

BCAWA News

Extra, Extra. Read all about it!

Maureen Millar, editor

Photo credits: Maureen Millar, and Mary Homer
(who snaffled a couple which included the editor)

BC Amateur Wine Association Provincial Competition a Great Success!

The 'Provincials' held in Chilliwack drew beer and cider entries as well as over three hundred wines and aperitifs.

Hospitality, humor, socializing and reconnecting were as important as the awards and accolades.



Tony, Leo, Doug, Cathy, Rick, Mary, your editor, the Prez, Cathy, Joan, and Mary relax with Mary-Susan after their long drive to Chilliwack.

The Vancouver Island contingent determined their own 'meet and greet' with Prez and Co. Wondering about the shopping cart? Ask Mary or Tony... there was an 'incident of sorts'...



Chief Steward, John Ayris, oversaw the multitude of entries.

Ricardo, Helmut, Debbie, Jude, Rick, Cathy, Peter, Sergio - judges and stewards set right to work.



Bubbly in the AM for Jonathan, Doug, Pepe - what a way to start the day! Cory pondered whites with Clem and Joan Lots of sniffing and swirling was going on. Fran kept it organized. (Thanks, Fran – so much!)

Joan, Colin and Leo were hard at it as they sought wisdom in judging this set of wines.



There's lots of learning, practicing, tasting, comparing, consideration & math behind every award decision. Julie and Berto compared notes on the reds while John and Lisa worked with whites. Seemed it was 'all good'.



Paul, Vivian, Mary-Susan and Alice worked behind the scenes assuring there were clean glasses for judges, a scrumptious luncheon for all, and decorations in keeping with the Cinco d' Mayo theme..... Great job!



Cory and John dig in. That work in the kitchen paid off well for the rest of us - we enjoyed a tasty meal. John relaxed. After a quick break is was back to work.



Noticed it was a merrier group after lunch – what does that say?
Beers had been judged earlier; lots of great results and happy brewers.



Election of Executive for 2012-2013	
President	Rick Homer
Vice President	Maureen Millar
Secretaryneeded
Treasurer	John Matkovich
Directors at Large	Ron Thorne, Doug Markin
National Director	Axel Kroitsch
Past President	Helmut Berner
Guild Master	Sam Hauck
BCAWA Web Steward	John McMaster
BCAWA Archives:	.. needed

All was serious as we waded through the AGM. Please note changes and need in the executive. Thanks Jack Ziebart for the years as web steward; we now welcome John and a common BCAWA computer system.



There was opportunity to sample the winning wines – your editor sought out and found some terrific bubbly. Then, of all things, we got to snaffle a bottle and find a spot to eat dinner with friends. No shortage of wine! No shortage of medals, cheerful chatter or camaraderie :)



Tony, Ricardo, Robin, Axel, Gerrit, Jack and Jack again, received medals while Sergio sang an ode to his medal. BCAWA members made many trips to the podium to gather bronze, silver or gold. By the end of the evening some had quite a collection.



Peter, Glen, Rick, claim awards, so too Axel and Glen , and Axel, Ricardo, Sergio, Fran, the man in black, Rick, Robin



Colin, Tony, Colin once more.

For some it was a first medal, for others an addition to a mushrooming collection. For each it had been a disciplined challenge.



Before long the band struck up playing the kind of tunes that got people on the floor. Thanks Peter for the dance! Then the music gave us a boost as we cleaned up, folded tables, stacked chairs and saw to recycling and storage. Julie and Ricardo gathered their booty; soon we were all off. It had been a long day; it had been a delightful day that would be remembered for years. Congratulations everyone for a job well done!

British Columbia Amateur Winemakers Association May Seminar

David Annis, a Nanaimo Winemaker and BCABA member who lives in Duncan sent us the following reflection...

What a great session we had at the BCABA wine seminar yesterday! Such a wealth of information, it was hard to take it all in at the time. I will certainly have to go over my notes to recheck everything.

Peter's blending session laid out very simply how a measured 'dab' of this and a 'dab' of that wine can yield a 'new' (and better) wine. Axel was pretty forthright in explaining how you should get prepped for a competition. He reviewed some simple things that we probably take for granted whenever we enter a competition. His message was to the point: take nothing for granted!

Sam's session opened our eyes to that great \$90 bottle of wine from Langley! Who knew! Along with the other two wines he chose, you could certainly see that there was a difference in the wines. Albert did a great job of getting us to focus on the balance of five components of wine. Each of those little samples showed clearly what they can, or cannot, do to a wine.

Oliver Woods Centre is a really good facility. I did not know it existed. And lunch ...superb! I am sure glad you asked Ann of *Occasional Occasions* back to do the catering. Thanks to the presenters and the organizers for a great day. It was well worth it!



Chatting over coffee and pastries gave us opportunity to meet new folk and touch base with friends from other clubs; George Beck then welcomed all and we were soon at work. Four capable presenters: Peter Huyghebaert, Axel Kroitzsch, Sam Hauck and Albert Tomasson kept us focused, on task, and involved. We left with new insights, practices to put in place, and intent on tracking down a bottle of that Blackwood Lane wine – even if it does cost \$90.

Well... there you have it folks, an 'extra' edition of the BCABA News. Hope you enjoyed it, and that it will encourage you to save a few pictures and notes of your club's activities which we can put in the Autumn Edition of BCABA – Deadline September 15th, 2012 – just as you are counting heads and getting BCABA fees to John Matkovitch. Enjoy summer, stay safe, be good to one another :)