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British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association fonds

Compiled by Paige Hohmann (2023)

OSC ARC 39

University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus Library

Okanagan Special Collections – Archives

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Fonds description

British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association fonds. - 1948-2010.

30cm of textual records and other materials

Administrative history

The Association of BC Grape Growers (ABCGG) was established on March 10, 1961. With permission of the provincial government, in 1970, the Association formed the BC Grape Growers Marketing Board (BCGGMB). The scope of the ABCGG and the BCGGMB has always been the support of viticulture; however, over time and through various administrative shifts, its focus has changed from table grapes to wine grapes.

The Board's original mandate was to negotiate sales deals for grape growers by creating standard prices per ton by variety of grape each year. This was accomplished through the annual issuance of executive orders of the Board, with which member grape growers were to comply.

Over time, the organization has been composed of various committees such as the Viticulture Committee, which managed trials and research projects, most notably the Becker Project (1977-1985). The Becker Project experimented with plantings of *vitis vinifera* in the Okanagan Valley and attempted to improve the varietal's hardiness in this climate. Key members of the Viticulture Committee included John Vielvoye, who was separate from the Association, but sat on the committee as a function of his work with the BC Ministry of Agriculture, and Lyall Denby representing the Summerland Research Station (Agriculture Canada).

Other activities included educational outreach to grape growers and advocacy for crop insurance.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Board played a role in the negotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in its application to BC grapes. The implementation of NAFTA represented a key turning point for the organization in the Agreement's influence over financing rules for the industry. As an outcome of NAFTA, events such as the Pull Out Program and the Replant Program took place under the provincial Social Credit government. By 1995, reference price had been discontinued. From that point, departing from the elimination of marketing negotiation space under NAFTA, the BC Grape Marketing Board dissolved.

The organization then experienced uncertainty in its mandate: service to wine, or grapes? This uncertainty coincided with the advent of the Farm Gate Retail model and the formation of BC Wine in the early 1990s. In 1997, some among the former Board who opposed a shift to wine called a meeting and agreed to continue, but have the association be composed only of independent growers, excluding licensed wineries. The organization was then renamed the BC Independent Grapegrowers' Association.

This was short-lived in the face of opposition from wineries, who also wanted to participate in the research and education supported by the Association. A change in bylaws in the early 2004 saw licensed wineries readmitted, and the organization renamed again to the British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association (BCGA), under which name it still operates.

As of 2023, the BCGA advances the objectives of supporting grape growers in BC, educating grape growers, building relationships with external stakeholder, and maintaining stable, profitable markets for



BC grapes and wine. It has representation on the BC Wine Grape Council, Wine Growers BC, and the Interior Horticultural Sector Group (BC Agriculture Council).

Custodial history

The fonds was acquired directly from the corporate creator.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of certificate of incorporation, board meeting minutes and those of some constituent committees, annual reports, education, marketing, and outreach materials, and digital photography of experimentation sites extracted from optical disc. Print photographs depict locations relevant to the Becker Project and a group portrait. The fonds contains reference material that predates the formation of the corporate creator.

Four published books arrived with the fonds; these have been separated and catalogued – please see bibliography for details.

Notes

Physical description

Includes 5 photographs, 5 optical discs and 2 posters.

Finding aids

Series descriptions available.

Source notes

BC Grapegrowers' Association. (2015 September). "Thank you for everything, Connie!" *News & updates* [newsletter]. BC Grapegrowers' Association. Retrieved 2023 June: <https://www.grapegrowers.bc.ca/sites/default/files/newsletter/September%202015%20newsletter/files/September2015Newsletter.pdf>

Hira, A. and Bwenge, A. (2011 August 11). *The wine industry in British Columbia: A closed wine but showing potential* [draft report]. Simon Fraser University, Department of Political Science. Retrieved 2023 June: <https://summit.sfu.ca/item/10366>

Hohmann, P. (2022 October 27). [Personal correspondence with Connie Bielert, Manager of Administration, BCGA, 1980-2015].



Series descriptions

OSC ARC 39.1: BC Grape Marketing Board and Successors - board records. - 1948-2010.

