



Hive Rights

www.honeycouncil.ca

Canadian Honey Council



**Urban Beekeeping
Bee Healthy
Bees: A Honey of an Idea
Honey Market Survey**



Be ready this spring. Save time, money, hassle and mess.

Call now and order

Ready-Made Pollen Patties

made to *your* specifications

Global is faster, better and cheaper than your other options.

Order one of our standard formulas using yeast, soy, pollen*, BeePro and sugar, or request your own recipe and patty size.

We'll supply all the ingredients, or use supplies you provide.

Call Mike at 1-866-948-6084 today

or email Mike@globalpatties.com

Global Patties can be delivered in boxes or on pallets

Visit us at www.globalpatties.com

*Pollen in our formula is irradiated by Iotron for prevention of bee disease

Bees need both protein and carbohydrate for good build-up and large honey crops.

Feed protein patties in spring to ensure colony health, maximum build-up and maximum production



ONE PIECE PLASTIC FRAME & FOUNDATION

Canadian Distributor

Tim Townsend

R.R.1, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1X1

780-963-7573

E-mail: tim@tplrhoneyfarms.com

Distributors

Lewis Farms,
Austin, MB 204-637-2277

Manitoba Co-op Honey Producers,
625 Roseberry St, Winnipeg, MB 204-783-2240

BeeMaid Honey Ltd.
1210 – 100 Street, Tisdale, SK, 306 873-2521

Alberta Honey Co-op,
70 Alberta Ave. Spruce Grove AB, 780-962-5573

Now available

One-piece plastic drone comb

Proud sponsor of the Canadian Honey Council



**WE CONSIDER
YOU
OUR PARTNER**

WE BUY HONEY, BEESWAX, AND POLLEN

CALL *Elise* TOLL-FREE 1-800-567-3789

193 A, TURCOTTE STREET, ROSEMERE, QC, J7A 3A7

TEL.: (450) 965-1412 FAX: (450) 965-1425

WWW.ODEM.CA

ELISE@HONEY.CA

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.

Canadian Honey Council
Suite 236, 234-5149 Country Hills Blvd.NW
Calgary, AB T3A 5K8

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
Calgary, AB T3A 5K8
chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca
www.honeycouncil.ca
(403) 208 7141

HiveLights

May 2010 Vol 23 #2



Honey bees on prairie crocus in early Spring.

Photo: Jim Campbell

Table of Contents

3	Canadian Honey Council Report	Heather Clay
4	2010 CHC Directors	
4	Maritime Action Forum on Pollination Research	Heather Clay
5	Provincial Reports.....	CHC Directors
10	Wiggling and wagging: Study sheds light on amazing bee brain	Macquarie University
12	Urban Beekeeping: A Growing Concept	Doug Clay
13	New and Innovate Smoker.....	Geoff Todd
14	Bee Healthy.....	Andra Zommers
17	Tribute to John Corner.....	John Boone
18	Bees: A Honey of an Idea.....	Caroline Desabrais
21	Honey Market Survey.....	Green Isle Consulting
24	Apiaries and Bees for Communities	Eliese Watson
24	"Day of the Honey Bee"	Clinton Shane Ekdahl
25	Convention - Galveston 2011	
26	Classifieds	
27	BASF and NOD Apiary Products partner for bee health	





A reliable partner

Beekeepers have had to broaden their management skills even further with increasing challenges by diseases and pests.

We can help by supplying you with the information you need to make informed decisions about disease prevention and the role of pharmaceuticals in your management practices.

Suppliers of
Oxytet-25 Soluble
Fumagilin-B
Formic Acid
Bee Repel
Apistan
FoulBrood Mix



Canadian Honey Council Report

Heather Clay, Chief Executive Officer, CHC

Imported honey bees

In response to member organizations' resolutions, the CHC board of directors has decided to hold a stakeholder meeting to discuss sources of replacement stock, technical advances in inspecting and shipping healthy bees and protocols for the importation of package bees. The working group has begun developing the plan for this important meeting. Member organizations will be part of a national survey to gain insight into our industry needs and requirements for replacement bees.

Hawaiian queen bee imports were affected for a short period in March while CFIA and USDA officials negotiated the issuing of import permits. The CFIA has protocols for inspection for honey bee diseases and pests but the USDA is challenging the protocol for the requirement for minimum varroa mite levels. Issues such as this and the potential for the importation of packages from healthy sources will be addressed at the national Honey Bee Import stakeholder meeting.

New Manitoba director

Bruce Podolsky has stepped down as director for Manitoba. He has been replaced by Bryan Ash. The Ash family is well known in the honey bee industry and we look forward to having Bryan on the import stakeholder working group.

Bee BAC committee

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Office of Animal Biosecurity has formed BeeBAC, a team of experts to oversee the development of a national bee biosecurity standard. CHC directors Corey Bacon and Tom Trueman have joined the CEO Heather Clay on the CFIA committee to help develop biosecurity standards for the honey bee industry. The first step is to hire consultants to survey beekeepers. In consultation with CHC there will be a phone survey starting November 2010 to establish a baseline of information about



current on-farm practices. It is expected that the standards will be voluntary and that adoption and implementation will be through extension and education.

Honey for Health Brochure

A sample copy of the new Honey for Health brochure is included in this issue of Hivelights. This brochure has been developed by CHC to provide information on the medicinal and healing properties of honey. It forms part of a long term international strategy (LTIS) for the CHC. The pamphlet is now available from the CHC office in English and Spanish. Please contact geoff@honeycouncil.ca for details.

Hive Health Committee

The CHC Hive Health committee met in Winnipeg 4th March to discuss issues of colony loss and potential avenues for research. A national bee breeders meeting has been recommended and the CHC is in process of apply for funding to hold this event. Also under discussion is a national bee breeders registry and a means of establishing a national network of diagnostic laboratories.

A recommendation from the CHC hive health committee is that a disease manual is developed for beekeepers. Work has also begun to develop a small field guide with information on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for honey bee diseases and pests. It will include only the four major honey bee problems – varroa mite, tracheal mite, American Foul Brood and nosema. The CHC has produced this booklet with collaboration from CAPA personnel to complement popular CHC IPM poster. It is expected to be a useful tool for managing hive health.

Oxalic Acid Registration

Oxalic acid is a useful tool in the control of varroa mites. Since it is available over the counter and no

manufacturer is willing to register the product as a pesticide for honey bees, the CHC agreed to register the product. We prepared an application for registration with the PMRA and submitted the documentation and data set in January 2005. We received ministerial approval for use in October 2005. However the board of directors felt it was important for international trade that the product is fully registered as a pest control product. As a result the CHC applied for full registration of oxalic acid in October 2008. For the past 18 months the submission has been under review by PMRA. On 9th April, 2010, the PMRA has issued a Proposed Registration Decision

“Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act* and Regulations, is proposing full registration for the sale and use of Oxalic Acid Dihydrate Technical and Oxalic Acid Dihydrate, containing the technical grade active ingredient oxalic acid to control Varroa mites in honeybee colonies.

