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Canadian Honey Council

The Canadian Honey Council (CHC) is the national organization of the Canadian beekeeping industry and Hivelights is the industry's magazine. Our association is an "organization of organizations". One of the benefits of belonging to our member organizations is that all members receive a copy of Hivelights magazine. In order to receive Hivelights you must be a current member of your provincial association. International subscribers can receive our high quality magazine for a fee of \$50 Canadian per year.

Schools, libraries, non beekeepers, university or government personnel can receive Hivelights magazine through special membership as "Friends of Canadian Apiculture".

Please contact the CHC office for more information.

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Hivelights is published quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov). Deadline for submissions are 6 weeks prior to publication (i.e. Dec 15th for Feb issue). For guidelines on article submission and advertising rates please visit our website at www.hivelights.ca

The opinions expressed in the articles printed in Hivelights are those of the authors and do not imply endorsement of the Canadian Honey Council for the promotion of any product, goods or services mentioned unless specifically stated.

Editor.....Heather Clay
Design and Production..... Cristian Campean
Advertising enquiries..... Geoff Todd
Publisher..... Canadian Honey Council
Printer.....McAra Printing

Publication Mail Agreement number
40031644
ISSN 1489-730X
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to
CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL
Suite 236, 234 -5149 Country Hills Blvd. NW
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HiveLights

August 2010 Vol 23 #3

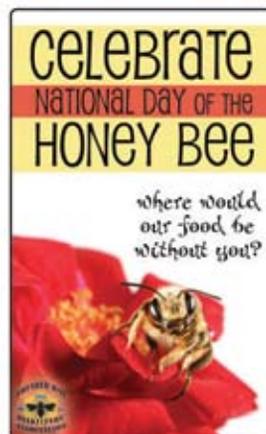
Varroa mites in highly infested colony also show "k-wing phenomenon" (dislocated wings).
Researcher: Dr. Gard Otis has found no correlation between "k-wing" and mites. It is likely a stress related phenomenon.

Photo: Brad Smith, Cochrane, AB



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Canadian Honey Council Report

Heather Clay, Chief Executive Officer, CHC

Strategic Priorities

The CHC has four strategic and all the projects we undertake are guided by these priorities.

1. Hive Health – thriving productive livestock
2. Market Access/Share – increased demand that supports better prices
3. Food Safety – top quality products that instil consumer confidence
4. Labour and Succession – people to work in the industry now and in the future



period of public consultation that ended July 5th 2010, the PMRA is in the final stages of approval for full registration.

Formic Acid

A proposal was announced 4th June, 2009 to remove the current status of formic acid by December 31, 2010. The note to CAPCO 94-05 document was issued in 1994 based on the best knowledge at that time. Since then, there have been refinements to the methods of application of formic acid. Many beekeepers rely on 65% formic acid for suppression of varroa mites and are keen to have it available as a legal product. The CHC has requested that the PMRA maintains the status quo and if possible extends the deadline for withdrawal of formic acid.

Emergency Registration Amitraz

CHC and provincial apiculturists worked together on a national submission for Emergency Registration of Apivar (amitraz). This product is used in Europe and New Zealand for varroa mite treatment and has a good track record. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency has reviewed the information and granted temporary Emergency Use Registration for beekeepers in Canada until June 30 2011.

Replacement Bees

High losses of honey bees have spurred the CHC Board of Directors to investigate the possibility of alternative sources of honey bees. Our issues committee is developing an approach to determine what action can be taken, from improving the availability of Canadian queen bees to exploring opportunities for healthy package bees from the USA. A CHC stakeholder meeting is in the planning stages to consider recommendations to the CFIA for protocols for healthy packages of honey bees from the USA.

Canadian Bee Research Fund

The Canadian Bee Research Fund is administered by the CHC. It offers grants to researchers on an annual basis. The projects

that will receive funding in 2010 are

Dr. Steve Pernal, Adony Melathopoulos, Jeff Pettis, T. Thompson; Integrated Management of Nosema & Detection of Antibiotic Residues - \$8,636.64

Dr. Dave Shutler, E.H. Frost, K. Hillier, D. MacKinnon; Effects of a Miticide on Honeybee Memory - \$6,400.00

Dr. Rob. Currie; Cultural and chemical treatments to synergize honey bee resistance mechanisms against the parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor*, and the diseases it vectors - \$6,000

Save Our Bees

The CHC has launched a campaign, "Save Our Bees", to raise funds in support of honey bee awareness. We anticipate, in the future, an online bee resource centre with interactive real time information where researchers and beekeepers and the public will be able to get the most recent hive health data and information about the importance of pollinators. There are many levels to show support for honey bees and we invite sponsors and donors to help us through our website www.saveourbees.ca.

2. MARKET ACCESS/SHARE

Agri-Marketing

The CHC has joined Brand Canada and is pursuing the development of a Long Term International Strategy for marketing honey. We have begun the process of promoting Pure Honey 100% Canadian to overseas markets through participation in a trade show in Orlando. Future steps in this direction will depend, in large part, on the success of our funding applications to the federal AgriMarketing program and others.

Pierre the Bear

Our mascot Pierre the Bear continues to promote Pure Honey 100% Canadian. He is featured on our honey information brochures that provide facts, tips and recipes. Pierre now has two brothers, one in Ontario and one in Saskatchewan to help promote Canadian honey.

Honey for Health Brochure

The CHC has produced a new honey for health brochure that provides information on

1. HIVE HEALTH

IPM Poster

Colony losses have averaged 30-35% over the past three years and some regions lost 60%. A hive health committee has been formed to advance the recommendations that emerged from two major stakeholder meetings. The committee is working on a comprehensive field manual for hive health, ways to develop a national bee breeding program.

In 2007 CHC, with advice from CAPA members, put together an Integrated Pest Management poster for beekeepers. It graphically shows cultural controls, monitoring techniques and treatments across the seasons. This poster is currently being updated and expanded into a booklet called "IPM for Healthy Bees" that will soon be available for distribution.

Oxalic Acid Registration

The benefit of using oxalic acid for treatment of varroa mites in honey bee colonies has been well documented. It has high efficacy if used once in the fall season after brood rearing has ceased. The product is widely available over the counter, has low risk and leaves no residue in honey.

The Canadian Honey Council took the lead in registering oxalic acid with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). We are pleased to announce that after a

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the healing properties of honey. It is a popular brochure for consumers who are concerned about healthy choices of food. We have reprinted another 10,000 copies that can be obtained by contacting Geoff at the CHC office.

3. FOOD SAFETY

Drum Standards

The CHC's drum standards committee produced a voluntary set of guidelines for the CFIA to implement. For more information on the standards visit the CHC website at www.honeycouncil.ca.

C-BISQT

The Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability (C-BISQT) project continues. The C-BISQT committee has completed a Good Production Practices Manual that is in process of a final Technical Review by the CFIA. This is expected to be a lengthy process as many people are involved in the review. As soon as the manual receives a "letter of completion" from CFIA, it will be made available to beekeepers for use in their operation. For more information visit www.cbisqt.ca.

