



AWOnews



Produced by The Amateur Winemakers of Ontario

A forum for the exchange of news and opinions on home

winemaking in Ontario

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The 2003 Winter Edition

"Winter, slumbering in the open air

Wears on his face a dream of Spring". Samuel Taylor Coleridge

IN THIS ISSUE:

by Paul Dunseath



While we do not like to say it, this could be the last issue of AWOnews. In any event, it is the first one which is NOT being produced in paper format. The reason is that AWO finances are in such dire shape that there isn't any money to pay for a printed copy. The problem with an e-mail only copy, of course, is that not everyone has access to the Internet. To give this the widest possible circulation to members we are posting it to Winetalk (this also avoids the very laborious and error-prone alternative of typing all known e-mail addresses into the file, and then trying to clean up the ones that bounce. Those already on e-mail may therefore receive it twice as they will receive one through that route to ensure they are not overlooked, and will may also receive it via Winetalk if they are also a subscriber to it.

If you know of anyone who should receive it and hasn't done so due to lack of Internet access, please pass a copy on to them.

We regret having to take this step; however each issue of AWOnews costs approximately \$500, more or less, to print and mail, and the bank account is virtually empty.

The Executive is of the opinion that a significant adjustment in fees may be required next year, along with changes in the number of physical medals (as opposed to medal certificates) awarded, if we are to stay financially viable (this was laid out in some detail in our last issue, which we recommend you read again), so it may be possible to return to a print version on a smaller scale in future. Please lend your views to the debate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Glenn Keown

It seems that this year is just flying by, here we are now at the end of the

grape-growing season for 2003. It appears that Ontario grapes got off to a bad start this year. The weather was certainly against the growers and their vineyards. It appeared that there was a short supply of grapes available for the amateurs, but I hope everyone was able to get the grapes they wanted and are now in the final stages of pressing them etc.

I would like to congratulate all our members who won medals at the Ontario and Canadian finals.

We must not lose sight that everyone on the Executive and other committee members VOLUNTEER their time to our organization. To all I extend a hearty vote of thanks, because without them, we would not exist. We are always looking for volunteers to help out behind the scenes, so if you are interested please contact me by e-mail, (gkeown@rogers.com)

I have been in constant touch with Larry Paterson, is Chairman for the 2004 Convention and he has assured me the committee from Peterborough is currently meeting and forging forward to make this Convention of great interest to all of us. The Executive would like to see this convention well attended, so as soon as the registration forms are out please sign up immediately.

I have mentioned in the past newsletters that we are looking at ways and means to cut back on the annual spending from the AWO funds. It now appears that we are facing a time when the annual dues will have to be raised. We have had many years of enjoying low AWO annual dues, but it is now very apparent that they will have to be increased. To keep the AWO afloat this is a necessary evil. This item will be on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting in June 2004.

Looking towards Spring 2004, the Ontario Finals will again be held at Brock University in May.

The Festive Season is fast approaching and on behalf of the Executive I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

REMINDER: It's that time of the year again. To all the Club Rep's please submit your Club Dues prior to the end of the year.

PASSINGS - BOB WILLETT:

by Terry Rayner and Larry and Donna Miller

On behalf of London Wine Pros we regret to the inform the members at large that we have lost a very valued member in Bob Willett.

Bob passed away suddenly on Friday October 31st.

You won't find Bob on any of the competition stat sheets, however, he will be fondly remembered for his quick wit, his love of wine and for always being there for us when we needed another pair of hands to help out at crushing / pressing / blending even though he usually wasn't involved in the winemaking.

Bob was one of our club's longest serving members, and our incoming President.

As well, Bob wanted to host our WinePros Christmas gathering. Bob suffered one heart attack previously but was an active skier and golfer; he was a youthful age 52. We'll miss Bob and his jokes. The funeral was at the Needham Chapel on Dundas Street in London on Wednesday, Nov. 5th.

**REPORT FROM THE AMATEUR
WINEMAKERS OF CANADA TO THE
AMATEUR WINEMAKERS OF ONTARIO.**

by Larry Paterson

AWO Representative to AWC, AWC Archivist

<http://www.littlefatwino.com/awc.html> 8:55 AM 11/8/04

First all Ontario winemakers should thank Dan Ostler who has retired after many years of fine service as AWC Archivist and as Ontario's representative at the National level. Well-done Dan!

Ontario again won the unofficial points competition between provinces by a 2,048 to 1,842 margin over British Columbia. Terry Rayner was Champion Winemaker, and Bill Thornton and John Tummon tied for Champion Cidermaker. Brian Williams won Best Wine and the only Gold medal of the competition with a Wine Art Kit entry! All in all, this was a very successful result for Ontario. The 2004 competition will be held in British Columbia, and 2005 will be in Ontario. I'm sure that B.C. will be looking to even the score, and we will have to be very good to keep the title.