An evaluation of available scientific information found that, under the approved conditions of use, the product has value and does not present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.”

A final decision and Pest Control Product number will be announced after the 45 day public consultation period ends. We are now only weeks away from having oxalic acid as a fully registered product.

AGM

The next CHC research conference will be a North American Beekeepers meeting held jointly with American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association and the Organization of Mexican Beekeepers in Galveston Texas, Jan 4-8, 2011. This is the first meeting in a 3 year cycle of joint North American Beekeeper meetings. In 2012 and 2013, the conference will be held in Canada.

2010 Directors Canadian Honey Council Conseil Canadien de Miel

Chair

Corey Bacon

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association
B's Bee Ranch
Box 84
Kinistino SK S0J 1H0
ph. 306-864-3774 fax 306-864-3260
beeranch@sasktel.net

Director

Dan Walker

Ontario Beekeepers Association
Walker Apiaries
9327 Scotchmere Dr
Strathroy ON N7G 3H3
ph 519-245-5361
walkerb655@hotmail.com

Vice Chair

Tom Trueman

Maritime Beekeepers Association
Trueman Farms
200 Etter Ridge Rd
Aulac NB E4L 2V2
ph 506-536-2854 fax 506-536-3088
ttrueman@eastlink.ca

Director

Bryan Ash

Manitoba Beekeepers Association
Ash Apiaries
Box 63
Gilbert Plains, MB R0L 0Y0
ph. 204-548-2036
flash@mts.net

Secretary

Lee Townsend

Alberta Beekeepers
TPLA Honey Farms
443 St. Andrews Crescent
Stony Plain AB T7Z 1W8
ph 780-968-4624
Lee@tplrhoneyfarms.com

Director

Ted Hancock

BC Honey Producers Association
Meadow Honey
General Delivery
Dog Creek BC V0L 1J0
ph 250-440-5689
bchpachc@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gordon Marks

Bee Maid Honey
147 Shoreline Drive
Winnipeg MB R3P 2E9
ph 204-487-4535
gordon@beemail.com

CHC OFFICE

Chief Executive Officer

Heather Clay

Suite 236
234-5149 Country Hills Blvd
Calgary AB T3A 5K8
ph 403-208-7141
fax 403-547-4317
chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca
www.honeycouncil.ca

Director

Jerry Poelman

Alberta Beekeepers
Poelman Apiaries
PO Box 1887
Fort MacLeod AB T0L 0Z0
ph 403-687-2244
jpoelman@xplornet.com

Office Manager

Geoff Todd

ph 403-398-2914
geoff@honeycouncil.ca

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.

Maritime Action Forum on Pollination Research

Heather Clay, Chief Executive Officer, CHC

Pollinators and their decline are in the news. In response to the strong media messages and increased public awareness, the federal government has provided funding for CanPolin, a strategic network of researchers, government, NGO's and industry that is working together on issues of pollinator decline. Funding is delivered through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). Although funding has only been available for a year, a considerable amount of research has been achieved. CanPolin in co-operation with Bluets NB Blueberries organized a very successful workshop, March 19-20, 2010 in Moncton NB, that brought together a diverse group of CanPolin researchers to talk about their work with honey bees, native pollinators, plants and pollination.

The presentation sessions and workshops were well attended by university researchers, blueberry growers, leaf cutter beekeepers, honey beekeepers and representatives from NB Agriculture and Aquaculture. Honey Council made two presentations to the group. The first reviewed our industry, bee health and current research projects. The second identified research gaps that are priorities with the honey bee industry.

The topics of research presentations ranged from honey bee diseases, blueberry pollination, native bee taxonomy, pollination biology to plant genetics. Researchers were able to showcase the work they are doing and then in the workshops there was an opportunity to discuss gaps in the research and how they could be addressed. It is surprising how many opportunities there are for collaborative research after a face to face meeting of this nature.

The final report will be available on the web at <http://www.nbwildblue.ca>



Researchers and participants in the second day session of maritime pollinator awareness workshop

Back row: Ernesto Guzman, Risa Sargent, Heather Clay, Patricia Silva, Gwen Huber, Melissa Fulton

Third row: Ralph Lockhart, Benoit Savoie, Chris Maund, David Greene, Russell Weir, Doug McRory, Tom Woodcock

Second row: Almuhanad Melhim, Shirlyn Coleman, Les Shipp, Peter Kevan, Kathy Trueman, Chris Cutler, Dan Schoen

Front row: Jamie Morrison, Mike Melanson, Valérie Fournier, Corey Sheffield, Linley Jesson

Photo: Bonnie Weir



Regional Reports

Maritimes

Spring is almost here according to the calendar and if you look outside you will be surprised to find that the weather actually is spring like. Lots of sun and relatively



Tom Trueman

warm temperatures has beekeepers all over the Maritimes talking of an early spring. Well let's hope that Mother Nature does not extract her penance with a wet cold April.

Maritime beekeepers are optimistic of a good spring with losses being better than last year. This is due to the good condition of colonies last fall and relatively low mites loads as a result of Apivar (amitraz) applications in the fall. Early numbers should become available over the few weeks as bees come out of winter storage or out from under snow.

Strong honey prices combined with strong demand has left most beekeepers with minimal inventory, most of which will be gone by this year's harvest.

As a result of information received at the CHC/ABF meeting in Orlando maritime beekeepers are proposing a region wide

study of the nutritional profile of the pollen available at different times of the year. This study will identify any nutritional deficiencies and should prove to be a valuable management tool for beekeepers in this region.

Record low blueberry prices have left blueberry growers scrambling to control costs. It remains to be seen what effect this will have on demand for pollination colonies. Initial reports suggest overall requirements will be about the same as last year; however growers will likely be very cautious not to over invest in their crop.

Ontario

We welcome, Ontario's new minister of Agriculture, Carol Mitchell, who comes from a rural background. Her ministry is taking steps to make the province's agri-food industry stronger. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture , Food and Rural Affairs has been successful in hiring Mr. Paul Kozak for the position of Provincial Apiarist for Ontario. We look forward to working with both of these individuals.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs have once chosen

to partner with the OBA. A three year agreement has been completed and signed. The OBA enjoys a good working relationship with OMAFRA and appreciate all the work done by Pamela Young and Paul Kozak on this agreement.

The Ontario Beekeeper's Association is pleased to announce that Rebecca House has joined us as our new Promotions and Media Coordinator. Rebecca brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to promote beekeeping, our products and services.

