



The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

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BCFGA Awards

Penticton – The BCFGa announced the awards for several outstanding leaders in the tree fruit industry at its 124th Annual General Meeting, held in Penticton this Saturday.

The recipients and awards are:

Award of Merritt **Keith Carlson**

Press Award **Barry McDivott, CHBC News**

The awards were presented at the BCFGa Annual Convention luncheon.

“The success of the tree fruit industry is built on the strong sense of community in the industry. Today we recognize the dedication and selfless contribution of recipients to the industry through the BCFGa the Award of Merritt, and the Press Award,” said Jeet Dukhia, President of the Association.

The BC Fruit Growers' Association represents 550 family operated farms and advocates for the \$300 million in annual economic activity which the industry generates each year, and which mandate is to foster a healthy food system for the long-term prosperity of BC tree fruit growers.

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Attachments

Keith Carlson, biography
Barry McDivott, biography

Further information

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BCFGA Press Award 2013

Barry McDivitt

The press award is given to an outstanding journalist each year, for coverage of the tree fruit industry. Barry McDivitt, the intrepid CHBC TV News reporter, has helped the public to understand the sometimes complex and often confusing tree fruit industry. Barry's coverage is always fair, balanced and objective, but he also has an instinctive feel for the industry.

A native of Ontario, Barry moved to the Okanagan in 1980 to work for CKOV radio. Eight years later he made the move to the Okanagan's Very Own CHBC. His favourite news stories to cover are business, technology and the environment. He also enjoys covering the Okanagan's many excellent sports teams, especially the Kelowna Rockets.

In addition to television reporting, Barry has also worked in radio, public relations, Global's promotions department, and has written several screenplays. McDivitt is the author of the novel *The Youngest Spy*, published in 2007.

BCFGA Award of Merit

Keith Carlson

Keith Carlson has been growing sweet cherries in Summerland for 22 years.

Since 1998 he has been an independent cherry packer. His family business is Carcajou Fruit Company Limited. His box label is 'Sweet Diamond'.

The Carlsons grow 40 acres of cherries in Summerland. The cherries are picked and packed with Global GAP certification and sold to markets in Europe, Asia, and Canada by Graem Nelson Associates Ltd. Keith is well aware of the challenges of urban farming as many of his plantings are surrounded by residential housing while others border waterways and wilderness interface.

Carcajou Fruit uses the SmartHort traceability software system that Keith began developing ten years ago.

As a sideline, Keith sells bird netting and packing equipment.

Keith has served on a number of advisory committees. He chaired BC-GAP (the precursor to Canada-GAP); he was a member of BCAC's funding review committee for environmental innovation; and is currently a member of the Agri-Flex committee for the BC tree fruit industry, to name just a few.

Keith has been an executive member of the BC Fruit Growers Association, the Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers Association and the Okanagan Plant Improvement Company (PICO).

He is currently the president and chair of PICO(2006-2012). In his capacity as PICO president, Keith has been instrumental in the commercialization of Staccato cherries and Ambrosia apples. He has represented PICO in Chile (2009), Berlin's Fruit Logistica (2010), Australia and New Zealand (2011).

Prior to his life as a cherry grower, Keith owned an electrical contracting company in Norman Wells, NWT. After the Norman Wells pipeline was commissioned (1984), he worked as the electrical foreman for Interprovincial Pipeline Limited (the company now known as Enbridge).

When not engaged in agriculture, Keith likes to go mountain biking.

For further information on Keith and Jan Carlson's orchard "Carcajou", please visit the following website:

<http://carcajoufruit.wordpress.com>