4. LABOUR/SUCCESSION

Foreign Workers

Recruitment of labour is often a problem for beekeepers, especially in rural areas where workers are in short supply. An alternative that has become increasingly popular is to seek seasonal workers from overseas. There are many issues with off

shore workers. It takes weeks to complete the process of recruiting employees, satisfying immigration requirements, organizing air travel and arranging housing. On top of problems with finding workers, beekeepers are forced to pay higher wages for unskilled workers than other commodities. One size does not fit all and the CHC foreign worker committee is working with the federal Department of Human Resources and Skills Development to rectify the situation.

Education

A School kit for teachers of grades K1-3 was produced with input from qualified teachers. We believe education of children in the knowledge of pollinators and pollination is key to understanding the role of humans in protecting the environment, as well as promoting bee keeping as a viable future occupation. Visit our website at www.canadianhoney.ca.

CHC – a bold new future

The CHC is truly the national voice for the Canadian honey bee industry, dedicated to supporting and promoting a dynamic and prosperous Canadian honey bee industry that promotes "100% Canadian" and acting as the instrument for achieving a sustainable Canadian honey bee industry in the global economy. Our link to the provincial association is through the CHC director. For more information or to let him know your concerns please contact your provincial CHC directors.

New Position Available - Business Manager

Canadian Honey Council needs a Business Manager to play a vital role in the day-to-day operations of the national office in Calgary. For details visit CHC website at www.honeycouncil.ca
Deadline for application is 20 August, 2010
Send covering letter and resumé to:
Canadian Honey Council, Business Manager Position,
Suite 236, 234-5149 Country Hills Blvd NW, Calgary AB T3A 5K8

Membership in CHC

National organizations with a vested interest in honey bees, in addition to the existing provincial beekeeper organizations, are eligible for membership in the Canadian Honey Council. Applications are subject to review by the CHC Membership Committee. Those associations that meet established criteria are then considered for approval by the Board of Directors. Application form available from CHC office.



Regional Reports

Maritimes

Spring of 2010 came early to most of the maritime region following a mild winter with little or no snow cover. This resulted in most



Tom Trueman

beekeepers getting to work a couple of weeks ahead of normal. With warm dry weather through April and May colonies that survived the winter had an excellent start to their season. Many beekeepers are reporting large numbers of early swarms.

Rumors of an increased price for wild blueberries have led to a last minute surge in demand for colonies for pollination, however overall demand is somewhat less than last year as berry producers try to manage input costs. Demand still outweighs local supply with large numbers of colonies coming from Ontario to meet New Brunswick pollination requirements.

Honey prices still remain strong with local demand using most of the local crop. The early spring and above average temperatures have produced a great blossom of fruit trees and wildflowers. If the weather continues there is the potential of a decent honey crop this summer.

Most beekeepers who used Apivar® for varroa mite control last fall report excellent control if the product was used early in the fall. A few beekeepers who used a later application are reporting higher than expected winter losses due to inadequate control or insufficient time for the bees to rebuild from mite damage sustained during late summer and early fall prior to treatment.

Ontario

The beekeeping community was saddened by the recent passing of Charlie Parker. He was the largest commercial beekeeper in Ontario, an influential member of the beekeeping association in Ontario and a pioneer in inter-provincial pollination of blueberries in Eastern Canada. Our sincere condolences are sent to his family.

The OBA Tech Transfer Program - Honey Bee Breeding Program was nominated and selected as a regional award recipient of the 2009 Premiers Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence. OBA were recognized by local dignitaries and received a monetary award of \$5000.00, a plaque and a gate sign on June 17th, 2010.

Rebecca House is working hard as the OBA Promotion and Media coordinator. She continues to work

on media and marketing interests of the honey bee industry in Ontario. The OBA has exceeded the forecasted membership for 2010. The OBA was pleased to provide the honey and refreshments and a honey gift basket to show case Ontario product at the 6th Annual Premier's Summit on Agri-Food held at Queens Park. The OBA administration also assisted with the Foodland Ontario "Good things grow in Ontario" event at Queens Park on May, 17th. At our spring meeting in Milton the OBA members took the opportunity to express our appreciation to Alison VanAlten for her many years of dedicated service to the Tech Transfer Program and the beekeepers of Ontario. Our summer meeting will be held on July 10th, at the Ancaster Fairground.

Our new provincial apiarist was kept busy this spring with the sampling of the Hawaiian queens, for small hive beetle and getting permits ready for pollination of blueberries in the eastern provinces.

The OBA has sent a letter to OMAFRA requesting that the OBA be invited to the discussion and development of the Ontario Bees Act being reformatted into the Animal Health Act. We continue to work with Stacey Cahill of Agricorp on the pilot project for hive losses in Ontario.

After the past three years of devastating high losses

across the province, we are finally enjoying a spring that seems more encouraging. Swarming became a problem as the weather here in April was extremely warm and the build up was very fast. Mite testing seems to show that there was good control of Varroa in the fall and combined with the mild winter we are seeing the benefits.



Dan Walker

Manitoba

Many parts of Manitoba have seen record amounts of rain fall for the month of May and June. Winter losses for Manitoba are approximately 25% which is significantly lower from the past few winters.

Growing Forward Food Safety Program, For Farms has recently launched a program for beekeepers. Eligible beekeepers can apply for up to \$1,000 for equipment replacement. All Manitoba producers registered as active beekeepers with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) are eligible for this program. Currently, the program is available for such things as replacing non-food grade honey processing equipment and for replacing brood combs. Application forms for this program are available at your local GO Centre or online at the Manitoba Government Growing Forward website: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/growingforward/>

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Bryan Ash

In Manitoba most foreign workers driver's licenses are now valid for the

length of their temporary work visa (up to 9 months). Contact your closest MPI office for more information and how to apply.

Manitoba beekeepers may see a new production insurance program and winter mortality insurance program from MASC in the future. MBA is currently reviewing proposals with MASC.

Honey prices seem to be stable with producers receiving \$1.50 – 1.60 FOB.

Manitoba honey show runs October 1st – 3rd, Forks Market, Winnipeg

Manitoba Beekeepers are continuing to voice their concerns with winter losses, shortage of packages and queens. We are looking forward to be participating in a CHC stakeholder meeting to discuss changes to importation of packages and changes to queen import protocols. Manitoba's colony count is substantially lower than it was in the early 1980's.

Saskatchewan

Spring has just wrapped in Saskatchewan and it was definitely unique. We experienced one of the earliest springs in many years with pollen flows in early April. April also brought with it a lot of rain that has continued into May and June. Turns

out some areas have had the wettest years since they began officially collecting rainfall data. In between the heavy rain we had some wonderful weather for the bees. Many areas experienced heavy dandelion and caragana flows when the bees could manage to get in some days of flight. Unfortunately with the rain seeding was delayed and in some areas severely reduced and incomplete. At the seeding deadline, which was extended to June 20th for crop insurance inclusion, the provincial seeding average was just above 70% complete versus the average in the 95% range. Government reports indicate some Rural Municipalities in the North East/Central as low as 31% seeding complete. This same area is where a significant majority of the provincial bee colonies are located. Some farmers were able to seed most of their canola while some others managed to get very little to no canola seeded. Time will tell how much impact this plays on provincial honey production. As a bonus for the bee industry, much of the unseeded acreage in several areas has begun blooming with significant amounts of volunteer canola. For some areas the honey flow will begin early should the farmers cultivators and sprayers continue to sit idle while the land dries. With more rain occurring in many parts of the province yesterday and tonight and more forecast for this week an early honey flow will be more likely a reality for many.

