

# Winery officially open for business

AUGUST 12, 2013 / BY JASON HEWLETT, DAILY NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Welcome to Harper's Trail.

With those words, and a glass of wine raised in a toast, Ed Collett officially opened his family run winery.

He and wife Vicki entertained a couple of dozen friends, supporters and wine connoisseurs Saturday during a celebration at the winery and vineyard on Shuswap Road.

People sampled some of the nine selections Harper's Trail has to offer and enjoyed snacks, live music and tours of the new facility and tasting room.

For the couple, the day was seven years in the making, Collett said prior to the festivities getting underway.

He and Vicki were vacationing at the Unique Bed and Breakfast at the Naramata Bench Winery near Penticton when the idea of opening a winery came to them.

"It kind of came to fruition there," he said.

Collett said he and Vicki are wine lovers who've toured wineries all over the world, particularly those in Australia and South America.

"The wineries, the vineyards, seeing the plants flourish into clusters of grapes," he said. "It just grew into an incredible passion for us."

The ensuing six-year development phase had its ups and downs, he said. He had to purchase and develop the land along the north side of the South Thompson River.

Work halted earlier this year because of a delay in obtaining permits from the provincial archeological branch. Those issues were sorted out with the help of the Tk'emlups Indian Band.

Fast-forward to Saturday and people were enjoying a glass of wine at Harper's Trail.

"Here we are," said Collett. "It's awesome. It's a good feeling."



Dave Ward read about the open house in the newspaper. A wine lover, he was compelled to attend and see what Harper's Trail has to offer.

Ward said the Collett's picked a beautiful spot to build their winery.

"I think it's a great thing to have here in Kamloops. We certainly have the climate for it," he said.

The Collett's hope their success will inspire others to open vineyards in the region. Their wines are available at the winery and several restaurants and beer and wine stores in town.

The winery is named after the cattle drive trail of pioneer rancher Thaddeus Harper. For more on Harper's Trail visit [harperstrail.com](http://harperstrail.com).



**HARPER'S  
TRAIL**