22 cm of textual records

1 photograph

Scope and content

Series consists of certificate of incorporation, minutes, executive orders predominant. Creatorship is variously assigned to the names ascribed to the organization over time.

Notes

Arrangement

Many of the files contain a mix of board records and committee records, and have been kept together as units, as compiled by the creator.

Finding aids

[File list available.](#)

[Item list available.](#)

OSC ARC 39.2: BC Grape Marketing Board and Successors - committee records. - 1971-1999.

16cm of textual records

Scope and content

Series consists of the meeting minutes of the Viticulture Committee, Crop Insurance Advisory Committee, and Basket Committee.

Notes

Arrangement

Many of the files contain a mix of board records and committee records, and have been kept together as units, as compiled by the creator.

Finding aids

[File list available.](#)

[Item list available.](#)

OSC ARC 39.3: BC Grape Marketing Board and Successors - research site photographs. - ca. 2005-2010.

0.5cm of textual records

4 photographs

5 optical discs containing 756 digital photographs, 1 digital video, and 3 digital documents.

Scope and content

Series consists of photographic capture of research sites, Lytton and Lillooet predominant. More specific locations and activities are in the file list.

Notes



Arrangement

The digital files have been extracted from the discs for ongoing access and preservation and are available for access in the reading room.

Digital assets as received are available with directory lists at

K:\OKLB\Collections_OSC\DA\OSC\OSC_ARC_39_BCGA and can be produced on request.

Finding aids

[File list available.](#)

Item list (digital) is pending.

OSC ARC 39.4: BC Grape Marketing Board and Successors - education. - ca. 2005-2010.

3cm of textual records

2 posters

Scope and content

Series consists of published resources including guides, intended for the use and education of grape growers.

Notes

Finding aids

[File list available.](#)

[Item list available.](#)



File list

BOX 1

File	Title and Description	Series
01-001	Fresh Market Guide. - 2009-2010. File contains an article put together titled "Fresh Market Grape Production: Best Practices Guide in British Columbia". Chapters include information on Grape varieties, vineyard establishments, nutrition and irrigation, crop protection, etc.	EDUCATION
01-002	Best Practice Guide. - 2010. File contains an article put together titled "2010 Best Practices Guide for Grapes for British Columbia Growers". Chapters include vineyard establishment, soils, variety, trellis systems, maintenance, nutrition, irrigation, frost protection, etc.	EDUCATION
01-003	Meeting Minutes. - 1976-1980. File contains meeting minutes for the Viticulture Committee in the Okanagan.	COMMITTEE RECORDS
01-004	BC Grape Marketing Board Minute Book 1977 +1978. - 1977-1980. File contains meeting minutes for the BC Grape Marketing Board in the Okanagan.	BOARD RECORDS
01-005	BC Viticulture and Negotiation Minutes 1975. - 1975. File contains meeting minutes for the BC Grape Marketing Board.	BOARD RECORDS
01-006	BC Grape Marketing Board -Board Orders. - 1970-1996. File contains the Board Orders, notes, and letters from and to the BC Grape Marketing Board.	BOARD RECORDS
01-007	Photos. - 2014. File contains magazine titled "Route 3." See separated optical discs at OSC ARC 39.3/DS001 – DS005.	RESEARCH PHOTOS
01-008 through 01-011 represent separated books, which are included in the Item list.		
01-012	BC Grape Marketing Board Misc. - 1961-1977. File contains annual reports, meeting minutes, Certificate of Incorporation, resolutions, directors.	BOARD RECORDS
01-013	Board Orders. - 1948-1975. File contains Acts and Board Orders affecting the BC Grape Marketing Board.	BOARD RECORDS
01-014	Minute Book. - 1971-1976. File contains meeting minutes for the Viticulture Research Committee, Directors Meetings, Association of BC Grape Growers, Crop Insurance and Basket Committee.	BOARD RECORDS & COMMITTEE RECORDS
01-015	Minute Book. - 1977-1978. File contains meeting minutes for the Directors of the Association of BC Grape Growers.	BOARD RECORDS



