

BC Fruit Growers' Association



Friday File

February 5, 2016

Annual Convention - January 29-30

The 127th BCFGAs Annual Convention was held in Kelowna last weekend. About 170 growers attended, with Agriculture Minister Norm Letnick attending the evening social and the keynote speaker Kim Grout, the new CEO of the Agricultural Land Commission.

Awards were presented at the evening social:

- Brian and Dorothy Witzke, Award of Merit.
- Cheryl Hampson, Award of Merit.

Some award recipients were unable to attend the Convention, and we will present the following awards at a future meeting:

- Wilfrid and Sally Mennell, Life Members.
- Kamlesh Parmar, Award of Merit.
- Tom Walker, Press Award.

Two appreciation resolutions and 23 regular resolutions passed. Two regular resolutions did not pass: #2 (remission of SIR parcel tax on nursery stock and trees one year old) and # 23 (research reports on glyphosate). A late resolution calling for mandatory labeling of GMO fruits and vegetables passed.

The 2016 Executive was elected, as follows:

Fred Steele, President
Pinder Dhaliwal, Vice-President
Ravinder Bains
Deep Brar
Peter Simonsen
Surjit Nagra
Sukhdev Goraya
Tony Nijjar

Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr addressed the Convention. Also in attendance were MLAs Steve Thomson (Kelowna) and Dan Ashton (Penticton), and MP Dan Albus (Okanagan Coquihala). The meeting recognized the past (and future!) contribution of ex-MP Ron Cannan.

BC Agriculture Gala

Two days prior to the BCFGA Convention, Fred Steele and Glen Lucas represented the BCFGA at the BCAC Agriculture Gala in Abbotsford, attended by about 600 growers from all BC commodity groups as well as guest and political representatives. BCFGA donated two boxes of apples to the silent auction - beautiful size 100 extra fancy Ambrosia and Salish - which sold for \$130+ and \$100+ with proceeds to good causes such as Agriculture in the Classroom. We also donated a box of Salish to Ag Critic Lana Popham to take to the NDP caucus meeting being held the following day.

Other tree fruit area MLAs attending the Ag Gala were Linda Larson (South Okanagan), Greg Kylo (Shuswap), and Katrina Conroy (Creston).

Crop Protection

2016 may well go down as “the year of crop protection”. Three separate meetings were held this week on Apple Maggot, Apple Clearwing Moth and Codling Moth.

- A plan to increase the number of traps to monitor for the presence of Apple Maggot was agreed to, and SIR will help deploy some the extra traps. Recall that last year a single Apple Maggot was caught in a trap in a residential area in West Kelowna, but follow-up sampling and tree inspection did not reveal any further Apple Maggot. As a result, the CFIA considers the Okanagan to be free of the pest and the Okanagan is still a quarantine area. Howard Thistlewood (AAFC) provided valuable science and technical advice and CFIA organized and led the meeting. BCFGA representatives Peter Simonsen (Crop Protection lead on the 2016 Executive) and Glen Lucas attended.
- At the Convention, growers appealed to the BCFGA to place extra effort to supply Isomate-P Mating Disruption for Apple Clearwing Moth (ACM). A planning meeting was held by the steering committee this week, and it is recommended that Isomate-P be provided for all of Zone 2 (Peachland - Kelowna) plus Winfield, while increasing the level of protection for ACM-free areas in the North Okanagan, and providing an option for the South Okanagan - Similkameen to participate if smaller, area-wide approach is possible in an area. The steering committee for ACM includes Peter Simonsen (BCFGA Executive), Gary Judd (AAFC), Susanna Achaempong (BCMA), Tamara Richardson (contractor), Charlotte Leaming (BCTF), Tony DiMaria (BCTF), Glen Lucas (BCFGA) and Melissa Tesche (SIR). Jack Machial and David Machial also attended the meeting and provided important input for developing a plan of action for 2016. A funding proposal will now be prepared by the BCFGA.
- The SIR Board meets today (Feb. 5) and a major topic will be assisting with the delivery of the Apple Maggot and Apple Clearwing Moth plans for 2016.

New Science Positions at Summerland Research Centre (formerly PARC)

The BCFGA is very pleased that after years of attrition, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada is proceeding with hiring and replacing several scientist positions, including: Tree Fruit Physiologist, Soil and Nutrient Management, and Tree Fruit Germplasm (apple and cherry breeder). The AAFC research station in Agassiz will also be hiring several scientists, including a vegetative management (weed) scientist.

How to contact the BCFGA Office

BCFGA 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.
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PAC Points – Upcoming events

- Tuesday, February 16th 2016:
2016 Growers Supply Annual Horticulture Meeting “**Inventing Fresh Ideas together**” – held at the Oliver Community Centre, 6359 Park Drive, Oliver BC. Meeting will start at 8:00 am with breakfast, followed by morning sessions, Lunch and afternoon workshops for grapes and ground crops. PAC points will be available for several sessions.
- Wednesday, February 24th 2016:
BC Tree Fruit Horticultural Symposium – held at the Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna 1905 Springfield Rd. Meeting will start at 7:30 am 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. To register, please contact Brenda Zarr at 250.762.5226, ext. #1.
- 1st Thursday of the month.
Grower breakfast meetings with guest speaker(s) held in Vernon, BC at the Pantry Restaurant, (next to the Best Western Hotel), starting at 7:00 am. Worth 1 PAC point per meeting, for more information, please contact Tony DiMaria, at tdimaria@bctree.com | mobile: 250-550-4827.
- Tree Fruit Production Guide meetings are being planned for this spring in Cawston, Summerland, Winfield and Creston - watch this newsletter for more information.

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
February 12	BCFGA Executive meeting
February 23-25	Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting
February 24	BC Tree Fruit Horticultural Symposium
March 8-10	Canadian Horticultural Council Annual Meeting
March-April	Tree Fruit Production Guide Meetings
April tbd	BC Agriculture Council Annual Meeting