Our Ontario Bee Breeder's meeting was held on March 25 , followed by the OBA spring meeting on March 26th. Beekeeper's had the opportunity to meet and listen to Paul Kozak . During the spring meeting we honoured the contributions made by Alison Van Alten(nee Skinner) for her service as a founding member of the OBA Tech Transfer Program and wish her well in her new pursuit.



Dan Walker

The winter in Ontario has been generally good for the bees. The beekeepers are just getting their first look at the bees and early reports are that they are looking good so far; however, it is still early and we have a way to go before we will have an accurate idea of our winter losses. The reports coming in are fairly positive at this time with losses being less than last year, yet still

higher than the historical average. In southern Ontario we are presently having a very warm spell with temperatures in the high teens and the bees are beginning to bring in pollen. Many beekeepers have already fed a pollen patty.

The honey price remains stable; however, there is not much in Ontario for sale. Blueberry pollination to New Brunswick has been cut back drastically, due to low blueberry prices.

Manitoba

I have resigned from my position on CHC. I have enjoyed working with everyone. I now have a new respect for what CHC does. Keep up the good work. It is never easy working with family so this spring I will be leaving Podolski Honey Farms and going off on my own.



Bruce Podolsky

The MBA has elected Bryan Ash to take my seat.

See you at the conventions.

CHC welcomes new MBA director Bryan Ash.

As I step into this new CHC role in mid-year, it may be appropriate to begin this article with some background information. My name is Bryan Ash, and together with my

BeeMaid



Alberta Honey Producers

70 Alberta Avenue, Box 3909,
Spruce Grove, Alberta T7X 3B1
Phone: (780) 962-5573
Fax: (780) 962-1653

Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers

625 Roseberry Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0T4
Phone: (204) 783-2240
Fax: (204) 783-8468

BeeMaid Honey Ltd.

1210 – 100 Street,
Tisdale, Saskatchewan S0E 1T0
Phone: (306) 873-2521
Fax: (306) 873-3455

Carrying a full line of beekeeping equipment from several manufacturers:

- **Dadant & Sons Ltd.** • **Mann Lake Supplies**
- **Maxant** • **Dakota Gunness** • **Walter T. Kelly**
- **Medivet** • **Perma-Dent Foundation**
- **Pierco Canada** • **Cook & Beals** • **Plus Many More.**

Whatever your requirements we would be glad to help. Quality products for the beekeeping industry, including:

- **Woodenware** • **Queen Rearing Supplies**
- **Package Bees & Queens** • **Bee Apparel**
- **Honey Containers** • **Extracting Equipment**
- **Beekeeper Tools** • **Novelties** • **Foundation**
- **Medication & Chemicals.**

Buyers of Light & Dark Beeswax at Competitive Prices. We can arrange your sugar requirements - dry or liquid sugar in small lots or trailer load lots delivered.



Eliminate AFB and Chalkbrood

Iotron's treatment program offers beekeepers a cost effective, environmentally friendly solution for managing bacterial and fungal disease.

Iotron's proven technology has been recognized as a useful defense against antibiotic-resistant strains of AFB.

Iotron has successfully treated more than 50,000 supers and thousands of kilograms of pollen.

For more information please contact:

Robert Krag-Hansen

Iotron Technologies Corp.

1425 Kebet Way

Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 6L3

Tel: 604 945-8838 Fax: 604 945-8827

e-mail: rkhansen@iotron.com

www.iotron.com



brothers (Brent & Grant) we operate Ash Apiaries Ltd. in Gilbert Plains. In 1972 my father (Floyd Ash) started with 200 colonies of honey bees producing 40,000 lbs of raw honey. In 1989, Ash Apiaries Ltd. started processing honey in order to diversify our business. Today we operate 5,400 colonies for honey production, with all honey being processed for wholesale and retail sales. We only process 100% Canadian Honey.

We winter approx. 2,400 colonies in British Columbia and 3,200 in Manitoba.

I've been a director for the MBA for several years and serve on several MBA committees: Imports, Foreign worker, Food Safety, and Pollination.

March has been exceptionally warm in Manitoba. Snow has all melted and honey producers are busy feeding and pulling out dead colonies. Losses seem to vary from producer to producer, yard to yard. I've heard of some high losses (50-70%) and also heard of low losses (7-20%). With wintering one can always count on a 20 – 30 percent loss by the 15th of May.

The majority of MBA members' revenue is from Honey Production, as very little pollination revenue is realized. With heavy losses the past few years, Manitoba has expressed the need for more access to clean healthy bees. Honey producers need options available to them when losses occur. With the high cost of inputs,

labour, higher bee mortality throughout an entire year, some honey producers are becoming financially burdened. MBA is excited about a stakeholder meeting to discuss the possibility of importing packaged bees from other countries including the United States of America. MBA would like to see the meeting speeded up, as many of our members need access to bees. Manitoba's colony count is at the lowest ever, and we need change. As some members say they're surviving fine, others state they don't want to survive, they would like to thrive and have a stable future for incoming honey producers.

Many Manitoba honey producers took advantage of the Apivar varroa mite treatment in the fall, with good results being reported this spring. Mite levels seem to under control for the moment. Manitoba beekeepers need more treatment options available.

CBISQT food safety program needs to be finished up to benefit our members and industry. With a food safety program, for farms, in place since early March, our members can access funds from the provincial and federal governments to help recover the costs of food safety upgrades. Without a Honey food safety program in place, honey producers are ineligible for tier 2 funding potentially available for year 2 of the Growing Forward program.

MBA held a very successful symposium on the 4th & 5th of March. Our main presenter Randy Oliver,

from California, provided an informative and entertaining series of talks. It was great to see large numbers back attending the informational meetings.

Saskatchewan

This Saskatchewan winter has been relatively normal – probably more on the mild side and it appears spring is arriving early with above average temperatures. There are many anxious beekeepers waiting to see the outcome of their overwintering success. With the poor weather we experienced in October, some colonies went into winter potentially light on feed. There are also concerns of mite levels for those that treated for varroa in late September/October. Of course, with pockets of high losses last year there is

trepidation as they wait to see what they will discover this spring. It is too early for a generalization from SK beekeepers but early indications are that winter losses will be back to (SK) historical ranges.

The early reports I am hearing have losses ranging from 2% to 9% from several beekeepers in many different areas of the province. However, I have also heard so far of two pockets with higher losses. One pocket at 40%+ losses appears to cover limited operations. The second pocket at 80%+ appears to extend to a couple of sideline/small commercial beekeeper operations. Of

course, the true numbers won't emerge until beekeepers get a chance to go through colonies. However, should early reports prove accurate and translate across the province, most SK beekeepers should be off to a good spring start. With the early spring and warm weather it is bringing, fresh pollen should be available by mid April.

This February, the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission and Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association hosted their respective AGM's as well as, in conjunction with the Provincial Apiarist, our first provincial IPM meeting. Provincial Apiarist Geoff Wilson and Janet Tam from the OBA Tech Team were our presenters and shared valuable information.



