



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 2005 Late Summer Edition

"There are five reasons for drinking : the visit of a friend, present thirst, future

thirst, the goodness of the wine, or any other reason. " - anonymous (16th Century)

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A wrap-up on AWO 2005, along with stats on the truly astounding number of medals awarded; more information on AWO 2006; our President's column, the loss of a member, information on the upcoming Eastern Ontario competition, news from AWO 2006, and general potpourri. Now go clean those barrels and carboys; the new season is about to begin.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

by Paul Dunseath

This issue marks the beginning of the tenth year of publishing AWOnews. When I began doing so, in June 1996, I set myself a personal goal of filling the position, if the Executive permitted, for ten years. Issue 40, which will be out shortly before AWO 2006, will mark the end of those ten years, ten years which have seen a number of changes; for most of the issues there was, in addition to the task of putting the words on paper in as visually pleasing a fashion as possible, also hunting up material (or writing it myself - some twenty "feature articles" on various aspects of winemaking), but also folding, enveloping, addressing and stamping between 450 and 500 newsletters four times a year, a task in which my wife Maureen was of enormous help.

In 2001 we began publishing as a "hybrid", with a number of members opting for an electronic copy rather than paper; then last year, as a cost-cutting measure, the Executive decided to make it solely electronic, which of course is the way you are receiving this. There were, as far as I know, no objections voiced by the membership.

However, when the ten-year point is reached with issue 40, next May, I think it's time for new blood to take up the challenge. If you're not too tired of me

already, I'd like to see it through until then, just prior to AWO 2006, but I'd be grateful if anyone who wants to take it on would let me and the Executive know between now and then. You will enjoy the same fabulous salary I have, and I'd be happy to pass on the template for the news, should that be desired. Thank you.

DEATH OF A MEMBER

Friends and acquaintances of London winemaker Larry Miller were saddened to hear of his death on August 13th at 5 pm.

Our condolences to Larry's family; he will be missed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Glenn Keown

I want to express my thanks and that of all attendees at "Heighten Your Senses"

Festival, recently held in London, Ontario. To the Festival committee; you did an outstanding job and your efforts were greatly appreciated.

I was very pleased to see a good attendance at this year's Festival. I would suggest to those who have not attended a Festival in the last few years, it's time you made the effort to get out and support the clubs that are working extremely hard to make Amateur Winemaking a great success.

Medal winners, there were many, congratulations. There was an extremely large number of silver medal winners this year. The smiles on the winners' faces are getting wider every year. This shows a strong indication, your skills at making quality wine, are getting better, all the time.

As most of you have already noticed, the Ontario finals were posted to the websites very shortly after the Festival was completed. This was due to a strong effort put forward by your Chief Steward, John Peters, and Webmaster, Larry Paterson. Thanks guys for all the long hard hours you put in.

At the Annual General meeting on Saturday afternoon, everything went along smoothly. A copy of the minutes and the Treasurer's report will be forwarded to club reps in the near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Steven Quast, from Ottawa, as a new Director of AWO.

To all winemakers selected to have their wines go forward to the Canadian Finals, congratulations, let's bring the medals home!

We now have 39 clubs, with a total membership of 466.

You can now mark your calendars for 2006. The Festival will be held in the Nations' Capital, Ottawa, Ontario, on the week-end of June 9th -11th. The theme is "Festa del Vino MMVI". Advance information has already been released and you can find it on makewine.com, or littlefatwino.com. A great deal of time and effort has already gone into preparations for this festival, so let's all make a strong effort to get out and support the Ottawa clubs.

"Added note" The 2007 Festival has been booked, by the K-W area clubs. More on this later.....

The topic of future Annual Festivals has come up again and we need to start setting some dates. It was also voiced that the Toronto area clubs have been quiet for too many years and it is felt they should look at the possibility of holding a

Festival. So, if any of the Toronto area club (s) want to move on this item, please let me know.

David Burns has contacted all clubs to see which ones can accept new members.

This will enable us to direct any enquiries to the correct clubs.

We are still looking for ideas on how to get new members to join AWO. If you have any ideas, please forward them to me.

It seems there may be a shortage of grapes this year in Ontario. I have spoken to several growers and they are not making any promises to supply grapes to amateurs. Let me know if you have any contacts.

Enjoy your summer!

AWO FESTIVAL 2005 KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

by Jack Gootjes, St Thomas Grapebusters

One hundred and fifty seven wine enthusiasts from Ontario, Quebec and even

Nova Scotia made AWO 2005 one of the best attended Festivals of the past few years.