01-016	Minute Book. - 1979-1981. File contains meeting minutes for the Directors of the Association of BC Grape Growers, Crop Insurance Advisory Committee, Viticulture Committee meeting.	BOARD RECORDS & COMMITTEE RECORDS
01-017	Minute Book. - 1980-1984. File contains meeting minutes for directors' meetings, Annual General Meeting, Viticulture Committee, crop insurance.	BOARD RECORDS & COMMITTEE RECORDS
01-018	Minute Book. - 1989-1991. File contains meeting minutes for Grape Marketing Board, Fresh Market Growers, Annual General Meeting, and Viticulture Committee.	BOARD RECORDS & COMMITTEE RECORDS
01-019	Minute Book. - 1991-1999. Contains meeting minutes for Grape Marketing Board, Fresh Market Growers, Annual General Meeting, and Viticulture Committee	BOARD RECORDS & COMMITTEE RECORDS
01-020	Minute Book. - 1999-2005. File contains meeting minutes for the BC Grape Marketing Board Annual Meeting, Independent Grape Growers, and Directors.	BOARD RECORDS & COMMITTEE RECORDS



DIGITAL ASSETS

File	Title and Description	Series
OSC ARC 39/DS001	<p>249 digital photographs; 2 digital documents ; 1 digital video</p> <p>pictures for 2010 & Addendum from myles. - 2010 December 23 2 digital photographs. Ward Creek Ranch.</p> <p>from norm by ibutton number. - 2010 November 28 29 digital photographs.</p> <p>Kamloops BCMAL support team - 2010 March 8 2 digital photographs. Andrew Peterson and Nancy Portman.</p> <p>pics for report. 2010 November 8 - 2011 January 11 19 digital photographs. Roshard Acres, Ward Creek, Wonderland Farm inter alia.</p> <p>Pietila vineyard. - 2010 March - November 5 subfolders containing 22 digital photographs, 1 digital document.</p> <p>roshard acres. - 2010 March - 2011 January 5 subfolders containing 139 digital photographs and 1 digital document</p> <p>Solar radiation meetings. - 2010 May – 2011 January 5 digital photographs: Dave Whitting, Claudette Martin.</p> <p>wonderland farm. - 2010 March - October 4 subfolders containing 31 digital photographs.</p> <p>addendum.docx</p>	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39/DS002	<p>56 digital photographs.</p> <p>Grape Photos</p> <p>Pictures for 2009 progress report CD</p> <p>Norm Vernon adventures. - 2008 June - 2009 September. 15 digital photos ; 1 digital video. Williams Farm, Fountain View Farm, LaLonde Farm, Munson Farm, Lannon Ranch, Roshard Acres, Spray Creek Ranch.</p> <p>Pietila Vineyard. - 2009 February - October. 5 subfolders containing 29 digital photographs</p> <p>Roshard Acres. - 2009 February - September. 5 subfolders containing 89 digital photographs</p> <p>Wonderland Farms. - 2009 May - October 5 subfolders containing 27 digital photographs</p>	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39/DS003	<p>143 digital photographs.</p> <p>FOR CONNIE. - 2007 June - 2012 April Item list available on request.</p>	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39/DS004	<p>268 digital photographs ; 1 digital document</p> <p>2005 plus pics. - 2005. 7 subfolders containing 55 digital photographs. Bylands, field day, planting, problems, Roshard Acres, Ruddock Ranch, weather stations.</p>	RESEARCH PHOTOS



2006 plus pics. - 2006.

10 subfolders containing 72 digital photographs. Field day, Pietila Vineyard, problems, pruning, Roshard Acres, Ruddock Ranch, Sarah Projects, vines for D'Arcy, wine grapes year 2, Wonderland Farm.

2007 pics. - 2007.

15 subfolders containing 151 digital photographs. Grossler, install station & moisture sensor, Parc Summerland, phenology, Pietila, problems, pruning, quality control, Roshard, Ruddock, Sept. 23 tour, tensiometer, weather collection, wine grapes year 3, Wonderland farm.

Table of contents 2005-2007. - 2008.