Overwintering mortality was down somewhat from prior years. There was again an

occurrence of extremely high loss in one pocket. However, this was on a very limited colony numbers basis. It is believed that effects of summer insecticide spraying and varroa were major factors. Overwinter losses for Saskatchewan came in at 20%

Honey prices in the province have rebounded from a slight softening in early spring with offers in the \$1.55 - \$1.60/lb range. Expectations are of an increase in bulk honey prices for this crop year.



Corey Bacon

However, that was also the expectation last season and the large increase did not materialize.

The SBA conducted a survey in late winter to gauge beekeepers opinions on the current interpretation of the Provincial Apiaries Act by the provincial government on the status of our closed border to the inter provincial movement of bees into Saskatchewan from other provinces. An overwhelming majority indicated that they support the current interpretation by government and did not wish to look at other options at this time.

The SBA Technical Adaptation Team was launched this April. Issues have hampered our efforts to have our lead in place but we are confident that will be rectified in July. Currently we have two students working out of the provincial lab in Prince Albert under the guidance of the steering committee. They have begun trials on different miticides (mostly formic) on three different test locations as well as sampling for varroa and nosema in operations in

the province. The plan is to increase the different methods and windows of using soft miticides once our lead is in place and our seasonal staff has gained some valuable experience. With time, we also plan to expand the work of the team going forward to look at overwintering and different management techniques as well as new issues that may arise.

Alberta

Spring has come and gone and summer is now before us. Overwintering numbers from across Alberta are showing that our bees wintered far better than they have the past 3 years with the final numbers looking to be around the 15% loss mark.



Lee Townsend

There are still some producers that faced higher than average losses this past winter but we are on the right track and hopefully we can continue the good work of the Hive Health program to help those producers that experienced these losses.

The Alberta Beekeepers Commission has been active once again this spring dealing with many issues ranging from Foreign Worker licensing, the possible creation of a new Beekeeper Technician program at Fairview College, and the continuation of our Hive Health program. The Alberta Beekeepers Commission

is also looking forward to working with the CHC on the proposed Hive Health Manual as well as the Importation Stakeholders meeting.

In Alberta we have gone from being cold and dry in 2009 to cold and wet in 2010. Many regions of the province have an overabundance of water right now but there are still a few regions that are very dry. It appears that Canola will once again be common in the honey production areas of the province, and with the stability and a possible rise in honey prices for the 2010 crop we could be facing a very productive year.

I would like to thank CAPA on behalf of producers in Alberta for all their hard work this spring dealing with the changes regarding the importation of queens from California and Hawaii. Without their efforts beekeepers across not only Alberta but also Canada would be facing some difficult decisions right now.

It seems that this year in Alberta the North is South and the South is North. We have had several



Jerry Poelman

hard snow storms in the South and warmer temperatures in the North. For Southern beekeepers there have been many challenges with excessive rain and some flooding in the southern part of the province, especially in the

south eastern section . There were reports of beekeepers losing several hundred colonies. With the value of bee colonies this spring this is a difficult pill to swallow.

The health of Alberta bee colonies seems to be good. The monitoring program has identified some isolated areas with either varroa mites or nosema, but the overall health appears to be good. The colonies in general are stronger in the northern region and ready to produce a good crop of honey. The Peace River region remains as summer approaches and will need some rain soon, local beekeepers say.

Beehives are in demand for hybrid canola pollination this summer. There are additional colonies going to pollination this summer according to some beekeepers. This has also been a challenging spring for farmers to plant canola in the south as well. With excessive moisture in the southern region, the planting did not finish until June 10. It looks like flowering of hybrid canola is delayed by two weeks because of the poor planting conditions. This will give some beekeepers additional time to prepare their bees for pollination.

Honey inventories this spring are lower than they have been in several years in Alberta and the price seems constant. The outlook is positive with current conditions and hopefully we can take advantage of good honey prices this season.

British Columbia

B.C. had a cool, late spring. Most areas of the province

had good winter survival with strong hives despite the cool weather, although many beekeepers had to feed more sugar syrup than normal. In the interior of the province we had temperatures in the high twenties Celsius during May which allowed for good spring build up on dandelions, saskatoons and choke cherry blossoms. June has brought more moisture so that beekeepers are anticipating an above average honey crop.

The Lower Mainland area of the province is the exception to this with cold, raining weather throughout the spring. There are reports of hive losses due to the poor weather conditions.

John Gibeau of the Honeybee Centre located in Surrey rents hives for pollination. Talking to him I learned there has been some competition amongst beekeepers for pollination contracts in high bush blueberries this spring. In recent years the price has averaged from \$85 to \$95/hive but this year one beekeeper was renting his hives for \$65. This caused the average price to soften somewhat but it remains \$80/hive.

There are 18,000 acres of blueberries grown in the Lower Mainland. Two years ago fresh blueberries were selling for \$2/pound. They have since dropped to \$.90/pound with processed berries selling for \$.30/pound. This low price is also putting downward pressure on the price of hive rentals. Pollination recommendation

for blueberries are one to two hives per acre but the number used varies from grower to grower.

South of the border in Washington State blueberries producers can rent hives for \$35 to \$45. Some Canadian beekeepers think they would be in heaven if they could move hives back and forth across the border. So I guess in heaven the price of blueberry pollination will drop to \$40/hive. I expect blueberry producers will find heaven more heavenly than beekeepers.



Ted Hancock

There are 6,000 acres of cranberries grown in the Lower Mainland with the number of recommended hives per acre about the same as blueberries.

The price of cranberries is stronger climbing from \$.40/pound three years ago to \$.60/pound today. The acreage planted to cranberries is growing slowly but steadily.

Because cranberries are so unattractive to bees the growers have to pay more to rent hives. John says prices currently average \$100/ hive.

Some of the other pollination prices being paid are: Apples, raspberries, pumpkin, squash, zucchini, \$50/hive. Kiwi, \$60/hive. Carrots and strawberries, \$75/hive.

I expect everything will be cheaper in heaven.

CO-OP Honey Packer

For many years Bee Maid Honey Limited has contributed towards research in Canada in the area of apiculture or pollination. Preference is given to research in the area of honey, and the production of pure quality honey in the Canadian beekeeping industry. Bee Maid is proud to announce that they will be contributing financial assistance to the following research projects this coming year:



Gordon Marks

pathogen, and it, in combination with Nosema apis, have been linked to wide-scale losses of colonies in Europe and North America. This study proposes to examine effective therapeutic management for these parasites and to generate a modern antibiotic residue dataset for fumagillin, the only registered antimicrosporidial compound for bees.

This data will benefit the

Integrated Management on Nosema & Detection of Antibiotic Residues

Dr. Stephen Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge Research Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta

Canadian beekeeping industry by providing optimal treatment options to control both microsporidian species causing nosema disease without contaminating honey with unwanted residues. It will also provide for the development of modern analytical techniques for the detection of fumagillin and

Nosema ceranae is an emergent world-wide

its degradation products, which currently do not exist.

