

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

Sept 4, 2016



BCFGA Regional Annual Meetings

Update and Feedback, Nominations, Elections

It is time once again for Regional Annual Meetings. Normally scheduled for November, we are planning *earlier meetings* for several reasons:

- The crop season is 2 - 3 weeks early.
- The 2017 Replant deadline is October 31 and "Preparing Your Replant Application" will be on the agenda.
- There are a number of industry events in November that would conflict with Regional Meetings.

BCFGA Regional Annual Meetings

South Region

Time: 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Place: Penticton Ramada

North Region

Time: 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Date: Thursday, October 20, 2016

Place: Coast Capri, Kelowna

Fred King, in Memoriam

1923 - 2016

Fred King, a Second World War veteran who later served as Member of Parliament for nine years, is remembered today for his kindness and commitment to his family and community.

He was 93 and passed away on September 30.

Born and raised in Kaleden, he attended high school in Penticton and then enrolled in the Royal Canadian Air Force and served in Burma during the war.

Upon returning from service, he had several careers which included orchardist, manager and supervisor of the B.C. Provincial Crop Insurance Program, and local postmaster in Kaleden.

In 1979, he was elected Member of Parliament for the riding of Okanagan Similkameen as a Progressive Conservative. He was re-elected in 1980 and 1984.

Fred King attended almost all of the BCFGAs Annual Conventions and was a friend of the industry - always ready with a smile and a positive outlook.

Agristability Deadline Reminder

Insuring catastrophic drops in income

Deadline to submit your complete 2015 AgriStability/AgriInvest Harmonized form: September 30th 2016.

Minimum Wage Increases on September 15

mid-harvest timing is awkward

The minimum wages increases to \$10.85 per hour on September 15. For more information, see our August 26, 2016 newsletter.

Integrity Audits by Service Canada

Random audits of SAWP employers underway

BCFGA recommends keeping the following paperwork up-to-date and available for a possible audit of SAWP by the Service Canada Integrity Branch:

- signed copy of work visa and employment agreement.
- signed copy record of any pay advances.
- complete payroll records.

Water Well Registration is now required

Register before March 1, 2017 to avoid fees

As of February 29, 2016, the new regulations of the BC Water Sustainability Act state that all non-domestic groundwater wells have to be licensed. If you apply for a licence before March 1, 2017, the BC government will waive the licence application fee. After March 1, 2017, the application fee can range from \$250 to \$10,000 per well depending on the water used by the farmer. If you have an unregistered well, the BCFGGA will be providing assistance with the groundwater licence applications.

The BCFGGA is putting together information on how to register your well. We will be providing a link to a self-help kit, and we will also provide a brochure from an environmental/engineering consultant that is able to provide a fee-based service to assist in registering your well if you choose not to complete the registration documents yourself. Watch for more information in a future newsletter.

Next edition of the Friday File will be September 23.

Interior Provincial Exhibition

BCFGA Booth to Promote the Tree Fruit Sector

The BCFGa hosted a booth at the [Interior Provincial Exhibition](#) at the Armstrong Fairgrounds, August 31 - September 4. We provided the public with samples of Aurora Golden Gala, Sunrise (yes they were still crisp) and Gala. We wanted to sample Salish, but they were not yet ripe. About 9,600 samples were provided.

The most frequent questions (*and answers*):

- “What type of apples are these?” *Depending on what was being sampled, either Aurora, Sunrise or Gala. We described how Aurora and Sunrise are from the Summerland Ag. Canada breeding program, and that Gala is the most produced apple variety followed by Ambrosia (from a chance seedling in Cawston), and that Ambrosia is expected to take over as our chief variety in the next few years.*
- “How long does Sunrise keep?” *It depends how it is stored. Because it is one of the few apples that is “chill sensitive”, refrigeration will prolong its storage, but once taken out of storage it will only last a day or two before becoming soft. If it not refrigerated, it will last from 1-3 weeks at room temperature.*
- “Are these the non-browning / GMO apple?” *No. The GMO Arctic Apple will not be on the market for several years, as 10 acres of trees were just planted in Washington State. The BCFGa is opposed to the Arctic Apple as it confuses consumers, but now that the government has approved it, we would like to see mandatory labelling. If you support mandatory labelling, you should write your Member of Parliament. There are varieties that naturally do not brown as quickly, including Sunrise and Ambrosia.*
- “Is there labelling of GMO in the US?” *The State of Vermont has mandatory labelling, and the USDA has introduced a proposal for mandatory labelling of GMO products that would be in effect in all states.*
- “Are these organic?” *No, but the BCFGa does represent organic and conventional growers. I have a story to tell you about IPM and the Sterile Insect Release Program....*
- What apples are good for making pies?
- Where can I buy apples?



What do you think of our answers to these most frequently asked questions? Email us at info@bcfga.com. Careful, if you have a better answer we may invite you to be a host at our booth next year!

Tree Fruit Replant Program 2017

Applications on-line, deadline is October 31

A reminder that the program is not “first come, first serve” - the Minister of Agriculture is supporting a ‘Quality Program’, where the project applications of highest quality are funded. There will be a presentation on ‘How to Complete a Replant Application’ at the October 12 and 20, 2016 BCFGAs Regional Annual Meetings.

How to contact the BCFGAs Office

<p>BCFGAs Office - 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022</p> 	<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.
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Dates and Events- check the [BCFGAs Calendar](#) on our website for more information

Meetings Attended recently and upcoming

Date	Meeting	BCFGAs representative
Aug. 31 - Sept. 4	Interior Provincial Exhibition, Armstrong	
Sept. 8	Canada-Caribbean SAWP quarterly conference call	Pinder Dhaliwal, Vice-President Glen Lucas, General Manager Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary
Sept. 16	Guatemala Temporary Foreign Worker Program	Glen Lucas, General Manager
Sept. 16	Sterile Insect Release Board meeting	Peter Simonsen, BCFGAs Director
Sept. 19	CHC Apple Working Group, Apple Research and Innovation Strategy	Fred Steele, President Pinder Dhaliwal, Vice-President
Oct. 5	BCAC Board meeting	Fred Steele
Oct. 7	SIR Board	Peter Simonsen
October 12	BCFGAs Annual Regional Meeting - North	
October 20	BCFGAs Annual Regional Meeting South	
Nov. 7-8	Mexico SAWP Annual Meeting	tbd
Nov. 13-16	Caribbean SAWP Annual Meeting	tbd