Four local clubs, Cellar Masters, Happy Winers, St Thomas Grapebusters and London Winepros worked hard to organize this event and were most pleased when they heard so many of you enjoyed it.

Friday evening at the Festivals is always everyone's favourite time. This was no exception.

Sunny early evening. Outdoors. Freshly roasted pig . Pastel Coolers. Cold beer.

Later in the evening, thirteen clubs shared their best beverages with us.

Acknowledgement to the K/W club for best reflecting this years theme with their carefully considered wine/food combinations and to the London Winepros for the abundance and variety of their table.

For taking the time to relate their visual displays to this years theme, thanks to The Happy Winers and to the Nova Scotia contingent.

Comments were made that the bonus Saturday Seminar on Flavoured Wines prepared by Terry and Larry deserves to be repeated (next years convention?)

The partial results from the Saturday evening Tasters' Choice are as follows:

Chardonnay: 1- John Tummon 2nd- Dan Stevenson

Riesling: 1-. Tim White 2nd - Terry Rayner

White Hybrid: 1- Martin Nygard 2nd- Gary Collins

Other White: 1- 2nd - Terry Rayner.

White Blend: 1- Joe Dale 2nd - Jack Gootjes

Cabernet: 1- 2nd- Bob Gibbon

Pinot Noir: 1 - Terry Rayner

Red Hybrid: 1 - Terry Rayner 2nd - Paul Ward

Other Red: 1 - Larry Paterson 2nd - Gregory Sagan

Red Blend: 1-Joe Dale

Country:1- 2nd Tim White

Dessert: 1- Jim Lloyd 2nd Tim White.

During Sunday's tasty Brunch, John Peters made a lot of winemakers happy as

he read out the AWO Competition results for 2005.

A slide show presentation with photos from some past conventions prompted requests for this to be updated annually and incorporated into all future festivals. Someone is working on that and will forward it to the Ottawa group.

AWO President Glenn Keown introduced the Ottawa group who will be our hosts next year at AWO 2006, Festa Del Vino MMVI.

Trivia: 17 lbs of cork were given to the GIRL GUIDES organization.

Thanks to all those that volunteered their time and bring the festival to a successful completion.

(Ed. Note: believe it or not, I received an e-mail from someone who will not be named, but not from Ontario, asking to be put in touch with the people organizing the rickshaws! You will remember the tongue-in-cheek comment by the organizers that rickshaws would transport you from your room to the washrooms? Well, someone actually believed it. Jack can confirm this. P.S.D.

NOTES FROM YOUR CHIEF STEWARD

by John Peters, john_peters@sympatico.ca

Congratulations to everybody who participated in club and provincial competitions.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COMPETITION PROCESS

From start to finish the competitions went well. Everybody pitched in and got the job done. I received most of the club results data electronically and on time. I will be working this year to remind the club reps to focus on getting the data entry correct (garbage in = garbage out)! There were a few errors in entry that slipped through and will need to have medals and/or certificates reissued.

Hopefully I can get this rework done before harvest begins this fall.

With regard to the challenge of getting clubs judged in the last couple of weeks before the provincials, my aim is to push the clubs to declare an early and consistent date for their competition. If the Judges Commission knew now when the clubs were to be judged they could easily accommodate the judging requirements.

Please discuss in your club a competition date that will be yours for the foreseeable future (i.e. the first Saturday in February every year).

From the perspective of the provincial competition, I note the updated Wine Judges' Commission judging sheet has been generally well received. The notes seem to be helpful to the winemakers and the scoring is more consistent with professional scoring (silver = 80 – 89 points, gold = 90 +). Care has also been taken to ensure quality and consistency in the judging panels at the Provincial competition. The new medal styles are now in full distribution in all classes and I hope you will be proud to display them.

DEDICATED JUDGES AND STEWARDS

Please acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the volunteers, particularly the Judges and the Stewards that make the Provincial competition possible. For the record, the stewards this year were as follows: Nelson Abreu; Peter Bartl; Helen Brenner; Phil Bunn; Dave Burns; Lorraine & Michael Charlebois; Joe & Teresa Dale; Gerry Den Hartogh; Craig Fleming; Jack Gootjes; Ed Hale; Irene Jares; Glenn Keown; Charlotte Panagapka; Steve Skelly; Dan Stevenson; and Brian Williams. Thanks to all for your high quality effort. If there are members

out there that want to consider a stewarding role in the future please get in touch with me.

COMPETITION RESULTS

	2003	2004	2005
Merit	52	71	111
Bronze	206	242	202
Silver	119	136	327
Gold	43	28	38
Total	692	645	751

You will note from the results table above that the overall result is a significant

increase in the number and the quality of entries in 2005. Every member should be proud and confident of the results. An AWO medal says your wine is a quality product that you can be proud to serve and enjoy in any company.