In addition, this research may lead to identifying other effective therapies so as to lessen dependency on fumagillin treatments. Overall, this project is required to improve the quality of Canadian honey bee health, safeguard against further large-scale colony losses and to ensure Canada has a sustainable supply of pollinators.

Effects of a Miticide on Honeybee Memory

Principal Investigator: Dave Shutler, Professor, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Honeybees are of great ecological and economic importance, but have been suffering declines worldwide. High mortality rates are often attributed to the parasitic mite, Varroa destructor. Varroa may have other indirect

negative effects on honeybee longevity and productivity. For example, chemical treatments used to control Varroa may interfere with honeybees' ability to properly integrate stimuli that elicit important behaviours like foraging and mating.

Research is currently underway at Acadia University, spearheaded by MSc candidate Elisabeth Frost and in collaboration with Assistant Professor Kirk Hillier, to assess effects of a common miticide on honeybee mortality, learning, and memory. Ultimately, this research will lead to standardized methods to evaluate suitability of mite treatment programs and potential sublethal effects of chemicals on honeybees. Because bees worldwide are exposed to mites and miticide stressors, results of this research will be applicable globally.

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David Drexler, Director Development and Licencing, Bayer CropScience accepts the sponsor plaque from Heather Clay CEO, Canadian Honey Council.



Varroa Mite – Monitor, Monitor, Monitor

Heather Clay CEO Canadian Honey Council

Varroa destructor (Anderson and Trueman) is an aptly named parasitic mite that has made its way around the world in less than 50 years. Its original host was the Asian honey bee *Apis cerana*, where the bee and mite have been in contact for long enough to develop a symbiotic relationship. Through a fluke of genetic mutation the mite made the jump to *Apis mellifera*. Unfortunately the European honey bee has not developed a defence and an infestation of varroa mites is a death sentence for the colony. The mite



Varroa mite on honey bee pupa.
Photo: Dr Denis Anderson, CSIRO

has spread from continent to continent with the movement of European honey bees. The only remaining mite free continent is Australia. Dr Denis Anderson who named *Varroa destructor* says it is a matter of “when” not “if” the varroa mite arrives in Australia. For the last twenty years, part of my job has involved communicating to beekeepers the expert’s advice- monitor, monitor, monitor for varroa mites. It is the most mobile and destructive mite that we have encountered in Canada.

It is not good enough to say that you don’t see mites on your bees, so everything must be OK. Once you see the mites on honey bees or notice wing deformity, it is too late. Your bees are probably already heavily infested with varroa mites and likely infected with one or more viruses that are vectored by mites through the holes that they chew in the honey bee’s cuticle.

In my own apiary I have been fortunate to avoid this mite and I have proudly proclaimed my “mite free” status at beekeeper meetings. The reason is, mostly

because the area where my bees are kept is isolated. My nearest neighbor is 15 km as the bee flies. When I set up the apiary four years ago the bees were mite free and testing the second year showed they were still mite free. For various reasons I skipped monitoring in the third year. This year monitoring showed that the bees have varroa mites –a low number but enough to be a problem. I was devastated to find that I can no longer claim “mite free” status.

Finding varroa mites for the first time is akin to a loss in your life. The stages of dealing with a loss all kicked in. First I was in denial - this is not possible, there is a mistake- it must be melittiphis, a common but harmless pollen mite found in New Zealand package bees. The magnifying glass, set me straight- no denying that elliptical red brown shape.

Then I started bargaining.

What if I get rid of the infested colonies and replace them with clean bees? Would everything be fixed and my world back to normal? No, the mites are here to stay! Then I was angry! How



Varroa mite on honey bee thorax.
Photo: Derek P. Allnutt, UK

could this have happened and who was to blame? It took some time to accept that it really does not matter. My bees’ “mite-free” status is over and it is not the end of the world. I have joined the ranks of the majority who have to treat their bees on a regular basis. And I learned a lesson –monitor, monitor, monitor, even if you think you have “mite free” bees.

Varroa mites hitch-hike on drifting bees and the wind can move bees further than you may think.

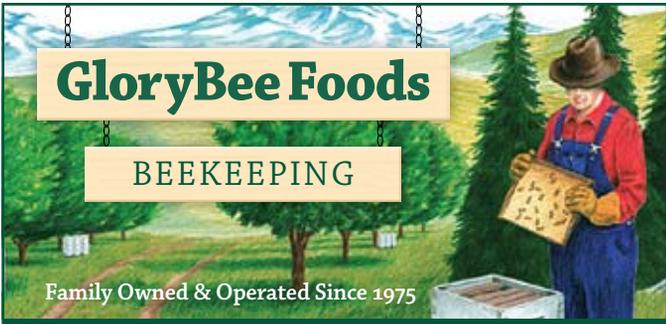


Varroa Hand Shaker bottle for monitoring mite level. Photo: Medivet

The best monitoring tool is a new gadget developed by John Williamson and sold by Medivet. It is a varroa hand shaker made from two bottles that screw together with a mesh screen in the centre. The instructions are simple and it is easy to count the mites. Place 300 bees (1 inch of dead wet bees) in the jar and add alcohol (or window washing fluid). Shake, shake, shake! It takes a few minutes to dislodge all the mites. Turn the jar upside down and the mites will fall through the screen ready for counting. Anything over the threshold of 3% (9 mites in 300 bees) and it is time to start treating.

It is easy to claim mite free or low mite status but only regular monitoring twice a year will ensure that there are no parasites in the colony. The CHC has an Integrated Pest

Management (IPM) poster that shows monitoring and treatment of honey bees. We have reformatted and updated the 2007 poster as a booklet called “IPM for Healthy Bees”. It has lots of photos to show new beekeepers how to monitor and treat. And it reiterates the important message monitor, monitor, monitor.



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Day of the Honey Bee

Clinton Shane Ek Dahl, Saskatoon, SK

“Day of the Honey Bee” was a great success this year. All across Canada and around the world there were festivities celebrating the first ever “Day of the Honey Bee” to raise awareness of the plight of the Honey Bee, which remains a troubling concern for me.

While I began with four goals last year to have May 29, 2010 declared as “Day of the Honey Bee” in the

city of Saskatoon, the province of Saskatchewan, the government of Canada and internationally, I have succeeded in three of these goals. Unfortunately, my goal with the government of Canada was not fulfilled even though the idea for “Day of the Honey Bee” was unanimously supported by the “The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada” and was to be reported to the House of Commons. Therefore, I will be doing all this again for next year with the goal that all four original goals are met.

