

BUSINESS

**Don't
miss**

Raspberry Festival, Downtown Georgetown
Saturday, July 13, 8 am to 12:30 pm

Scotch Block Winery recently won a number of awards at the All Canadian Wine Championships held in Windsor. They were awarded a Double Gold medal for their Black Raspberry Sensation wine, a Gold medal for their Black Raspberry Noir and a Silver medal for their Halton White 2011 (Vidal based). Here, winery owner Bert Andrews holds one of the bottles and a glass of the Double Gold winning Black Raspberry Sensation wine.

*Photo by Graham Paine
Metroland Media Group*



Grape success for local winery

Scotch Block wins six medals at All Canadian Winery Championships

Scotch Block Winery came home from the All Canadian Winery Championships in Windsor recently with six medals.

The winery, owned by Andrews Scenic Acres, received a double gold medal for its soft fruit, off dry Black Raspberry Sensation wine, gold medals for its Black Raspberry Noir and Noir Raspberry wines and silver medals for its Halton White, Cassis Black Current and Noir Raspberry Truffle wines.

All but the Halton White (2011) were bottled in 2012.

Andrews said he couldn't be more proud of the winery's products, which competed against about 1,300 wines from across the country from 220 wineries.

He credits his winemakers Paul de Lestard and Terry Rayner for taking the grapes and berries to a "competitive Canadian level."

"It's very rewarding," he said, about placing in the championships. "I feel humbled and honoured at the same time."

Andrews added that being recognized for the hard work and long hours he and his employees put into the farm and winery is extremely gratifying.

Scotch Block Winery, he said, is a natural extension of his farming business, which he has been running since 1980. In 1999, the family decided to venture into making fruit wines because of the variety of berries that

were produced on the farm, which included strawberries, raspberries and blueberries.

De Lestard and Rayner have been helping out with the business over the last five years, watching over the whole winemaking process. The Winery makes a variety of fruit wines, a baco noir red wine and a vidal-based white wine.

Andrews boasts that although the 2011 Halton White won a silver medal at the recent wine competition, he believes the 2012 vidal-based white wine may be even tastier. He encourages residents to drop by and try wines that include a berry-based wine made in four different styles. A new strawberry batch was recently made.

Local Hydro CEO to lead co-operative

Halton Hills Hydro has partnered with several hydro utilities from other communities to form a cooperative.

The GridSmartCity Cooperative (GSC) is to help bring greater efficiencies and broader scope to the purchasing powers of utilities through co-operative initiatives.

The GSC enables its 10 member local distribution companies— Burlington Hydro Inc., Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro Inc., Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc., Halton Hills Hydro Inc., Kingston Hydro Corp., Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc., Milton Hydro Distribution Inc., Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc., Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc. and Waterloo North Hydro Inc.— to work together with a common focus and achieve scale efficiencies while maintaining individual autonomy.

Art Skidmore, President and CEO of Halton Hills Hydro, has been named as Steering Committee Chair to oversee the GSC, while Jerry Van Ooteghem, President and CEO, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc., is Vice Chair. Recently appointed General Manager, Neil Sandford, will have the responsibility of managing and administering the Cooperative's operations.

"We all recognize the great potential that exists when it comes to the power of collective purchasing," said Skidmore. "We've taken the important step of formalizing an approach that will offer a full spectrum of cooperative ventures to improve efficiencies within our businesses."

"This co-operative provides the opportunity for Halton Hills to increase efficiency, customer service and reliability," said Skidmore.

The GSC Utility Partners Cooperative aligns with the provincial government's desire for Ontario's local distribution companies to find ways to achieve greater efficiencies of scale and scope in their operations.



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