Corey Bacon

The SBA is also excited to kick off our new Technical Adaptation Team in April. We recently hired our two assistants and hope to be interviewing candidates for the lead position. This project is a three-year gov't/industry funded program. The main focus will be researching varroa and other disease/pest controls under SK beekeeping conditions, management techniques and climatic conditions to determine best efficacy and treatment windows. The main focus of this research will be on sustainable miticides. Beekeeping management practices (ie.

Overwintering techniques, supplemental feeding, etc) are also expected to be part of the research conducted by this new team. Not only will they conduct research, the role of the team is to also help with the extension/inspection services and potentially lab services that are lacking in our province due to lack of provincially funded manpower for the provincial apiarist's office.

This spring the government announced the addition of honey to the provincial crop production insurance program. Unfortunately, there is still a limited amount of information available and it is unlikely many beekeepers will participate in the program this coming season. Initial consultation by government was positive in working together to collaboratively develop a program that is functional, acceptable and sustainable for both government and industry. However, lack of follow-up by the government insurance agency before final development and announcement of the program will lead to needed re-working of the program to address several areas of concerns by the industry. The government and industry also continue to work to finalize development of a winter loss insurance program. We are heading into our second year, first spring season with our new bear insurance program through the provincial wildlife damage insurance program. It is anticipated that this program, coupled with our current bear fence program will have a positive

impact for the industry. Often insurance companies drop bear damage coverage after repeated claims (2-3) and have never covered loss of production or fair value for bees. This new program intends to address these issues.

Honey prices in Saskatchewan were on a slow but upward trend the past couple of months but seem to have hit a plateau. During this time, honey prices climbed from \$1.45/lb to \$1.65/lb. With a shorter crop in several countries, especially shortages in the white class, beekeepers anticipate that the price will climb further. One of the other significant factors is the value of our currency, which is approaching par with our US counterparts. Should our dollar return to historical averages versus the US dollar, at current prices offered we would be experiencing honey prices in the \$2.00+ range. Of course, the continued attempted circumvention of Chinese honey into the US market (our largest export market) will continue to affect honey prices.

This year the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association will again be offering the spring loan advance to our beekeepers through the federal government AMPA-APP. Producers are eligible for loans beginning April 1st for up to \$100,000 interest free with a deadline to repay of August 31st 2011 or at such a date they sell their 2010 crop. As usual those that do not wish to participate in the spring advance will be eligible for the fall interest free loan

advance in September.

Alberta

It appears that we may have an early spring in Alberta in 2010. I am already seeing Canada Geese return and even better, I am finding



Lee Townsend

that the majority of my hives have survived the winter and are in exceptional shape. I do not think late spring die off will be of concern this year, but it is always something to be aware of. Early reports from across the province seem to average 4% dead and 4% weak wintered colonies. This is a relief to us all and proof that the Alberta bee industry is resilient when it works together on a common goal. One of my biggest concerns going into this active season is a lack of moisture. We had a good amount of snow in the Edmonton region, but it is soaking in fast and we will need a substantial amount of rain this spring if we are to not face the same drought conditions as 2009.

The Alberta Beekeepers Commission has been working on a great deal of things this past winter. One of the biggest issues we are dealing with right now revolves around Foreign Worker licensing. In 2009 some producers had issues with law enforcement officers not accepting a Foreign Workers country of origin license or their International License after

they had been in Alberta for 90 days. We have been unable to get a clear response from the Alberta Government as of yet, but we are still hopeful that we will receive the information we requested shortly.

The Alberta Beekeepers Commission has also been asked to sit on an advisory committee regarding the re-creation of the Beekeeper Technician course that used to be offered at Fairview College. There is talk that the college would like to have the course up and running by the fall of 2010, but the biggest hurdle they are facing is trying to find a qualified instructor for the course.

I am still hearing that domestic honey prices are between \$1.45-\$1.60/lb. Hopefully this holds true throughout 2010 and we all have bumper crops to sell!

The wintering of bees in Alberta has improved over the last several years. We have had some good flying days where the bees could have cleansing flights. There have been several beekeepers that have had



Jerry Poelman

high losses in the past and now are below 5% loss on their first inspection. There are pockets of higher losses and no good explanation at this time. Nosema and varroa are still the main health concerns.

In Alberta we have had a sampling program for a year, where producers can have a hive health assistant sample some colonies for varroa and nosema. This has given beekeepers a good handle on their hive health. In 2008 it showed less than half of our colonies were healthy going into winter. In fall 2009 more than 75% of colonies sampled were healthy. This has helped our beekeepers to understand the importance of spring and fall sampling for these diseases. This program is run by Dr. Medhat Nasr through a project that is partnered with Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Beekeepers and several canola pollination companies.

Hive Health in Alberta remains an ongoing priority. Even though it may look like things are under control, we know that trouble with mite resistance is just around the corner. We have a screening program that tests new varroa mite controls. We will need to continue to work on identifying new

treatments. It is imperative that we have registered products to use in our hives that will help us have strong colonies for pollination and the production of honey. This is a long process from screening, and testing to registration of a new product, that meets the requirements of PMRA. We would like to see this program expanded to other provinces as this can only help all producers across Canada. We all need to work together to create a strong and vibrant industry here.

British Columbia

The winter of 2009/2010 had lots of snow and cold weather during November and December. The last half of our winter has been mild with little snow. For the first time in recorded history the snow pack is below normal in all parts of the province. Hopefully we will get adequate spring rains to avoid another early start to the forest fire season.

Hive survival during the winter has been good in all parts of the province except Vancouver Island. On the south half of the Island beekeepers lost 90% of their bees. The most likely cause seems to be unexpectedly high levels of varroa mites.

Our provincial beekeeping association, in collaboration with the Investment Agricultural Foundation of B.C. (IAF) is sponsoring five seminars around the province this summer. Some will teach Integrated Pest Management techniques while others will teach beekeepers how to raise queen bees. Interest in these seminars is very strong so we hope to offer them again next year.

By proclamation, May 29 has been officially named The Day of the Honey Bee in British Columbia. This has been done in an attempt to bring more

attention to the plight and importance of honey bees. Beekeepers around the province are volunteering to host events celebrating bees and beekeeping in their communities on May 29th.



Ted Hancock

In this issue you will note the passing of our former provincial apiarist, John Corner. During his career Mr. Corner established a queen breeding program that

developed a queen bee specifically suited to B.C.'s conditions. He was also very active in teaching beekeepers the best management practises and helping promote our industry. Anne Lindeberg once commented that you can't really judge a persons stature until they are gone. I think John will be remembered as one of the world's great beekeepers and his passing marks the end of a great era in B.C. beekeeping.