I expect even greater response from municipal and provincial governments next year. Because “Day of the Honey Bee” was so well received and this year’s official total was 64 municipal governments from across Canada, which supported “Day of the Honey Bee”, next year will be even better. While there were two official provincial proclamations; with three others indicating support, across Canada, the jurisdictions that have issued a proclamation include: Saskatoon, Regina, Tisdale, Assiniboia,

Biggar, Prince Albert, Battleford, Asquith, Melfort and Nipawin of Saskatchewan; the Province of Saskatchewan; Milton, Orillia, East Gwillimbury, Kingston, Stratford, Fort Erie, Pickering, Kenora, St. Marys, Cambridge, Clarington, Thunder Bay, and Beeton of Ontario; Port Alberni, Duncan, Victoria, Ashcroft, Cranbrook, Kelowna, Comox Valley

Regional District, Williams Lake, New Westminister, North Vancouver, District of Kent/Agassiz, Fernie, Nanaimo, District of North Saanich, Surrey, and Pitt Meadows of British Columbia; The Government of British Columbia; Botha, Peace River, Vermilion, M.D. of Northern Lights No. 22, Fort Macleod, District of Smoky River No. 130, Sedgewick, Olds, Okotoks, Gull Lake, Beaver County, High Prairie, Innisfail, Ponoka, Fahler, Village of Breton and Black Diamond of Alberta; Ville De Cap-Sante, Municipalite De Saint-Pierre-De-Lamy, and Municipalite De La Reine of Quebec; Ethelbert and Glenboro of Manitoba; and Antigonish of Nova Scotia;

Internationally, Ian Sherwood, the newly elected Mayor of Swafham, Norfolk, United Kingdom, declared

May 29, 2010 as “Day of the Honey Bee” as one of his first official acts as Mayor, which made this day truly international and raised the official count to 65! Celebrations also took place in Turkey, Mexico, New Zealand, United States and France, while in Canada, dozens of beekeepers associations, farmers markets, bee clubs, apiarists, beekeepers and other enthusiasts joined in their own local festivities. This widespread support was truly awe-inspiring.

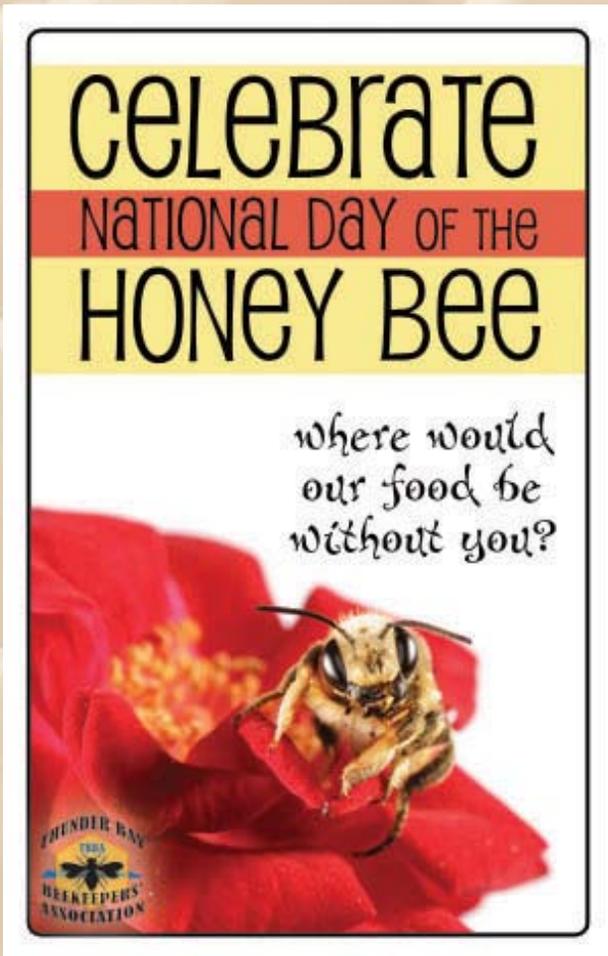
Locally; in Saskatoon, where this entire project originated, there was a “Day of the Honey Bee Film Jubilee” at the Roxy Theatre, endorsed by the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre. At this Jubilee we featured guest speaker, Calvin Parsons, President of the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association, whose interesting perspective on Honey Bees delighted children of all ages in the audience, where attendance was just over 100 people. Also, there were two Honey Bee documentaries as well as the “Bee Movie”. This event was



made free to the public.

While I can say for a certainty that I had no idea that my simple letter to City Council would turn into a huge international phenomenon, I can say that I have been both awe-struck and inspired to an even greater future. What will next year bring? As I continue my work, I hope that more people around the world will discover how important Honey Bees are and realize that if they continue to disappear, we will all be in great peril.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE HONEY BEE



The Thunder Bay Beekeeper's Association poster for "National Day of the Honey Bee".

Recently, with only three weeks notice, TBBA was able to have Thunder Bay City Council proclaim May 29th as the First National Day of the Honey Bee. Periodic display tables at the weekly Farmers' Market are well-received. Celebrating Day of the Honey Bee, Thunder Bay Beekeepers Association presented a variety of honey bee and pollinator themed presentations, displays and games for young and old. Hosted next to the Country Farmer's market between 300 to 500 people attended the event. TBBA was fortunate to partner with the Outdoor Recreation Department of Lakehead University in helping to organize the event.



Tugwell Creek Honey Farm and Meadery, BC. Pictures from the "Day of the Honey Bee" event at the farm. We had around 500 people during the day and raised \$725 for the Canadian Honey Council's "Save our Bees" Campaign.



Joe Edwards - Saskatchewan Beekeeper's Association board member and field day host (Ridgedale co-op) demonstrating nuc making.

Photo: Graham Parsons



Creating public awareness of honey bees
JoAnne Henderson TBBA's president is interviewed by reporter Kristi St. Cyr, TBay Television.

Photos: Simon Hoad.



Background photo: Jim Campbell, MB



“Beekeeper”
for the

Bees in this Place

Alice Whitney, Sussex Literary Initiatives and Cultural Events, Sussex, NB

A two-part festival in honour of honey bees - Bees In This Place - was held at the Sussex Artists Co-op, Sussex, New Brunswick on June 4th and 5th. It began on Friday evening with readings by members of the Sussex Writers' and Illustrators' Guild (SWIG) who read from work inspired by bees.

Following on the heels of the readings, the new art show of the Sussex Artists' Co-Op (SAC) and guests, was officially opened. The paintings and crafts were all related to bees.

Sussex Literary Initiatives and

Cultural Events (SLICE) put on a fete the next day. It was a celebration of bees and beekeepers, including an observation hive to show what happens in a beehive, bee-friendly plants were available from Corn Hill Nursery, live music, a dance number by high school students, hives and their components constructed by high school students, a felting demonstration (bees of course) face painting and other children's activities. Elaine Hogg read from her new History of Sussex - a section about a house called "The Beehive." Half of the proceeds raised by SLICE have been donated to the CHC's "Save Our Bees" project.



Painting: Anna Stroud (SAC)



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An Island of Health in a Sea of Disease

Simon Hoad, Thunder Bay Beekeepers Association, Ontario

Although this article title sounds melodramatic, this is the perspective of the 70-plus Thunder Bay and area Beekeepers. We are fortunate. There are no mites: varroa or tracheal in Thunder Bay, period - none, nada, non. Clean and sweet as the whole of North America was twenty-five years ago before the great wave of infestations and infections that is a sorry by-product of ill regulated importation and insufficiently regulated commercial beekeeping. We might be one of the few areas in Canada that remain mite-free.

