

# Year-round greenhouse goodness

Houweling's grows tomatoes 365 days a year thanks to investments in innovative technology

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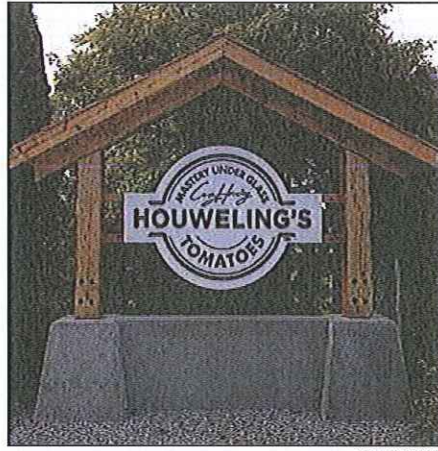
Consumer eating habits and demands for local food continues to evolve alongside advancements in technology and greater intensity on sustainability.

In the context of the produce department, the globalization of food production and massive transportation infrastructures, seasonality has significantly less bearing on consumer expectations. Year-round availability of fresh, staple fruits and vegetables is the expectation.

This evolution has created concentrated agricultural centers in multiple hemispheres to meet a global consumer demand.

In direct contrast with this trend is the value today's consumer places on "local." While some crops require specific, regional climatic conditions, the greenhouse industry has aligned technology, with crops that thrive in a greenhouse environment. By growing in this environment, the season is lengthened and in those instances where supplemental lighting is utilized, continuous production is harvested throughout the year.

Nestled along the shores of Boundary Bay in South Delta, Houweling's Tomatoes grows local tomatoes 365 days a year. Growing year round is achievable thanks to



Houweling's Tomatoes is nestled along the shores of Boundary Bay in South Delta

ment of running lights and heating a greenhouse, and delivers an efficient, sustainable solution.

European cogeneration technology creates an incredible opportunity for year-round local production. Using highly efficient natural gas engines, a farm can generate electricity for on-farm demand and export excess power to the grid, while capturing and utilizing the heat and CO2 waste products of combustion for use inside the greenhouse. Both heat and CO2 are critical to plant growth, and would generally require less efficient boilers for thermal energy production and supplemental supply of liquid CO2 before cogeneration was utilized.

Turning waste energy into fresh, local tomatoes, drives further value

along the supply chain, as compared to lower cost imports.

Consumers find product that is fresher and picked riper as it faces a drastically reduced transportation footprint and time in the supply chain. This translates into better tasting products at the family dinner table.

Innovative power generation technologies such as cogeneration and other heat and CO2 recovery systems are being joined by advancements in glass greenhouse technology. Configured together, year-round harvest can become a reality in climates that would have previously never been suitable.

Today, Houweling's utilizes such a set-up to grow and harvest year-round in Delta where cold winters sometimes fall below zero.

investment in innovative technology that takes an energy intense require-

## Investment Agriculture marks 20 years of giving back

In 2016, the Investment Agriculture (IAF) of BC is celebrating 20 years of helping B.C. farmers and food processors succeed and grow.

IAF delivers federal and provincial funding programs to support the development of new products, processes and markets.

During the past 20 years, IAF has delivered government funding to more than 1,700 projects across B.C.

To mark the anniversary, the foundation commissioned an economic assessment to quantify the total impact of government funding delivered to these projects, and the totals speak to the value of the investments.

The \$192 million invested in B.C. agriculture and agrifood through the IAF has had an impact of \$1.85 per dollar, including 2,834 person-years of employment, and \$10 million in tax revenue, for a total economic impact of \$355 million.

"This report shows how collaboration between senior levels of government and the agriculture industry can make a significant difference to agriculture and agrifood in B.C.," said Ken Bates, chair of the IAF.

In the tree fruit, grape

and wine sectors, IAF has played a significant role, from directly delivering funding to projects, to managing funds for important sector initiatives including the early days of Orchard Replant and the Sterile Insect Release program. In the past five years alone, IAF has delivered more than \$870,000 to 73 innovation and export projects through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

The B.C. Wine Institute has received \$137,035 through the Buy Local program and the B.C. Agrifoods Export Program under Growing Forward 2.

"The B.C. wine industry has relied on the support of the IAF to achieve growth of B.C. VQA wine sales in a competitive environment with increased supply," adds Miles Prodan, president and CEO.

- Submitted by the B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation



TerraLink Delta is a proud supporter of local agriculture and community events such as "Day at the Farm", "Delta Riding Club", "Farmers Ball" and "Spuds in Tubs", to name a few.

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