CO-OP Honey Packer

In the fall of 2009, Bee Maid Honey launched an online promotion called the Bee Maid Recipe Challenge. We asked consumers in Western Canada to submit their favorite recipes that included honey. We are pleased to announce that the winner of the Bee Maid Recipe Challenge is Velika Heathcote. Congratulations, Velika!



Gordon Marks

Roast was chosen as the winning entry based on creativity/originality, taste, visual appeal and honey usage. As the winner of the grand prize, she will receive a gourmet dinner party prepared and served in her own home by Flavours Magazine Editor-in Chief, Brandon Boone. Keep your eyes on the Bee Maid website and on the next edition of Sweet Talk to see photos from the event.

Velika's recipe for a Honey Glazed Pork Rib

Food Safety is becoming a very serious concern in the Canadian food industry. A number of Bee Maid's retail and industrial customers insist on third party audits of our plants to insure that systems are in place to insure that our products are safe. Bee Maid's packaging plants in Spruce Grove, Alberta and Winnipeg, Manitoba are HACCP recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. As part of our ongoing quality improvement programs, we are encouraging all of our member beekeepers

to become registered with CFIA.

The Canadian Honey Council and CFIA have recently developed new standards for honey drums. In conjunction with these standards, Bee Maid has developed an aggressive program of reconditioning and new drum purchases to upgrade our drum inventory with the Bee Maid Board having committed to spend \$1.5 million over the next five years on this program.

Wiggling and wagging: Study sheds light on amazing bee brain

Macquarie University, Sydney Australia

Their brains are tiny - about the size of sesame seeds - and yet the behaviour of the humble honey bee is so advanced it has scientists scratching their heads in disbelief.

New Australian research just published by Proceedings of the Royal Society of London has shown that the bee brain has the ability to estimate energy expenditure while foraging for pollen.

“To make honey, bees must gather more nectar from flowers than the energy spent collecting it, so in order to forage efficiently they need to know how much energy each foraging trip costs them,” said Dr Andrew Barron, the author of the study and senior lecturer at Macquarie University.

Bees estimate distance visually, by watching the environment pass them during flight. Barron set out to determine whether bees also use this visual information to estimate their flight costs. His first step was to build two tunnels - one 10 metres long and one 20 metres long - and place feeders at the end of each to attract the bees. He then created an optical illusion to trick the bees into believing that the closest feeder was actually the furthest distance away.

“When bees return from a foraging expedition they let the other bees in the colony know where they have been and how good the nectar was by performing what’s known as the waggle dance,” Barron said. “The waggle dance performed by the bees in this study indicated that they were fooled by the illusion and believed that the feeder in the 10-metre tunnel was furthest away. Yet they could still tell somehow that they weren’t using up as much energy by flying to that feeder - they favoured that one anyway and advised the other bees to do the same.”

The results of the study showed the bees were definitely not using distance to estimate cost, but raised another

travelled and foraging efficiency and communicate both independently using different elements of their dance language. Such mental agility explains bees’ proficiency as nectar harvesters.”

Barron said his aim was to work out how the bee brain makes these complex calculations.



Dr Andrew Barron. Photo by Paul Wright Photography.

question - how were they doing it?

“The bee brain has an incredibly simple make-up and yet it appears to possess an onboard calorimeter or stop-watch,” Barron said. “Our study showed that bees can separately calculate distance

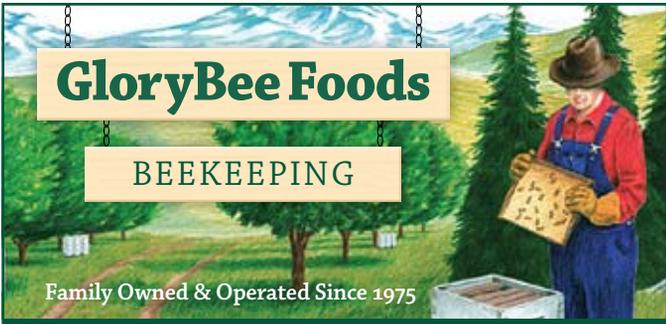
“Through their dance behaviour we get a window into bee psychology and perception,” he said. “Bees are beautiful little animals with great personalities - and we’re only just getting a sense of how smart they really are.”

COWEN
MANUFACTURING CO. INC.

www.cowenmfg.com

Technology and Nature working together sure is sweet!

Need to sell before you buy?
Give Rob a call at 800-257-2894



GloryBee Foods

BEEKEEPING

Family Owned & Operated Since 1975

GloryBee carries a wide selection of beekeeping supplies for everyone from the hobbyist beekeeper to the professional. Shop with us online or request our FREE 108-page catalog today.

- Equipment ♦ Tools ♦ Containers
- Books ♦ Gifts ♦ HoneyStix
- Royal Jelly ♦ Bee Pollen ♦ Propolis



www.GloryBeeFoods.com • (800) 456-7923

**Honey
Bees
Equipment**

Herb Isaac Sales Ltd.
 Box 45, Sinclair, Mb. R0M 2A0
 Ph: 204 662 4401
 Fax: 204 662 4547
www.herbee.com

**New & Used
Beekeeping Equipment**

Extracting Lines
 Some replacement parts
 New Cowen uncapper knives

New Supers, Frames & Foundation
 Wax dipped supers available

Ezyloaders & accessories
 to save your back, time & money

D&G
DOMINION
& GRIMM INC.

Call for all your packaging needs
heather@dominiongrimm.ca

Tel 1.877.676.1914

www.dominiongrimm.ca
Fax 519.676.0968

Urban Beekeeping: A Growing Concept

Douglas Clay, Research Scientist, Calgary, AB

Population growth and shift

In 1800, only 3 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas and 97% were rural residents raising their own food locally. By 2000 an estimated 50% of the world population was urban, depending on food transported over long distances from industrial agri-farms. Presently over 400 cities have a population over 1 million and 20 cities have populations over 10 million. Tokyo,



Mark and Shelley McAlpine keep bees in an older neighbourhood in Guelph, Ontario.
Photo: Shelley McAlpine

the largest has over 28 million citizens. The world population exceeded 6.75 billion by the end of 2009. It is suggested that three quarters of the world population will be urbanized by 2050.

Increased demand for food

Urban dwellers consume as much or more food than those in a rural agrarian population. In addition most cities have located in agriculturally productive zones, putting increasing pressure on the remaining farm land and creating a shortage of fertile crop areas. As the limits of available land are reached there is a greater need to increase agricultural production per unit of land. The use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, intensive large scale farming, marketing and transportation have changed traditional agriculture. Many consumers have become concerned about possible reduced nutritional quality and potential risk of chemical contamination, as well as environmental costs and energy use. To counter these concerns, various community food initiatives are underway. These include: organic food, the local food movement (100 km diet), slow food and urban farming.

