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CONFERENCE BULLETIN

www.idfta.org

July 2003 – Kelowna

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2003 SUMMER TOUR

Sunday, July 6 – Tuesday, July 8 ■ Headquarters: Kelowna, BC, CN

Registration required by June 20th

Headquarters for the summer tour will be in the Ramada Inn in Kelowna, located across the highway from the largest shopping mall in the B.C. interior.

Kelowna is the largest city in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley with a population of 98,000. Surrounded by green forested mountains merging with lush orchards and vineyards overlooking the sparkling waters of 82 mile long Lake Okanagan, Kelowna is a natural choice for visitors. It boasts all the amenities of a major city—fine dining, unique shops and a vibrant cultural life—yet orchards and vineyards thrive within a 10-minute drive of the downtown core. Spectacular vistas await those ready to explore; a delightful day can be spent sampling the award-winning wares of our numerous internationally-acclaimed wineries, or you may wish to visit one of several championship golf courses in the area.

Kelowna has become the main marketing and distribution centre of the Okanagan Valley, with a flourishing tree fruit industry and a growing light industrial sector that competes on a world scale. Best



known for forestry, manufacturing of trucks, boats, plastics, fibreglass, body armour and oil-field equipment, Kelowna also has a growing high technology sector that includes aerospace development and service.

The city is easily accessed by car, and it is also served by numerous daily flights. The Kelowna International Airport is the 3rd busiest in British Columbia and the 11th largest in Canada. Kelowna is serviced by Air Canada Regional Airlines, Westjet and Horizon Air with non-stop flights from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Seattle, and Victoria.

SUNDAY, JULY 6 – PRE-TOUR

LEAVE RAMADA INN 8:30 A.M. Cross to west side of Okanagan lake and proceed north. The landscape on this side of the lake is quite precipitous and interesting and the road is winding.

FINTRY – Fintry is a 1000-acre flat, a delta built out into Okanagan Lake by Shorts Creek. It was developed by James Dun-Waters, a wealthy Scot who bought the undeveloped area in 1908. He planted a large orchard and developed an innovative water system on Shorts Creek which provided irrigation, running water for the estate and hydroelectricity. He built a large packinghouse to prepare his fruit crops for market and a massive dock where sternwheeler vessels stopped daily. He also developed a prize-winning dairy herd.

The whole venture failed in the 1930s. Part of the delta was developed into residential lots in the 1970s, but in 1995 a major part of the estate was turned into a Provincial park. The park contains the original Manor House, a unique octagonal dairy barn and some other farm buildings. Much of the park area is treed. We will tour the Manor House, barn and surrounding area.

O'KEEFE RANCH – O'Keefe Ranch was established by Cornelius O'Keefe in 1867. Gold was discovered in central British Columbia in 1858 and a gold rush ensued. Providing food for the miners became a serious problem as the interior of the province was completely undeveloped at the time. Fortunately there was a surplus of beef cattle in western Oregon and a fur brigade trail from The Dalles to the B.C. interior. In fact, the brigade trail went up the west side of Okanagan Lake. Cornelius O'Keefe and his partner, Thomas Greenhow, were driving a herd of cattle north in 1867 and, when they reached the north end of Okanagan Lake, they were impressed with the lush grass and pleasant climate, and they decided to settle there.

Over the ensuing years, O'Keefe and Greenhow established a small store and post office, a grist mill and other ventures. Both families built elegant homes. The O'Keefes spearheaded construction of a Roman Catholic

church, completed in 1889. Land was steadily added to the ranch and, by the turn of the century, it included some 15,000 acres. In the early 1900s there was a demand for good agricultural land in the area and families sold most of their holdings, retaining limited acreages around their houses.

For the following decades, the ranch had its ups and downs, and by the 1960s the O'Keefe family realized that the unique collection of buildings on the ranch might have more value as a historic ranch than as a working one. The family operated the historic ranch for some years, then sold it to a foundation. It is now owned by the City of Vernon and operated by a society.

The present historic ranch includes the original O'Keefe and Greenhow houses, general store, blacksmith shop, church and other buildings. A local club restores and displays tractors and other farm equipment. We will tour the historic ranch and have lunch there.

KEN WONG RESIDENCE – Ken Wong, a retired businessman, has built a wonderfully landscaped residence on a hill overlooking Swan Lake. The gardens flow over an area of 3 acres and should be at the height of their splendor at the time of our visit. He also has a pond stocked with Koi fish. For the pruning experts in the group, wait until you see what Ken has done with pine, cypress and other trees.

DAVISON ORCHARD – Bob and Tom Davison (father and son) and their families operate a 50-acre orchard, growing fruit and vegetables, most of which are sold at their farm outlet. Over the years their “farm outlet” has been turned into a major agricultural attraction for local people and visitors from far and wide. Bob and Tom were IDFTA members for many years but are now more involved in the North American Direct Marketing Association, and Tom is a director.

Return to Ramada Inn by about 5 p.m.

2003 IDFTA SUMMER TOUR

Monday, July 7

LEAVE RAMADA INN AT 8:00 A.M., cross Okanagan Lake and proceed south through Westbank and Peachland.

