
German wine-making techniques adapted to Canada

An Ontario university professor is helping provincial wine-makers to produce better domestic wine.

Professor C.L. Duitschaever, of the University of Guelph's department of food and science, has been working for four years to adapt German wine-making technology to Canada. The process, which the professor studied at a research station at Geisenheim am Rhein in West Germany, is being praised for producing a fresh white wine with a cleaner colour and lighter aroma.

The Duitschaever process clarifies grape juice by spinning it and removing the sediment. Bentonite, a clay, is added to the clarified juice before fermentation. Bentonite absorbs protein matter in the juice, the professor says.

The juice is allowed to ferment for up to two months, three or four times longer than usual, at 10-to-13 degrees Celsius, about half the normal temperature. Professor Duitschaever says this makes fermentation less violent and preserves the primary bouquet — the aroma of the

grape as opposed to the scent developed during aging.

The project is the only one of its kind that Professor Duitschaever knows of in Canada. He says projects such as this are common in Europe "where they have stations that are solely devoted to this".

Dieter Guttler, wine master with Jordan Wines in St. Catharines, says his firm has been working closely with Professor Duitschaever for three years and that the method is definitely superior.

Professor Duitschaever says the biggest problem with Ontario wines is the variety of grapes that can grow in the Canadian climate.

"Wineries cannot do miracles, you can only do so much with the grape. If they have a first-quality grape, they can make a first-quality wine."

In the past, Ontario grape growers have used the native labrusca variety because it is the only one that could withstand northern climatic extremes. But experiments with French hybrids and vinifera varieties are also proving successful.

Salt drives moose into trouble

Scores of moose are involved every year in collisions with automobiles in Quebec's provincial parks and the province's tourism department has concluded it is mainly because of the salt.

The animals are attracted to the shoulders of highways in provincial parks because of the presence of road salt used to melt snow in the winter, the department says.

The salt often turns roadside pools of water into brine which the moose find tasty. In addition, the animals are attracted to the roads by the warmth of the pavement.

About 60 moose-vehicle accidents occur every year in La Verendrye Park, north of Montreal, and another 40 in Laurentide Park, north of Quebec City. Several of the accidents result in deaths and serious injuries to passengers.

To prevent the accidents, which take place most often after dark and during the summer months, the tourism and transport departments have begun an experimental program to remove the salty water near the roadsides.

Forest preserved as study site

One of the finest areas of virgin deciduous trees in Canada was designated recently as a forest preserve to be used as a study site for Canadian and international biologists and foresters.

The preserve, consisting of 120 acres in an area of 600 acres of land at Lac Doré, northeast of Ottawa, is owned by Herb Shaw and Sons Limited, an Ontario forest products company.

The forest, unique to eastern Canada, was officially dedicated at a special ceremony at the site as a joint project of the Shaw family, the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. It will be known as the Shaw Woods Nature Preserve.

The tract contains white pine, hemlock, cedar, yellow birch, sugar maple, red maple, white ash, black ash, and numerous other species. Five years of discussion and planning between the National Museum, the Nature Conservancy and the Shaw family led to the establishment of the preserve.

In the fall of 1973, a museum research team sought the Nature Conservancy's assistance to protect the forest. The tract

was considered representative of Canada's heritage exemplifying the forest environment prevalent in the region before large-scale logging began during the nineteenth century.

The trees in the nature preserve are among the largest in Canada, east of the Rockies. White pines tower 138 feet in height, sugar maples are 123 feet, white ash rise 114 feet above the ground, hemlocks are 108 feet and beech, 105 feet.

(From The Forest Scene, June 1979.)

Marine transit meeting in Halifax

Representatives of marine interests from around the world will meet in Halifax to attend the International Marine Transit Association's (IMTA) annual conference to be held September 5-7.

The designing of cost-effective ro-ro (roll on, roll off) ferries for the 1980s will be the focus of the conference. Other topics of discussion will include: the availability of fuels, cost reduction through technological innovation, on-board maintenance, trends in insurance settlements and coping with regulatory authorities.

The IMTA represents ferry operators and others associated with the industry world-wide.

Montreal international marathon

The Montreal International Marathon will be held August 26 in Montreal, with some 100 male and female runners competing on the 42-km course. An open race, the following day, is expected to attract more than 5,000 competitors.

Jerome Drayton, a Canadian who won the Fukuoka, Japan marathon in 1969, 1975 and 1976, and the Boston marathon in 1977, will participate in this year's run. He was sixth at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games held last August at Edmonton, Alberta.

Olympic champion Waldemar Cierpinski of East Germany, Bill Rodgers of the United States, and Leonid Moseev of the Soviet Union have also confirmed their intention to enter the Montreal event.

Among other countries expected to be represented are Australia, New Zealand, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Poland and West Germany.