

December 8, 2008

RUNCIMAN'S FRUIT WINE BILL SLATED FOR 2ND READING ON THURSDAY

(Toronto)– Leeds-Grenville MPP Bob Runciman's Bill 132 is slated for second reading this Thursday afternoon, December 11th. The private members bill would allow the sale of Ontario fruit wine at local farmers' markets.

The veteran MPP is very optimistic the bill will continue to move forward through the legislative process. Runciman has received positive feedback from government members and hopes that the bill will be referred to committee for hearings in January or February.

"If all goes well we could possibly see wines in farmers' markets by next summer" said Runciman. "Although almost all private members bills never get passed, the government seems to be supportive of my initiative".

A number of Canadian provinces and U.S states including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, and Iowa have allowed fruit wineries to sell their product at local markets.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, National Farmers' Union, Fruit Wines of Ontario and Farmers Markets Ontario have all supported the concept as a way to assist sales and awareness of Ontario Fruit Wines. It was first proposed to Runciman by Countryman's Estate Winery in Maitland

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