1 digital document.

OSC ARC
39/DS005

2008

4 subfolders containing 40 digital photographs ; 1 digital document. Pietila, planning meeting Feb. 26, 2008, pruning feb 26 2008, ruddock ranch, weather stations Jan 24 2008.

**RESEARCH
PHOTOS**



Item list

PHOTOGRAPHS

Control no. and Title	Location(s)	Extent	Series
OSC ARC 39.1/P001 [Two men holding a plaque].	Oversized Print Box 3	1 photograph : col.	BOARD RECORDS
OSC ARC 39.3/P002 Vineyard.	Oversized Print Box 3	1 photograph : b&w	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39.3/P003 Vine.	Oversized Print Box 3	1 photograph : b&w	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39.3/P004 Vineyard.	Oversized Print Box 3	1 photograph : b&w	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39.3/P005-8 European Grape Variety Trial Project.	Oversized Print Box 3	4 photographs : col.	RESEARCH PHOTOS

DATA STORAGE

Control no. and Title	Location(s)	Extent	Series
OSC ARC 39.3/DS001 2010 Grape Project Pictures, People and Places	Digital Storage Box 1	1 optical disc	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39.3/DS002 Lillooet Grape Trial Photos 2009	Digital Storage Box 1	1 optical disc	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39.3/DS003 Grape pics [ca. 2005-2010]	Digital Storage Box 1	1 optical disc	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39.3/DS004 Grape Project Disk #1: Lillooet-Lytton 2005-2007	Digital Storage Box 1	1 optical disc	RESEARCH PHOTOS
OSC ARC 39.3/DS005 Grape Project Disk #2: Lillooet-Lytton Jan-Feb 2008	Digital Storage Box 1	1 optical disc	RESEARCH PHOTOS

Digital assets as received are available with directory lists at
K:\OKLB\Collections_OSC\DA\OSC\OSC_ARC_39_BCGA and can be produced on request.



BIBLIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

Aspler, Tony. *Tony Aspler's Vintage Canada: a tasteful companion to Canadian wines*. Whitby, Ont.: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1993. [TP559.C2 A856 1993](#).

Association of British Columbia Grape Growers. *Atlas of suitable grape growing locations in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys of British Columbia*. Kelowna, [B.C.]: Agriculture Canada, 1984. [G1172.O48 J73 A8 1984](#).

BC grapes: celebrate the season. [British Columbia]: Association of British Columbia Grape Growers, [between 1990 and 1999]. [OKPAM OS92](#).

Nichol, Alexander. *Wine and vines of British Columbia*. Vancouver: Bottesini Press, 1983. [TP559.C3 N52 1983](#).

Schreiner, John. *The wineries of British Columbia*. Victoria: Orca Book Publishers, 1994. [TP559.C2 S34 1994](#).

Wine country British Columbia. [British Columbia]: [Association of British Columbia Grape Growers], [between 1990 and 1999]. [OKPAM OS93](#).



Catalogue record

Title: British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association fonds

Corporate

Author/Creator: British Columbia Grapegrowers' Association

Published/Created: 1948-2010

Permalink: <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=12558712>

Location: OKANAGAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS archives

Call Number: OSC-ARC-39

Number of Items: 2

Status: Available

Location Has: Box 1, Oversized Print Box 3

Description: 30cm of textual records
5 photographs
5 optical discs
2 posters

Summary: Fonds consists of certificate of incorporation, meeting minutes of the BCGMB and some constituent committees, BCGMB annual reports, education, marketing, and outreach materials, and digital photography of experimentation sites extracted from optical disc. Print photographs depict locations relevant to the Becker Project and a group portrait. The fonds contains reference material that predates the formation of the corporate creator.

Indexes and finding aids: Online inventory available.
File and item list available.

Notes: Title based on the content of the fonds and on the information supplied by the donor/creator.



Document control

Date	Revision	Issued for
20221121	A	Draft (LC)
20230531	B	Formatting review (PH)
20230601	C	Approval (LC)
20230609	D	Final number check and completion (PH)
20230609	0	Use (PH)