The Amateur Winemakers of Canada executive are actively pursuing on-line decision making for AWC business, and will probably spend time this winter updating the AWC handbook and looking into other internal business -

electronically. The AWC is in sound shape financially. If only we could get winemaking clubs from the remaining provinces and territories interested!

BACCHUS TO THE KAWARTHAS - **AWO CONVENTION 2004**

by Burton McClelland

Mark June 4, 5 and 6, 2004 on your calendar! The AWO Convention is back – "Bacchus to the Kawarthas". This is your opportunity to catch up with old friends from other clubs, meet some new friends, taste a lot of good wines, find out how well your wines did in the 2004 AWO Competition and advance your winemaking skills and knowledge.

The 2004 convention will be held at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough on June 4th – 6th. The college is conveniently located off the Airport Road exit from Highway 115.

Both Peterborough clubs, Growwine and the Kawartha Krushers, are busy

working on the plans for the 2004 convention. We plan to have a full roster of events to keep you busy from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. We'll have all of your old favourites from previous conventions – the Friday night Club Showcase, a full roster of seminars on Saturday, commercial exhibitors, label competition and the Awards Brunch on Sunday.

In addition, we're going to be trying something new this year – the Taster's Choice Awards. On Saturday night, after the banquet, we're going to be hosting a different kind of AWO Competition, one where you are the judge. The basic idea is to have a fun evening event for Saturday night. For a small entry fee, anyone attending the convention can enter in any of the six classes: Cabernet family, Pinot/Gamay family, Other Red, Chardonnay, Riesling and Other White. Other Red and Other White classes are any red or white wines that don't fit into the other classes – hybrids, other vinifera or blends thereof. All convention registrants will get a number of voting tickets in their registration package and they will be allowed to sample and vote on the wines of their choice – hence the name Taster's Choice Awards. To avoid the event getting too serious, we're going allow participants to place multiple votes on a single entry and to buy additional voting tickets at the event. Event winners will be announced at

the Awards Brunch on Sunday morning.

If anyone is interested in having space for an exhibitor's booth on the Saturday, purchasing an ad in the convention program or donating an item or items for the raffle, please contact Rick Wagner at (705) 742-9250 (home) or (705) 652-2046 or e-mail at dwagner2@cogeco.ca.

More details will be available in the next issue of AWO News and on the "Bacchus to the Kawarthas" website which will be at www.littlefatwino.com

THE CANADIAN GOLD

Members may have noticed that the only Gold awarded this year was in with the Bordeaux class and was made by Brian Williams from a concentrate. It was a Wine Art Kit from 1999, a 40th anniversary, Project Wine Cellar, Cabernet Sauvignon. The only substitution Brian made was to change the oak chips that came with the kit for French oak. Wine Art has kindly sent Brian a complementary wine kit to make by way of congratulations.

Members may also recall that, a few years ago, George Gibson (now resident in BC, but then a member of By town Vintners) took a "Best in Show" in the AWO competition, again with a red concentrate..

With an Ontario "Best in Show" and now an AWC "Best Wine of the Year" both from Concentrates, it is clear that Wine.Art is certainly maintaining their quality standards.

Congratulations, Brian, on your win.

FURTHER THOUGHT ON AWO FINANCES

by Gordon Barnes

I would like to put forward the following thoughts about the AWO money 'situation'.

The AWO dues and Convention profits should cover the publications (Newsletter and WineMaker) plus any administrative overhead.

The Ontario Finals (Bottle fees) should cover the cost of

medals/plaques/certificates PLUS the WJCO judging fees.

AWC bottle fees should cover the cost of AWC entry fee, plus admin and transport.

If Medals were awarded to the Gold winners (only) and certificates to the rest, \$1.00 in the entry fee would cover the presentations. Therefore a \$6.00 bottle fee would cover the provincial judging.

For the WJCO I would suggest that the 'contract' with the club should be clearly spelled out.

Travel allowance at \$0.40/km (one way distance for the judge.)

Bottle charge of \$2.50 per judge/bottle [That means double judging is \$5.00]

A surcharge of \$2.00 per bottle that exceeds the 40-bottle/judge limit.

A substantial meal following the judging.

The judge(s) will stay to discuss the wines with club members.

Fees will be collected when the judging is complete.

Contemplate this change in the selection / multiple entry system.

It would eliminate the pressure for additional classes. 600 bottles is a sufficient number for AWO as a whole to accomplish for the judges in 1.5 days. Divide half that (300) by the number of clubs. Go to the nearest whole number and that is the Basic Entry number for each club.

Divide the remaining entries (600 less the number above) by the total number of members in the province. For each club multiply by this factor by the number of club members to get the Secondary Entry number.

The club would then select its best (Basic + Secondary number of) entries regardless of class. The class / style must be identified. There MAY be a limit on the number of entries allowed from one person.