Our yearly beekeeping cycle doesn't require the regular labour intensive spring and fall treatments of formic acid and other expensive interventions; both chemical and behavioural. All to suppress the two mite populations; varroa and tracheal, enough to gain a honey harvest and winter over a strong cluster for next year's spring build up. We are happy beekeepers, although we still struggle with the old fashioned challenges of late spring swarms and wintering colonies in a sub-arctic climate that can push individual bee yard winter losses beyond 15%.

What is the Thunder Bay beekeeping scene like? While most beekeepers are hobby or part-time beekeepers there are two or three each year that gear-up to run 40 or more production colonies a season. The Thunder Bay area of Northwestern Ontario has unique characteristics. A genuine clay belt, the Slate River Valley, similar to Northeastern Ontario around New Liskard, lies just west and south of the city. This area supports a variety of mixed farming operations. Three established u-pick farms, especially strawberries, rely on their own onsite bee yards to pollinate their various crops. The remaining bee forage area is a mix of country suburban, rural hobby farms and scrub bush lots and unused pastures gradually reverting to forest again.

Thunder Bay bees are hybrids. The stock of twenty-five years ago was predominantly Italian, with the last imported queens coming from New Zealand breeders. There was perhaps a quarter that were Carniolan ancestry, thanks to the influence of an experienced, Austrian-born local beekeeper. Several beekeepers had Buckfast queens

before the borders were closed. Every Thunder Bay colony now shows the distinctive colouration of all three types among the workers and drones.

Collectively, we are conscious each spring that a single uninformed importation of nucs and queens, whether from an Ontario supplier or Manitoba, will doom all of our twenty five years of effort.

The Thunder Bay Beekeepers' Association, (TBBA) has responded to the challenge of maintaining our mite-free status with a sustained public education campaign. The message reaches association members through our bi-monthly meetings and newsletter. Personal contacts and summer bee inspections have helped to reach non-association beekeepers. Periodic news stories for the general public are keyed into TBBA's annual July hands on workshop and reinforced with our mid winter general education library presentation. Attendance has grown from 15 to 70 plus people at these events. A new three year partnership with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit gives a third public venue to discuss our mite-free bees and the value of local honey to the diet.

The second line of defence has been to select for and breed only hygienic bees. Thanks to the influence of Jeanette Momot, TBBA co-founder and university trained in apiculture, a simple approach to testing colonies for hygienic behaviour has been developed. Hygienic behaviour is due to two recessive genes; one for un-capping and the second for removing dead brood. Bees with strong hygienic behaviour are more resistant to mite infestation.

To select a hygienic colony for future queens, two frames are prepared. With a pin, three circles that include seven capped brood cells are punctured to kill the larvae. Twenty four hours later the two marked frames are examined for complete removal of the cell contents. A simple procedure, easy to repeat, that is less cumbersome than cutting out small squares of brood comb, freezing and reinserting. Other techniques for selectively killing brood such as using liquid nitrogen and a tin can to produce circles, are

impractical for hobby beekeeping.

Does such a low tech system work? Six years ago Jeanette and a second TBBA member paid Guelph University to have several of their queens tested. Results ranked Thunder Bay bees among the most hygienic in the province for that year of tests.

TBBA's third and weakest line of defence is education of the larger beekeeping community outside of northwestern Ontario. Both the provincial and national beekeeping scenes need to know and respect our mite free efforts. The new Ontario Provincial Apiary Specialist, Paul Kozak, needs to request more funding, cut this year, for the two OMAFRA honey bee inspectors to continue testing for tracheal mites. Bee supply companies need a postal code "do not ship" list for queens and nucs. The broader national beekeeping community needs to be aware of our little pocket of health and take care to respect our efforts and help preserve our mite-free status. Our location on the only Canadian east/west transport route makes our area vulnerable to a stop or a spill by the occasional commercial truck shipments traveling through the area via the Trans Canada Highway.

An importation of diseased bees did happen once, approximately seven years ago. Fortunately the two local OMAFRA honey bee inspectors heard of the importation in time to prevent any spread. After checking the two hives and confirming an infestation of varroa, the two colonies were immediately destroyed. The beekeeper received replacement bees from local association members at no cost.

TBBA members know how precarious our mite-free status remains. A single mailing of an infested nuc will change our status. Other Northwestern Ontario farming areas such as Dryden and Fort Frances / Rainy River have seen their beekeeping community collapse due to the arrival of the mites.

Beekeepers are starting to look to Thunder Bay to provide them with mite-free bees to replenish their stock. Being able to provide this service would provide a small but welcome income for individuals in a region suffering from a loss of jobs in the forestry sector who are searching for diverse options for sustainable economic security, not just for them, but for our valued mite free honeybees.



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BeeMaid Presentation: Christopher Warriner (left), Saskatchewan BeeMaid director, Corey Bacon, Chair, CHC Board of Directors and Guy Chartier, CEO BeeMaid.

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A Tribute to Willy Baumgartner 1928-2010

Ron Miksha, Author Bad Beekeeping, Calgary, AB

The beekeeping industry has lost one of its greatest supporters. Willy Baumgartner, founder of Medivet Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and developer of the improved Fumagilin-B medicine for honey bees, died May 18 after a lengthy illness. Willy was 82 years old. Willy Baumgartner was a Swiss-educated chemist who immigrated into Canada when he was in his twenties. After a successful career in Ontario with a pharmaceutical company, Willy moved west to Calgary in 1980. He established Medivet - an enterprise making a variety of veterinary medicines mostly for cattle and horses. Soon his High River, Alberta, company began to specialize in pharmaceuticals for honey bees.

Until age 50, Willy didn't know about bees or beekeepers. But his veterinary supply business was getting requests for better medicines for honey bees. Like most people, back in 1980, Willy had no idea that honey bees could get sick and would need pharmaceuticals. While he was supplying medicine for horses, beekeepers started to ask for the same medicines for their bees. As a careful pharmacist, he knew that beekeepers shouldn't be dumping horse medicine into their bee hives. But, at that time, Willy didn't know the habits of beekeepers. As he found out, we can be pretty sloppy. So, Willy tested the materials, figured out the right dosage for a colony of bees, found a way to keep the medicines active at different temperatures and in different qualities of water. And Willy taught and encouraged beekeepers to treat bee medicines... like medicines. Willy said, "A small mistake with any drug can harm bees and the entire beekeeping industry.

Too little or too much medicine can cause disease resistance, kill bees, or worse, contaminate honey. A lot of our work has involved getting dosage and delivery systems right for the beekeeper."



Willy Baumgartner with his Oxalic Acid dispenser.

One of his first achievements was improving oxytetracyclines so they would maintain their efficacy in the rather alkali water common on the western prairies. He worked out dosages, reminding beekeepers that "a hivetool is not a measuring device." Willy Baumgartner's greatest pharmaceutical accomplishment was improving the delivery of fumagillin products for honey bees. Developed by Abbott Laboratories researchers in the early 1950s as a medicine for people, it was found to be more effective as a honey bee treatment against nosema. But the material clumped in water, wasn't stable for long, and was difficult to deliver to honey bees in the right dosage. Willy solved these issues, creating Fumagilin-B and making it available at an affordable price to beekeepers. The medicine is the only effective treatment against nosema, which has been widely implicated as a leading cause of colony collapse disorder. It can be said that Willy's work has saved the lives of hundreds of millions of honey bees around the world.