Increased interest in honey bees

Interest in 'recreational' or hobby beekeeping is growing. Recently Michelle Obama's interest in having honey bees at the Whitehouse has raised the profile of urban bees in the USA. Similar increasing interest is occurring in Canada. Steven and Laureen are you listening? Have you been thinking about keeping bees at 24 Sussex Drive? Most hobbyists start learning by joining a local bee club. That link often leads to a supply source for equipment and bees.

Problems

One serious issue confronting the urban beekeeper is the increasing use of pesticides particularly systemic pesticides, which have been cheerfully embraced by urban gardeners and managers of golf courses and city parks. They are virtually impossible for the beekeeper to counteract. Fortunately in recent years many municipalities are trying to restrict 'cosmetic' use of pesticides in built-up areas.

In the city an apiary can be a backyard, rooftop, or any suitable patch of land that has permission (from the owner) and security (from vandals). Although bees are normally not aggressive, it is always important to avoid potential problems with neighbours and passersby. A simple and effective measure is to create a screen of plants, fences, or buildings that will force the bees to fly high before the foraging or cleansing flight begins – this will stop a tête-à-tête meeting between your neighbours and your bees. Once it is known that you have bees – every bee or stinging insect becomes 'yours'.

Urban beehives

The majority of honey bees in Canada are kept in the standard wooden Langstroth hives. Many urban 'farmers' are environmental purists who prefer to do things 'naturally' when possible. For this reason, and for its simplicity, some urban hobby beekeepers use either top bar hives or the Waré hive and more

recently a product called 'Beehaus' has come on the market for urban honey bees. 'Natural England', a conservation group in the U.K., has been in the business of conserving their bees since the worldwide bee population took a hard hit a couple of years ago. They are currently installing beehives on top of buildings in London using the Beehaus supplied by the company, Omlet.

Harvesting

Honey can be extracted using a small hand cranked extractor but this may be expensive for the small producer. One way to justify the cost of an automatic radial extractor is by joining a coop to share equipment. Another alternative is to use 'low tech' harvest methods such as Ross Rounds, Bee-O-Pac, chunk or cut comb. Equipment storage can be a problem for the city dweller in a small house or apartment. An alternative that is available is a collapsible unit developed by Swienty for third world beekeepers – it might also serve the urban beekeeper.

Fad or here to stay?

Urban beekeeping tends to follow cycles of enthusiasm that are often related to the economic situation. Media reporting of colony collapse has raised the profile



Johannes Paul holds a frame covered in bees taken from a "Beehaus" urban beehive at a garden allotment in central London

of honey bees. The public is now more supportive of beekeepers and interest in hobby beekeeping is on the rise. If this interest in urban beekeeping is to last, it must be sustainable, fulfilling a need in the community. Concern for the environment and the desire to produce quality food may make honey bees a permanent feature of the urban environment.

New and Innovate Smoker Stinger Innovations Inc.,

Geoff Todd, Canadian Honey Council, Calgary, AB

Stinger Innovations unveiled their amazing patent pending, safe, and effective Bee Smoker at the 2010 American Beekeeping Federation and Canadian Honey Council Convention in Orlando, Florida. The Bee-Z-Smoker is a new and innovative smoker and the first true "Power Tool for Bee Keepers". It is re-writing all the rules for delivering safe, cool, and effective smoke for managing bees. No longer will you be judged on how you light your smoker; rather, how well you maintain your healthy hives.

It was well received and a great deal of interest was shown by beekeepers from around the world. Edith and Daniel Stearns gave demonstrations of the Bee-Z-Smoker outside the Convention Hall.

The Bee-Z-Smoker uses no matches, no bellows, and in less than 30 seconds you will be in your hive not



Edith Stearns (right) demonstrates a BEE-Z-SMOKER to Heather Clay and Lee Townsend
Photo: Geoff Todd

frustrated trying to get your smoker lit or relighting it after it goes out! How does The Bee-Z-Smoker accomplish this? It is an easy 3-step patented

process invented by a beekeeper for beekeepers.

1. Pull the heat trigger (like operating a flashlight)
2. Wait about 5 seconds until you see smoke appear out of the spout
3. Push the blower button to expel the natural cool bee smoke

The Bee-Z-Smoker produces natural and safe cool bee smoke made from easy to find wood shavings (a small packet is supplied with each Bee-Z-Smoker). The handle is ergonomically designed, well balanced and fits comfortably in the palm of your hand. It was designed to be safe and easy enough for kids to use. To extinguish the smoke, simply give the smoldering shavings a gentle roll in the can and the smoke is gone. You can visit their website to see how easy it is to use at www.beezsmoker.com.

Be in your hive in 30 seconds!

No kidding...the only smoke we're blowing is cool!

- Natural and safe cool bee smoke made from easy to find wood shavings
- Easy 3-step, 30 second process
- No lighting of fires
- Battery and charger included
- Money Back Guarantee

Order Yours Today!

\$15 discount
for ABF or other club members.
Use code ABF2010.

Visit our website for video demonstrations and customer testimonials.

www.BeeZSmoker.com

Or contact us at 603-446-7919, info@stingerinnovations.com



"The Bee-Z-Smoker is fantastic!"

I once kept my stock piles of wood, tinder, and other bee smoker supplies, then would go to the bother of taking the 5+ minutes to get it lit. Now, I just grab the Bee-Z-Smoker off the bench, pull the trigger and walk to the hives. Now, I have just the right amount of cool bee smoke within seconds. It is light and very easy to use. I wish I had this 20 years ago!

~ Bob Naylor from NH
Beekeeping for over 20 years



Bee-Z-Smoker 

Cool Bee Smoke, Without the Choke!®

Bee healthy

Canadian researchers shore up pollinators' \$1-billion contribution to maintain natural ecosystems

By Andra Zommers University of Guelph, Guelph ON (reprinted with permission U of G's Research Magazine)

Canada's pollinators are in danger. In hives across North America, honeybee population losses have risen over the last three winters to rates as high as 37 per cent — more than double the rate beekeepers are used to. This marks a disastrous turning point for honeybees



in a 10-year struggle for survival against parasitic tracheal mites, microscopic creatures that live in bees' tracheas. But it's not only honeybees that are in jeopardy; wild pollinators such as bees, flies and moths are also in decline. What's going on?

Researchers at the University of Guelph are trying to find out. They're collaborating with 44 other researchers at 26 universities in the Canadian Pollination Initiative (CANPOLIN), a five-year strategic network funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). They're seeking to learn more about pollinator decline and to determine where bees and other

pollinators fit in the bigger picture.

Recently retired environmental sciences professor Peter Kevan serves as scientific director and principle investigator for NSERC-CANPOLIN. The network brings together researchers to investigate pollinators and the plants they rely on, to study the ecosystems they support and to explore the effects of climate and land-use change.