All the best with the 2005 harvest!

(Editor's note: for the record, our new Grand Champion Winemaker is Terry Rayner (no surprise there), and our Grand Champion Brewer is Mervin Quast.)

NOTE BY LARRY PATERSON

AWO seems to have graduated another professional winemaker, with the latest taking the plunge our own John Tummon, who is now head winemaker at Kacaba Vineyards!

Well done John and best of luck.

UPDATE ON FESTIVAL 2006

by the Organizers

As previously announced, Festival 2006 "Festa del Vino MMVI") will be held in Ottawa on the weekend of June 9-11, 2006. The location is Algonquin College; while full details on location will be provided in a future issue of AWOnews, those familiar with Ottawa may wish to know that Algonquin College is located on Woodroffe Avenue near Baseline Road. It is easy to reach from either the 401 / 416 route (exit Hwy 416 at Hunt Club Road, proceed east to Woodroffe and then north on Woodroffe), or from 7 / 417 (take the Woodroffe exit from the 417 and proceed south). These are all major routes with no downtown traffic to cope with.

Friday evening, the weekend begins with a planned barbecue, followed by the traditional AWO Showcase of Wines. Come dressed up as your favourite Roman. There will be a prize for best theme table.

On Saturday, after an evening of renewing old friendships and making new ones, look forward to a day of new and wonderful experience tasting and learning about wines and beers. Lunch will feature a Rosé Wine (blended from Grenache and White Zinfandel).

Seminars are being arranged in four streams to cover winemaking, the

'how-to's", presentation, and education. There will be a variety of subjects that will appeal to both the beginner or the more experienced winemaker. There will be several time-outs to enjoy a coffee or to visit the many vendors that come to display their products.

The Saturday banquet promises to be a very special one; it is a "progressive dinner" with different but appropriate wines served with each course, beginning with a pre-dinner aperitif wine to whet the appetite. Dinner begins with a Sauvignon Blanc with the salad course followed by a red Meritage wine (a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, with Syrah, Malbec and Petit Verdot) and a Chardonnay with the main course.

A dessert wine will complement your dessert choice to end the meal. An after dinner wine will be served with coffee and chocolate.

On Sunday, Brunch will be accompanied by a Riesling Sparkling wine and the awarding of the gold medals and trophies for the best winemaker and best brewer.

The intent is to allow you to get on the road in plenty of time for your drive home. Ottawa will then bid you farewell, until 2007 with the KW clubs.

EASTERN ONTARIO AMATEUR WINE COMPETITION 2005

By Kim Farrall

The Eastern Ontario Amateur Wine Competition, now in its 20th year, will be held in Ottawa in October 2005. This competition is open to all amateur winemakers. It's an opportunity for you to see how your wine compares with the best your amateur winemaking colleagues can produce. The closing date for wine entries is October 1, 2005.

It costs only \$4 per bottle to enter a home-made wine. Entry forms, instructions, and the "official" bottle label, which must accompany every entry, are available on the eoawc web site at

http://www.littlefatwino.com/eoawc/home_eoawc2005.html

Please note that you do NOT have to be a member of the Association in order to enter the competition itself.

The highlight of EOAWC is the annual Awards Banquet at the Centurion Conference & Event Centre, 170 Colonnade Road South, Ottawa on Saturday October 15, 2005. Members have the opportunity to taste wines entered into the competition, in some 18 different categories. The tasting is followed by a buffet dinner. After the meal, live dance music is provided until closing at midnight.

More information is available at

http://www.littlefatwino.com/eoawc/banquet_eoawc2005.html

In accordance with Liquor Board licensing regulations, only members of the Eastern Ontario Amateur Wine Association may attend the banquet; memberships may be obtained up to ten days prior to the banquet (NONE will be available at the door), and are valid for the Association Year, which ends on September 30th. The membership fee, which includes all the other benefits of membership in the EOAWC, includes one free admission to the banquet and tasting. Membership fee is \$45 per person; for further information contact Kim Farrall at (613) 238-2627 or via e-mail at eoawc2005@rogers.com.

EOAWC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of amateur wines. It was founded 20 years ago after several area winemakers

commented to its founder-to-be that in their club they enjoyed the wines, but didn't know how they stacked up against others. The "open competition", available to any entrant, was established in 1985 as a result, along with the "Medal Concept", later adopted by AWO in the early 90s.

This competition has proved very popular with winemakers from across Ontario and outside the province, and is a chance to have your wines assessed against those of your peers.