Willy began understanding bees and beekeeping. He and Ursula - his wife and business partner - enjoyed traveling to dozens of beekeeping gatherings: the local Calgary Beekeepers' Club, provincial meetings across Canada, international meetings in the USA and farther afield. They were regulars at Apimondia meetings and were major supporters of Vancouver's Apimondia 99. In 2007 he received an achievement award from the Alberta Beekeepers Association; and, in 2009 he became an honorary member of the Alberta Honey Producers Co-op.

Adony Melathopoulos, of the Beaverlodge Research Farm, says, "There was no better supporter of beekeeping research in Canada than Willy Baumgartner's Medivet Company". His business donated tens of thousands of dollars to research - all without any expectations or restrictions.

A tireless innovator, he developed machines and methods to safely distribute oxalic acid into hives to fight mites, regimes for safe tetracycline and fumagillin treatments, and procedures for proper pharmaceutical use in beehives. But he also strongly believed that beekeepers need more than antibiotics, acaricides, and fumagillin products to be successful. At every opportunity, he promoted integrated management approaches to beekeeping. Willy especially advised beekeepers to reduce stress in their beehives by keeping strong, well-provisioned colonies with young queens in well-situated apiaries. Willy said he would be happiest if his business could close because that would mean all bee diseases were cured.

Willy Baumgartner was a warm and generous person; a friend to all who knew him. He was a keen traveler, champion Jass player, skier, shooter, amateur actor, and great supporter of the Swiss cultural Society. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

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A Tribute for Charlie Parker

Parker Charles, Stanley "Charlie Bee" passed away on May 26, 2010 surrounded by his close loving family. He was 63 years old. He is predeceased by his wife Ruth & survived by his children: Michael, Dan, Cara & their families & close friends.

Charlie started his interest in Honey Bees at the age of 13 with his first bee hive. His hobby grew to the point where he quit his job as a teacher & became a full time beekeeper in 1970. Charlie Bee was always an innovator in the Business of Beekeeping; whether it was using his name, Charlie Bee, as a

promotional tool; the Yellow color of his Bee Trucks, as a recognition tool; or with his beloved Brouwer Hitchhiker Forklifts, to aid in the moving of bee hives around.

When a lot of the smaller food chains in his area got bought up & Charlie Bee lost a lot of his retail market, he went in search of whole sale markets for his loads of honey. He had always had a good pollination business in the Niagara area & when Canola pollination in Ontario started, he was ready with strong hives to fill the need. One of his biggest challenges came in 2003 when he wanted to start sending bee hives not only to Quebec, but also as far as New Brunswick for Low Bush Blueberry pollination. While suffering stiff resistance from other local beekeepers, Charlie Bee persisted, and in doing so, opened up a whole new income source for Ont. beekeepers. This is largely due the competitive advantage Southern Ont. beekeepers enjoy because of an earlier spring build up season.

Disaster struck in 2007 & Charlie had high winter losses. As he said, "When we lost 90% of our hives, we got our numbers back by that fall to 6000 hives. I didn't

take three years to rebuild my hives. But, what do I do for income in the meantime you bite the bullet, spend a lot of money and that's what I did."

After the heavy hive losses Charlie realized that the heavy stresses his hives were under were in part from a lack of good

Carbohydrates (sugar syrup) during pollination.

Charlie Bee always gave a lot of the credit for the success of his business to his Son Mike & their great dedicated staff. He once said, "It's more than a job for them, it's a real team effort."



Charlie Bee was most proud of the fact that he had raised his family to be hard working productive members of the community, Dan the cabinet maker, Cara the Holistic Practitioner and Acupuncturist, & Mike who will continue the family business.

Although ill fighting cancer for over two years, Charlie never complained and kept working hard, always with his positive attitude & great sense of humor, right to the last days. When asked what kept him going, Charlie Bee replied

"There's nothing better in the world, than being in a bee yard in the spring, when the bees are really going."

nutrition. He worked with the growers to incorporate Supplemental feed in the forms of Protein (pollen patties) &

"Fellow Beekeeper and friend, Passed Away"

Ann Vautour, President, Southeast N.B. Beekeeper's Association, St Philippe NB

Bates, Lloyd, passed away on April 23, 2010 at the age of 92.

Lloyd returned to his native New Brunswick in 1972 and a short time later established Bates Organic, a beekeeping supply business at Upper Coverdale New Brunswick. He operated it until retirement in 1995. At that time it was sold to his niece Ruth Wheatley who with her husband George continue to operate it today as Country Fields Beekeeping Supplies. Lloyd kept a few bees, and like many older beekeepers around the area, he had George Colpitts for a friend and mentor. For many years they were frequent attendees of the Maritime Bee Tour and other local bee events. Lloyd was a great teacher and many maritime beekeepers owe their first start in bees to Lloyd's encouragement and practical experience.



Ontario Beekeepers' Association regional winners of Premier Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence!

Along with six other regional winners, the Ontario Beekeepers' Association is proud to accept the 2009 Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence at an award celebration on June 17, 2010.

The Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) joined six other regional winners at an award celebration at the Ancaster Agricultural Society in Jerseyville, Ontario. The Ontario Beekeepers' Association-Tech-Transfer Program was recognized for their innovative efforts in an Ontario honey bee breeding program receiving a monetary award of \$5,000.

"We are very honoured to be recognized along with the six other regional winners," says John Van Alten, 1st Vice President of the OBA who accepted the award on behalf of the OBATTP Program. "The OBA-TTP team is very proud of the work done for Ontario Queen Bee Rearing and this award will aid our organization to continue this and other innovative programs for Ontario

beekeepers."

Ontario's rural communities are growing innovative ideas that drive local economy and advance Ontario's agri-food industry. These awards are part of a \$2.5 million, five-year program established to recognize innovators who contribute to the success of Ontario's agri-food sector.

Ontario's agri-food sector is one of the province's leading industries, contributing more than \$33 billion to the economy every year. There are 55 regional award winners across the province for their innovations.

The Ontario Beekeepers' Association, established in 1881, is one of the oldest established farm organizations in Ontario. It is incorporated under the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act (1987).

Funding for this position is provided in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agriculture Adaption Council's CanAdvance Program.

For more information on this program visit:
http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/premier_award/index.html



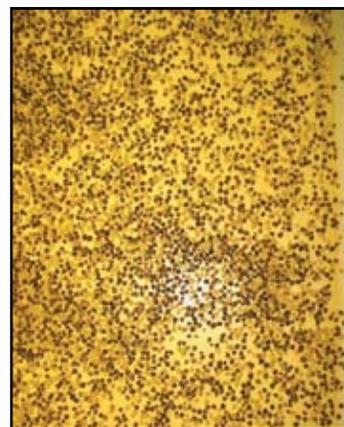
OBA Tech Transfer Team receiving award.
 Top row: Alison VanAlten
 Bottom Row: Janet Tam, Melanie Kempers.

New service of honey and pollen identification

The Beekeeping Federation of Quebec (FAQ) and Dr Valérie Fournier (Laval U.) were granted two years of funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to develop a service of mono-floral honey and pollen identification.

