



Grape Growers
of ONTARIO



Media Release

2010 GRAPE KING ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Catharines, ON (Tuesday, September 14, 2010): RBC Royal Bank, Grape Growers of Ontario and Niagara Wine Festival are pleased to announce that Dr. Debbie Inglis of Niagara Vintage Harvesters in Virgil has been named the 2010 Grape King.

"RBC is delighted to be associated with a custom so important to Niagara such as the Grape King announcement, that celebrates local wine makers and brings together communities to enjoy Ontario's best wines," said Rosemary Auld, RBC's Vice President of Agriculture and Commercial Services for the Niagara Market. "RBC congratulates Debbie Inglis on her selection and we look forward to continuing this legacy for many years and supporting Niagara's proud traditions," added Auld.

Grape Growers of Ontario Chair, Bill George Jr. says, "We are delighted to have Debbie serve as the 2010 Grape King and act as an ambassador for grape growers and grape growing in Ontario. Debbie is a dedicated grower who believes that great wine starts in the vineyard with quality fruit."

"The Niagara Grape and Wine Festival are thrilled with the appointment of Debbie Murdza Inglis as the 2010 Grape King. To recognize a family that has been growing grapes with integrity and passion for over 30 years honours not only the industry's past but the promise of the industry's future," says Kimberly Hundertmark, Executive Director of the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival.

"The Grape King represents grape growing excellence throughout Ontario. Debbie is the third female Grape King to represent the Grape Growers of Ontario. Donna Lailey was crowned Grape King in 1991 and Livis Sipos was crowned in 2004," says Debbie Zimmerman, CEO of the Grape Growers of Ontario.

Dr. Inglis is a second generation grape grower in the Niagara Peninsula. Her parents, Stan and Doreen Murdza, purchased their first 10 acre vineyard in St. Davids in 1970. In 1971, their farming company "Niagara Vintage Harvesters" was formed and grew to manage 200 acres of vineyards across the peninsula. By the mid 70's, the Murdza family was one of a handful of grape growers transitioning their

vineyards to vinifera grape varieties, eager to be part of a new direction for the grape and wine industry. Debbie and her husband Rob currently farm their 20 acre vineyard of Chardonnay, Riesling and Cabernet Franc for Vincor Canada and their grapes are used in the making of Inniskillin wines. Debbie is also the director of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute at Brock University, with research initiatives in Icewine production, grape sour rot and the multi-coloured asian ladybeetle.

Dr. Inglis will be officially installed as the 2010 Grape King at her farm in Virgil on Wednesday September 15, 2010, at 3:00 pm.

The Grape Growers of Ontario is the official organization that represents over 600 registered grower members of nearly 17.1 million vines on 15,000 acres in the province's four viticulture areas: Niagara Peninsula, Pelee Island, Lake Erie North Shore and Prince Edward County.

- 30 -

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