Their goal is to assess pollinator activity in Canada's forestry and agriculture industries, both in economic terms and within a broader environmental context. They hope to help shape government policy to ensure the appropriate valuation and long-term protection of honeybees and other pollinators.

"There are a number of different ecosystem services that are very important to the functioning of ecosystems as we understand them," says Kevan. "Pollination is central in terms of its value and importance."

Indeed, the role of insect pollination in Canadian agriculture is valued at some \$1 billion annually, with honeybees accounting for about 75 per cent of that. The remainder is attributed to flies, butterflies, moths, other wild insects and hummingbirds. The total value would be even greater if pollination's impact on forestry was included.

When it comes to honeybees, the main factor associated with mortality is the spread of Varroa mites, says U of

G environmental sciences professor Ernesto Guzman. Other factors include pesticides, diseases such as Nosema (affecting the bee's digestive



system) and land-use and climate change, which can adversely affect a hive's food supply.

Until issues with honeybee health and population decline are resolved, beekeepers are keeping pace with their losses by importing bees from countries such as Australia. Some have also resorted to splitting their remaining colonies and introducing new queens to the deficient halves to create new hives.

But it's economically unsustainable to continue with this trend, says Guzman.

"It's very costly to split colonies. They don't usually produce honey the next summer because you weaken the population."

He is investigating alternative strategies to combat rising bee mortality rates. He's found that certain organic compounds can control mite infestation by as much as 97 per cent. These compounds include thymol (from the herb thyme), oregano oil and clove oil and are relatively non-toxic to bees.

Guzman and his NSERC-CANPOLIN collaborators hope for these compounds to replace the pesticides thought to have played a significant role in pollinator decline. Sometimes applied to eliminate mites,

pesticides can accumulate to toxic levels over time in the beeswax that makes up the hive.

There is also speculation about climate change and its impact on bees. For example, one consequence of colder winters is that hive populations deplete their food reserves before the spring bloom arrives, and the bees die of starvation.

But like humans, bees that are stronger have a better chance of survival. Paul Kelly, an apiarist at U of G's Honey Bee Research Centre, says beekeepers can help strengthen their hives by using improved management practices.

"We're finding out that nutrition plays a really key role in reducing stress in colonies and that stress leads to higher disease levels," says Kelly.

By monitoring and treating their bees against diseases and feeding them properly, beekeepers can help manage depleting bee populations, he says. But Kelly is clear about the future: "It's not possible for bees to survive without our intervention."

To that end, researchers in NSERC-CANPOLIN will collect pollinator and plant data over the next five years from ecosystems across Canada. One local site of particular interest is the city of Guelph's Pollinator Park. Created on a 100-acre decommissioned landfill site, the park is designed to encourage and conserve wild bee populations.

To the untrained eye, the site resembles an overgrown wildflower field. But this green space is a world model for the promotion and protection of pollinators and their

habitat. The park will be used to raise public awareness of the importance of pollinators and will provide critical data on developing pollinator habitats from once-degraded environments.

Along with other ecological data collected by NSERC-CANPOLIN, the information will feed into a comprehensive online pollination database with links to illustrations and graphics. This baseline data will in turn be used to answer critical questions about pollinator health and sustainability.

"We want this sort of information to eventually be part of people's general appreciation of where their food comes from," says Kevan. "We also want them to have an appreciation of the ecological interactions that are sustaining the natural environments we have in Canada."

Other partners in NSERC-CANPOLIN are Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Bayer CropScience Inc.; the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Association; the David Suzuki Foundation; Royal Botanical Gardens;



Seeds of Diversity; Nelson Aggregate Co.; the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association; and Meridian Credit Union.

Andra Zommers is a student writer with the University of Guelph, Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge (SPARK).



Tony Lalonde Sales Prt.

Buy
Honey
Wax
Propolis

Bentley extractors
Cowan extractors
Swinger Forklift
High Fructose Corn Syrup
Sucrose Syrup
Inland Plastic Winter Wraps
TLS Bee Apparel
Mahurangi Hiveware
Bee Pro Pollen Supplement
Mountain Bee Products - bee suits, veils
Oxytet
Permadent
Frames
Supers painted and unpainted

sell
Beekeeping Supplies
Extracting Equipment
Used Equipment

Supers assembled and unassembled
Lumber for supers
Helmets
Hive tools
Hive lifters
Smokers
Honey containers
Feeder pails
Barrels
Liners
Barrel Grabber
Barrel Carts
Pallet puller

Distributors for some or all of the supplies

Alberta
Alberta Honey Producers Coop. 780-960-8010
Manitoba
Manitoba Honey Coop. 204-783-2240
Maritimes
Claude Hachey 506-546-6687
Ontario
Munro Honey 519-847-5333
Quebec
Rejean Lambert 819-828-2549
Saskatchewan
Tony Lalonde Sales 306-931-0155
tonylalonde@sales@sasktel.net



Tony Lalonde Sales Prt.
Box 42, Clavet Sk,
Canada S0K 0Y0
Ph: 306-931-0155
fax: 931-1646



Enterprises Ltd.

BOX 316, AUSTIN, MANITOBA

Toll-free 1-866-800-2077

Phone: (204) 637-2277 Fax: (204) 637-2033

Murray or Adam Lewis

**QUALITY WOODENWARE BOXES,
FRAMES, ETC., AND PINE LUMBER**

**Unassembled, Assembled
and/or Wax-dipped
Food-Grade Finish**

**Also available at all "BeeMaid"
Bee Supply Outlets**

**Call for Pricing
Please order well in advance.**

**BEEKEEPERS
BUILDING FOR BEEKEEPERS.**

Proud sponsor of the Canadian Honey Council



Honey Wanted

FOR CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS

CALL – GAIL WYANT

1-800-265-4988 Ext. 3322

e-mail: gail_wyant@mccormick.com

**Trusted By Beekeepers
for Over 50 Years!**

**McCormick Canada,
600 Clarke Road, London, On.
N5V 3K5**

Fax: 519-673-0089

www.billybee.com



**Fraser
Auction
Service Ltd.
Brandon, Manitoba**

**SERVING BEEKEEPERS
IN ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN,
AND MANITOBA
FOR OVER 20 YEARS**

**If you are thinking
of buying or selling,
please call**

1-800-483-5856 or 204-727-2001

Fax: 204-729-9912

**or check our website:
www.fraserauction.com**

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CORNER

Submitted by John Boone, Vancouver, B.C.

John Corner, Provincial Apiarist for British Columbia 1950 - 1983 died February 26, 2010 at the age of 90. He began working with bees as a youngster in the Kootenay region of British Columbia. After joining the Army in 1940, serving overseas, and being discharged after the end of the war in 1945, he began to work at the Dominion Experimental Farm in Prince George, B.C. While there, he developed a demonstration apiary with the emphasis on proper management and he undertook research on alsike clover seed production. He studied to gain further qualification in beekeeping and in October 1950 he joined the Apiary Branch of the B.C. Department of Agriculture, working with William Turnbull. In October of that year he took over as Provincial Apiarist following Mr. Turnbull's retirement.