BRUCE CURRIE ORCHARD – Bruce Currie has a 50-acre state-of-the-art apple orchard (the switchback road up to the orchard will be a test of bus drivers' skills, as people who were on the tour there from a Penticton conference will remember). Bruce has high density plantings of many apple varieties with densities from 500 to 4,000 trees per acre. We will also look at his drip irrigation system, controlled by an atmometer so as to replace only the water used the previous day. Bruce will show us the equipment, large and small, which he uses in his operation.

PARC – Agriculture Canada's Pacific Agriculture Research Center (PARC) in Summerland has been an important center of horticultural research for decades. We will visit the NC-140 apple rootstock trial, the NE-183 apple varieties trial, the cherry rootstock plantings and the IDFTA-sponsored cherry fertigation trial. Along the way we will also visit the orchard floor management trial, including the herbicide mulch experiment. We will have lunch at the Research Center and Dr. Frank Kappel, pomologist and cherry breeder, will have a cherry tasting table after lunch.

CLIVE SUTHERLAND CHERRY ORCHARD – Clive is an innovative grower with over 30 acres of cherries. He has many cherry varieties covering a wide range of ages and tree spacing as close as 6 feet.

Evening Barbecue at "KELOWNA LAND AND ORCHARD" (KLO) on a bench overlooking Kelowna. KLO is an orchard operation founded in 1904 and owned by the Bullock family. It includes 140 acres of commercial orchards and a growing agri-tourism enterprise. Stroll around the operation, talk to the Bullocks and enjoy a drink from the no-host bar. The barbecue will take place on the lawns of The Teahouse Restaurant.

Tuesday, July 8

LEAVE RAMADA INN AT 8:00 A.M. and proceed north. The tour will be no farther than 10 miles from Kelowna all day.

SAM DIMARIA ORCHARD, GLENMORE VALLEY (north of Kelowna) – Sam and his wife Patti have been farming since 1975 and operate 62 acres. They grow a number of apple varieties, including Gala, Spartan, McIntosh, Braeburn, Granny Smith, Ambrosia and Honeycrisp with tree spacings from 20 x 20 ft to 2 x 10 ft. Pear varieties include Anjou, Bartlett, Bosc and Concord and are planted at spacings from 9 x 18 ft to 5 x 13 ft. They grow trees in their own nursery as well as buying finished trees. They have a few super spindle blocks, slender spindle blocks and are moving toward a modified central axe system. Soil types range from gravel to blue clay, adding a different dynamic to their management system.



TONY DIMARIA ORCHARD, WINFIELD – Tony and his wife Maria have been farming since 1982 and run a total of 35 acres. They have a number of apple varieties and also farm a block of pears and table grapes. They have both super spindle and slender spindle plantings at a variety of spacings. They have their own nursery to supply trees for their replanting. The farm is on a very sandy site. The IDFTA visited the DiMaria orchard during the 2002 winter conference. Seeing the orchard



Tuesday Tour (continued)

during the summer will be an interesting contrast to the February tour.

Lunch at Kopje Park on Okanagan Lake.

The park is located at Carrs Landing, which is home to many cherry and apple orchards. The historic Gibson house is located in the park and will be open during the lunch stop.

RUSSEL HUSCH ORCHARD, WINFIELD – Russel and Carol Husch have farmed for the past 27 years and run a total of 40 acres. Apple varieties include Gala, Fuji, Jonagold, Granny Smith, Ambrosia, Silken, Spartan, Braeburn, Sunrise and McIntosh. They also farm a block of berries for local sales. Russel has a nursery for his own trees and has also done a considerable amount of grafting to change varieties. The majority of the orchard blocks

are super spindle (2 x 9 ft, 2.5 x 9 ft and 2 x 10 ft) with some slender spindle plantings (4 x 8 ft). The Husch farms are on sandy to clay soils.

GREY MONK ESTATE WINERY, OKANAGAN CENTRE, located on the 50th parallel of latitude

– Grey Monk Winery is owned and operated by George and Trudy Heiss, with sons George Jr. and Steven. The 45-acre vineyard overlooks Okanagan Lake and the winery has a spectacular setting in the vineyard. Grey Monk is the oldest family-owned and operated winery in British Columbia, with 21 years of wine production and 31 years of vineyard operation. Grape varieties are Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer and Pinot Auxerois. Their wines have won many awards. A winery tour and tasting will be given during this stop.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!



The Ramada is holding a block of rooms for IDFTA attendees on first come, first serve basis with cut-off being June 10. Rooms are \$91.00 Cdn for single or double. For reservations, call 250-860-9711 or toll free 800-665-2518, or visit the website at www.ramadalodgehotelkelowna.com.

Another nearby hotel holding rooms for IDFTA until June 10 is the Sandman Hotel. Room rates are \$99.00 Cdn for one bed and \$119.00 Cdn for two beds. For reservations, call toll free 888-526-1988, or visit, www.sandmanhotels.com/hotels/bc/kelowna.asp.

Don't forget to fill out the enclosed registration form or register on-line at www.idfta.org. IDFTA accepts both MasterCard and VISA.