr. Labour has been added to the agenda.

Updated Convention Agenda

**BCFGGA Annual Convention, Friday and Saturday, January 29-30, 2016.
Ramada Hotel, Kelowna, BC
AGENDA Update #1**

FRIDAY, January 29, 2016	
Time	Agenda Item
1:00 pm	Business session
	Opening - Welcome from Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran Agenda and meeting guidelines, Appreciation, Minutes
1:30 pm	Financial Statements and General Manager's report
2:00 pm	Replant Program - Carl Withler
2:30 pm	BCFGGA Companies Panel - SVC, BCFGGA R&D Orchard
3:00 pm	Break
3:30 pm	Industry Updates Panel - CHC, CFA, BCAC
4:30 pm	Adjourn to Saturday
Reception FRIDAY, January 29, 2016	
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Social and awards - Provincial Agriculture Minister, Hon. Norm Letnick

SATURDAY, January 30, 2016	
Policy Session	
8:30 am	Reconvene, Executive Report
9:00 am	Crop Protection, SIR, Environment and Food Safety
9:30 am	Keynote Speaker: Gerry Zimmerman, Vice-Chair, and Kim Grout, CEO, Agricultural Land Commission (invited)
10:00 am	Financial Programs
10:30 am	Break , deadline for late resolutions is 11:00 am
11:00 am	The new Water Sustainability Act - Aaron Singer / Cherry Kernder, Clark Wilson LLP
11:30 am	Labour
11:45 am	Stephen Fuhr, MP, Kelowna Lake Country
noon	Luncheon - soup and sandwich
1:00 pm	Member Services and Public Relations, Water Sustainability Act
2:00 pm	Elections: Procedure, Candidate presentations, Balloting
	Deferred and Late Resolutions. Member input on By-laws.
4:00 pm	Concluding Remarks. Adjourn.

SVC Board approves Dividend to BCFGA

The Summerland Varieties Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the BCFGA, has recently had positive financial results with marketing new varieties of tree fruit developed at the Pacific AgriFood Research Station, as well as Wilf and Sally Mennell's *Ambrosia*. Both *Ambrosia* and the late season cherries continue to enjoy worldwide success. The BCFGA is assured by SVC that there are some promising new apple varieties to come out of the breeding program over the next few years. The Board, management, staff and operations are stable and performing well.

With these ingredients for ongoing success in place, the BCFGA asked SVC to consider a dividend based on the approximately \$500,000 investment in 1994-1998, which is estimated to be worth \$1.5 to \$2 million in today's dollars.

The SVC Board approved a dividend in the amount that will allow the BCFGA to conduct a program in support of food safety. The dividend will allow BCFGA to pay for the food safety certification cost of growers in 2016. The food safety program will provide a benefit in two ways:

- for BCTF Cooperative growers, a grant will be paid to BCTF Cooperative and BCTF Cooperative will determine how to credit the growers' 2016 food safety fee of \$525.
- for non-BCTF Cooperative growers, an application with a copy a 2016 certification receipt will trigger a reimbursement of up to \$525.


Growers' may receive only one \$525 payment for the 2016 BCFGA Food Safety Program.

BCFGA Annual Convention January 29-30, 2016

The BCFGA Annual convention is being held in Kelowna at the Ramada Hotel on January 29-30.

The Convention Portfolio was mailed to all BCFGA members on January 7, so all members should have received it by now - if not, you may access the [2016 Convention Portfolio online](#).

How to contact the BCFGGA Office

BCFGGA Office  250-762-5226 or toll free 1-800-619-9022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brenda Zarr, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.• Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.• Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3.• Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.
---	--

PAC Points – Upcoming events

2016 Growers Supply Annual Horticulture Meeting “Inventing Fresh Ideas together” Tuesday, February 16th 2016 - Oliver Community Centre, 6359 Park Drive, Oliver BC Meeting will start at 8:00 with breakfast, followed by morning sessions, Lunch and afternoon workshops for grapes and ground crops. PAC points will be available for several sessions. BC Horticultural Symposium February 24th Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna 1905 Springfield Rd Meeting will start at 7:30 with Breakfast, followed by morning sessions, Lunch, afternoon workshops and ending with hors d’oeuvres and prize give away. PAC points will be available for several sessions. We look forward to seeing you at the 2016 BC Horticulture Symposium. Please register for this meeting by phoning or email your Fieldman.

This newsletter prepared by Glen Lucas - questions or comments? glucas@bcfga.com

Dates and Events

Check [the calendar on our website](#) for more information

Date	Event
January 27	BCAC Agriculture Gala, Abbotsford: for tickets www.bcac.bc.ca - this event usually sells out, so register early.
January 29-30	BCFGGA Annual Convention, Ramada Hotel, Kelowna
February 23-25	Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting
February 24	BC Tree Fruit Horticultural Symposium
March 8-10	Canadian Horticultural Council Annual Meeting
April tbd	BC Agriculture Council Annual Meeting