

March
2007

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter
15252 32nd Ave Surrey BC V3S 0R7 Ph 604 542 9734

John Savage and family exit the vegetable industry.

Funding provided for greenhouse vegetable research and industry development

Chair reflects on changing markets and the need for the regulatory framework to allow and encourage innovation and competition

John Savage Retires from the Commission

John Savage retires from the Commission on March 31 after serving terms in the 1980's and then from 1999 to the present. John took time out in 1986 to successfully enter provincial politics and serve as the Minister of Agriculture for British Columbia.

The Commission AGM was the occasion for an official recognition of John's industry commitment and contribution with fellow

Commissioner Peter Guichon speaking on behalf of all growers. Peter recounted some of the many organizations to which John has given his time and talents and recognized that John always puts farmers' best interests first.

John will remain closely involved in the industry as he will continue to chair the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission.

Amending Order Number 10

Amending Order # 10 was enacted by the Commission on March 21st 2007. The Order revises Schedule 4 of the General Order implementing a levy on District I greenhouse producers to provide funding for research and industry development projects beneficial to the greenhouse industry. The Order also removes the Commission Election Procedures from the General Order. An Elections Policy remains in effect but is a now operational document approved by the FIRB.

The unofficial consolidated General Order along with all Amending Orders is available on the Commission's website at www.bcveg.com.

Commission 2007 AGM

The Commission's 2007 Annual General Meeting was held in Delta on March 22 with 35 growers and their representatives in attendance.

The meeting received reports highlighting the 2006 operations including market information

services, approved the Auditors Report and heard a forward looking address by the Chair.

Copies of AGM reports will soon be available on the "News" section of the BCVMC website.

National
Potato Food
Safety
Program being
rolled out in
each Province

\$8,000 project
looks at controls
not damaging to
wildlife

National
association of
horticultural
producers sets
policies and
priorities for
2007 in
Vancouver

Food Safety – Potato Producers

The official Canadian Potato Producers Food Safety Manual is now available. The Commission is developing a program to give producers the opportunity to become familiar with the procedures and standards. The program will involve personal visits by the Commission's Food Safety Advisors and regional workshops.

Cabbage Root Maggot

The Commission provided financial administrative services for a project looking at control techniques for Cabbage Root Maggot (CRM) in Rutabagas. The project objective was to test new chemistry and IPM controls in order to develop an effective control for CRM. The project was carried out by ES Cropconsult with assistance from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Out of the many non-chemical control strategies investigated, FABCO (a row cover material used in Germany) demonstrated the most promising results for root maggot management.

Copies of the ES Cropconsult report are available from the BCVMC office.

Canadian Horticultural Council

For the first time since 2002 the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) held its AGM in British Columbia. The Commission is a CHC member as are the Storage Crop Agencies, the BC Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, the FV Strawberry Growers Association and the BC Greenhouse Growers Association. BC greenhouse vegetable producer Marcus Janzen was the organization's President during the year ending at the AGM and now continues on the Executive as the Past President.

The organization works closely with the Federal Government and federal agencies on trade issues, grade standards, pesticide registration, and financial safety net programs.

Food Safety has become a central focus for the CHC as it works with producers in all provinces to develop standards and delivery mechanisms for the horticultural industry. Commissioner Linda Delli Santi and General Manager Tom Demma attended on behalf of the Commission.