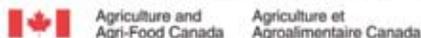
During the project, Ms. Mélissa Girard, a M.Sc. graduate who has extensive training in both beekeeping and palynology, will develop the expertise of honey and pollen identification and offer analyses to Canadian beekeepers for free (but please note that the shipping fees will be at the charge of the senders). Thereafter, the service will continue to be offered at an affordable price through the CRSAD. Finally, a reference collection of pollen grains from all melliferous plants in Canada will be created and a photo booklet and identification keys will be produced and made available.

For more information: melissa.girard.apiculture@hotmail.com
 1-418-656-2131 ext. 8876 (M. Girard) and ext. 4629 (V. Fournier)



Pollen grains collected by honey bees.

Funding for this project has been provided in part through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. In Quebec, the portion intended for the agricultural-production sector is being managed by the Conseil pour le développement de l'agriculture du Québec (CDAQ).





Do you operate a small-scale farm? Have your say!

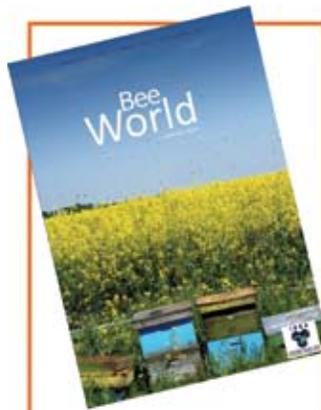
The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council is researching the labour needs on farms with less than \$100,000 in gross receipts. Your responses will be used to better understand employment needs of smaller farms and will ensure that operations from Alberta are represented in the research.

Go to www.cahrc-ccrha.ca

Or call CAHRC at 1-866-430-7457 ext. 228 to complete the survey by phone.

All respondents can enter for a chance to win \$100

About CAHRC: The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) was created to address human resource issues facing agricultural businesses across Canada. CAHRC works with industry leaders, governments, and education stakeholders to research, develop and communicate solutions to the challenges in agriculture employment and skills development.



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Bee World

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In March this year, after a five-year absence Bee World, the much appreciated and sadly missed journal of the International Bee Research Association made a comeback. The June issue is now available and includes the following articles:

- A Canadian Approach to Sustainable Pollination
- Bearding Phenomenon
- Discrimination of Western honey bee populations in Turkey
- Beekeeping in Russia Today
- What happened to the Boy Scouts' Beekeeping Badge?
- An Apiary of the 10th Century BC
- Bee Bole Architecture

Regular Features:

- The Appliance of Science by Norman Carreck
- A View from across the Pond by Keith Delaplane
- Museum Musings
- Plants for Bees
- Book Reviews, News and much more



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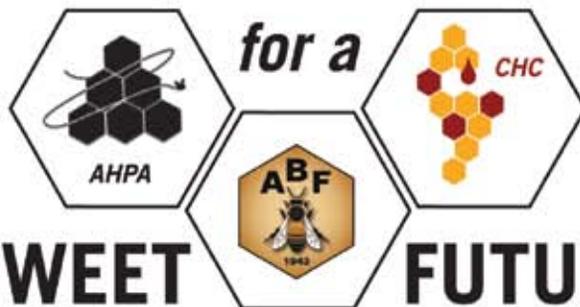
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- Something for everyone, from the new hobbyist to the seasoned professional

Additional conference details and registration available soon at abfnet.org.





Honibe^(TM) - Honey Drop^(TM) wins SIAL d'Or Award



Graham Watts, Island Abbey Foods Ltd., Charlottetown, PEI

Honibe^(TM) -- Honey Drop^(TM) has been named as world's best new product 2010 in the "Grocery -- Sweet" category at the SIAL d'Or Awards in Paris, France. The Honey Drop^(TM) also won the "Country Award - Canada" as the highest scoring Canadian product for 2010. As a result of the company's high scores, the Honey Drop^(TM) is one of nine finalists in the running for overall SIAL d'Or Winner 2010 for the best new food product in the world. The Honey Drop^(TM) is the world's first 100% pure dried honey cube for sweetening tea and coffee.

SIAL (Salon International de l'Alimentation) is the world's largest food tradeshow. The SIAL d'Or Awards recognizes nine of the world's most innovative and successful new-product launches that came to market after November of 2008. The SIAL d'Or Awards are judged by a panel that is comprised of 30 judges from 30 different countries. The nine finalists were chosen from a product field of over 250 of the world's best new products.

The Honey Drop^(TM) solves a common problem: liquid honey can be messy. The Honey Drop^(TM) is an individual serving (one teaspoon / 5 g.) of 100% pure dried honey without any additives. It is ideal for sweetening tea or coffee. Simply drop into a hot beverage and stir. You have all of the natural honey flavour without the usual honey mess.

"To win the SIAL d'Or 'Country Award' for Canada with our Honibe^(TM) - Honey Drop^(TM) as the highest scoring product from Canada was beyond our expectations," stated John Rowe, President of Island Abbey Foods Ltd. "To then be named best product in the 'Grocery -- Sweet' category is a phenomenal accomplishment! We are ecstatic to be representing Canada at SIAL 2010 this fall as one of only nine finalists competing for the title of best new food product in the world."

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Above, picture taken
February 14, 2008 (TX)

Below, picture taken March
18, 2008 (TX)



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Honey Bees for Sale

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Borage and buckwheat honey wanted. 100% pure honey. We are just north of Toronto. Call Henry Nauta, Penauta Products Inc. Phone 905-640-1564 or fax 905-640-7479

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Announcement



"SAVE OUR BEES" – Contributions can now be made through Paypal.

Send to: saveourbees@honeycouncil.ca

Book Review

"Laurence Packer's wonderful book about the world of bees offers the sheer delight of learning about these diverse animals...A world without bees would be a world without people."

– David Suzuki

KEEPING THE BEES

Why All Bees Are At Risk and
What We Can Do To Save Them

By Laurence Packer

Laurence Packer's life revolves around bees. Whether it's searching for them under leaves in a South American jungle or in the desert heat of Arizona, or tracking down and identifying new species, which he often names after his family and friends.

In *Keeping the Bees: Why All Bees Are at Risk and What We Can Do to Save Them*, Packer suggests that without bees, the world would be a much less colourful place, food would become much more expensive (bees are responsible for one third of our food supply) and coffee would be in short supply. Their decline is an early warning of an unraveling of the web of nature. Packer has made it his life's work to educate people about our need for bees—not just the honeybees, now in a crisis due to the sudden colony collapse, but bees of thousands of other species that we can find in our gardens, forests, and even in the most unexpected of places.

This is a celebration of all bees, and a warning about our collective future, from a scientist dedicated to educating the world about what we would lose if we didn't have them.

Laurence Packer obtained a B.A. in zoology from the University of Oxford and a Ph.D. from the University

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of Toronto. Since 1988, he has been at York University, where he is currently a professor of biology. Packer lives in Toronto with his wife, two cats and lots of bees. The author's proceeds from sales of *Keeping the Bees* will go to support research on bee conservation.

Contact: Margaret Nozuka, Publicist
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margaret.nozuka@harpercollins.com
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Pub date: May 15, 2010

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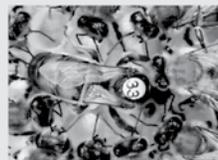
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