

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Winery Statement re Mount Eneas Wildfire

## A HUGE Thank You!

On the late evening of July 19<sup>th</sup>, the Mount Eneas wildfire touched the Crown Land adjacent to our property in Garnet Valley. With the proximity and windy conditions, the fire quickly became a threat to the eastern and north perimeters of our 312-acre Garnet Valley Ranch property and nearby properties and neighbours.

Fortunately, the careful planning of a fire suppression plan combined with the diligence, cohesiveness and resources from everyone involved prevented any fire damage to Garnet Valley Ranch vineyard.

A fire guard and controlled back burn, coupled with the application of water drawn from our pond by helicopter, assisted in keeping the fire at bay.

Our owner Steve Lornie notes how impressed and grateful he is to the BC Wildfire Service team “They worked *all night* to create a two-mile long fire guard and then do the controlled back burn,” he says. “We all owe so much thanks to how hard they all worked to protect our properties.”

The sheep that live on the property have been relocated to a safe area on the farm where the field is wet. Residents who live along Garnet Valley Road were ordered to evacuate. Garnet Valley Road is currently closed part way up.

Our team has a tremendous thank-you to give to the following for their involvement in fighting the fire (listed in no particular order):

- Summerland Fire Department
- Summerland Fire Department volunteer team
- BC Wildfire Service
- Our winery, vineyard and hospitality team
- Our family and friends



Our owner Steve Lornie at Garnet Valley Ranch while the controlled burn takes place

### **What helped to stop this fire from burning Garnet Valley Ranch?**

- Given that summer wildfires have become a reality in the area, Okanagan Crush Pad created a fire suppression plan for Garnet Valley Ranch a few years ago. It included the following:
  - Rehabilitating an existing pond to make it larger so water is available to access in the event of a fire.
  - Adding additional fire hydrants around the property entrance and vineyard perimeter, especially in the most vulnerable areas. These provided convenient access to water for nearby fire suppression.
  - The fire suppression plan was based on the most typical wind occurrence. Coincidentally, the wind direction was the same as what had been predicted.
  - The Summerland department was invited to Garnet Valley Ranch years ago to familiarize themselves with the property.
  - Summerland Fire Department volunteers team members are also familiar with the property as many of them have helped build the vineyard since 2012.
- The fire department and its volunteer team were quick to survey the property and remove anything flammable from buildings on the property.
- Family and friends were generous in offering their help to assist with fighting the fire.

### **How to help**

#### **Support BC Wineries**

There is a misconception that wineries in Okanagan are not open and that people cannot visit due to summer wildfires. Nothing could be further than the truth. Most of the fire activities are miles away from wineries.

Okanagan Crush Pad and all Okanagan wineries are currently open and welcome visitors.

If you are not able to visit the region, please buy a bottle of 100% BC VQA wine.

#### **Help the Animals**

Last night, we held one of our summer concerts and the event proceeds will be topped up to \$2,000 and donated to the Canadian Animal Disaster Response Team (CDART), which provides disaster response services for animals during times like these. You can [give here too](#).

“We say a huge thank you!” Christine Coletta & Stevie Lornie, owners, Okanagan Crush Pad