

Ontario Wine Appellation Authority NEWS & TIPS JULY 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REMINDER – JULY 23, 2021

Please join us for the 2021 Annual General Meeting of VQA Ontario held on July 23, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

A report on VQA Ontario's activities will be presented along with financial statements. Time will also be made available for winery members to raise issues of interest or concern at the meeting.

Please register using the following link

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gsPp_S48T6esUz1v_3KG9A and feel free to contact us if you would like further information or have any questions.

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – DEADLINE JULY 9

One Director will be elected in each winery size category. The following nominations have been received:

Large class winery:	Greg Berti, Andrew Peller Limited
Medium class winery:	Amelie Boury, Chateau des Charmes
Small class winery:	Caitlin Kern, Foreign Affair Wines Nadia Senchuk, Leaning Post Wines

If you wish to nominate additional candidates, the completed nomination form must be received by the Appellation Authority office no later than July 9, 2021. Refer to the previous notice of meeting or contact the Authority's office for the form and requirements.

ANNUAL REPORT

The VQA Ontario 2021 Annual Report is now available online on our public website at www.vqaontario.ca/AboutVQA/AnnualReports/2021/Overview

HIGHLIGHTS

From the Chair's Message:

Our mission is to ensure consumers can always rely on the VQA certification to identify authentic wines of origin. VQA is about consumer trust in local wines and the Appellation Authority is the common foundation to building and maintaining that trust. We worked hard to maintain the integrity of the system through the pandemic – bringing the VQA tasting panels in house out of necessity, and also looking at strategic opportunities to take more control of our regulatory mandate. Beginning in 2021, we will fully integrate the winery audit function into our compliance program, delivering audits, retail inspection, and investigations with our own staff. This is a significant transformation, and will make us more efficient and fully in control of our future.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Ontario Wine Appellation Authority maintained its focus on origin, integrity and authenticity through the pandemic challenges.

Regulatory and compliance activities ensured consumers could rely on label integrity at a time when local origin mattered more than ever.

Core program services for member wineries continued uninterrupted, and careful financial stewardship allowed a fee waiver for the new year.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Winery participation grew to 183 VQA wineries

2210 new wines received VQA approval

Chardonnay and Riesling were top volume white wines

Baco Noir and Pinot Noir were top volume red wines

466 audits and inspections were conducted resulting in 5 compliance orders and 2 provincial offense convictions

NEW DIRECTOR, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE

For those who missed the last newsletter, we welcome Peter Harris to our staff as Director, Audit and Compliance. Peter will lead our newly integrated audit and inspection team and brings a wealth of experience from his previous position at the LCBO.

Over the next few months, we will update our policies to reflect the new structure and work with LCBO and the AGCO to explore opportunities to reduce burden in relation to winery audits. We'll keep you informed!