In the 1950's the main emphasis of the Provincial Apiarist was the control of AFB. John increased the inspection staff and established a requirement that the inspectors keep up to date with training courses and that they encourage modern bee keeping practices by attending club meetings and field days. Elevating the level of education was an early goal of John and he persuaded the Extension Department at UBC to undertake a Beemaster's Course in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture. The first Course was in 1955, was attended by many commercial beekeepers as well as hobbyists and has become a tradition, held every two years. The venue has changed from UBC to SFU, and has maintained full enrollment with outstanding speakers and workshops.

John liked to encourage young beekeepers and helped establish 4-H bee clubs, with some members later becoming commercial beekeepers. In the promotion of education and to ensure the spread of new knowledge John issued many bulletins and a popular newsletter. The Bulletins included Beehive Construction, Introduction of Package Bees, Disease Control, Overwintering Bees in B.C., and many other subjects. The Newsletter was sent out periodically under the name "Bee Wise" and contained timely advice for beekeepers. It also contained bits of personal news about the beekeeping community and as one person has said "John had a great way of blending socializing with bee science".

One of John's visions was to link the Bee Industry with the academic world by establishing a Trust Fund that would support education and research at a college or university. He initiated this in 1965 with a personal donation that was promptly added to by members of the bee industry. This continues to be an active and growing Fund with disbursements yearly that often represent "seed money" that attracts larger grants.

Another legacy of John's has stemmed from a B.C. Bee Breeding program that he spearheaded in the mid-1970's, and was sponsored by the BCHPA. His vision was to develop a honey bee that would be especially suitable for B.C. The project was begun with the help of many volunteers but as funding was secured the project extended for five years. Although this was before



the introduction of mites and before the term "hygienic behavior" was popularly known, it was the beginning of a program that has spawned the B.C. Bee Breeders Association of which there are now twenty-four members.

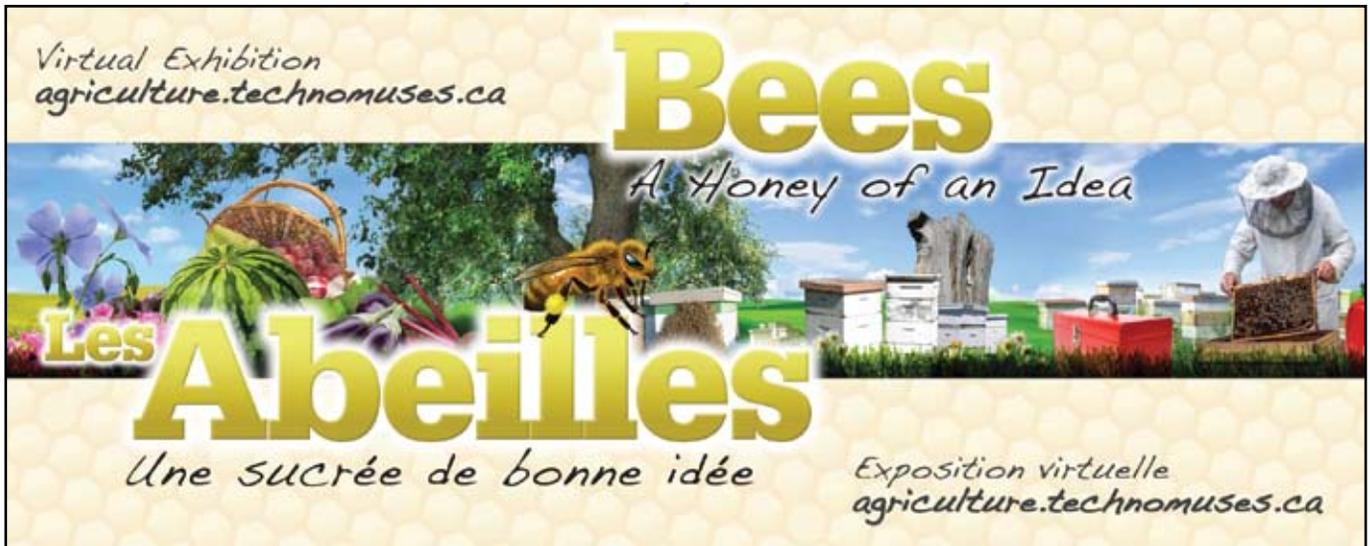
In the spring of 1972 John took an 18 month leave of absence to work as team leader of a beekeeping project in Kenya that was financed by CIDA. He adapted his skills and knowledge of beekeeping to local beekeeping practices that would promote a more sustainable industry. He took early retirement in 1983 and immediately went to Uganda for a two year term as manager of a project sponsored by CARE to rehabilitate the beekeeping industry at the end of the Amin era.

With all of his innovations and contributions to beekeeping John was the recipient of many awards and acknowledgments, only two of which will be mentioned here: he was a recipient of the CHC Fred Rathje award and in 1999 at the Apimondia Congress in Vancouver he received the International Federation of Beekeepers Award of Excellence.

John's accomplishments were not limited to beekeeping. He possessed a wonder of the world about him and enjoyed a sense of discovery. This led him to studying and recording rock pictographs of the first nations people of the Okanagan and Kootenay regions of B.C., culminating in the publication of a compact volume entitled "Pictographs of the Interior of B.C." This is recognized as an outstanding archeological contribution.

It is not possible to expand here upon all of his interests and achievements but he was a curler, a musician, a Rotarian and mention should be made of his career in the army. When he enlisted he was in the Rocky Mountain Rangers, he later trained with the Seaforth Highlanders and was sent into combat with the Calgary Highlanders in Belgium, Holland, and was in Germany at the end of the War. Before his service in Europe he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant and led a platoon as part of a landing force in the Aleutian Islands during which there was a serious accident with a landing craft. There were no casualties as the result of heroic action by Lieutenant Corner and for this he was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

With all of his accomplishments, John developed warm friendships throughout the world and it was with much sadness and disbelief that it became known he was a victim of Alzheimer's disease and spent the final years of his life in care. For this, his family and friends are grateful to Noric House of Vernon, B.C. He was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Dodie, who had died approximately six weeks earlier. He is survived by two daughters, Marion (Larry) Fisher, Cindy Corner, one son, Gary (Colleen) Corner and four grandchildren. A memorial was held in the memory of John on March 15, 2010 in Vernon, B.C. at which several younger people he had inspired gave warm testimony to the positive influence he had on their lives.



The Canada Agriculture Museum is pleased to announce that *Bees: A Honey of an Idea*, is live.

Caroline Desabrais Canada Agriculture Museum, Ottawa, ON

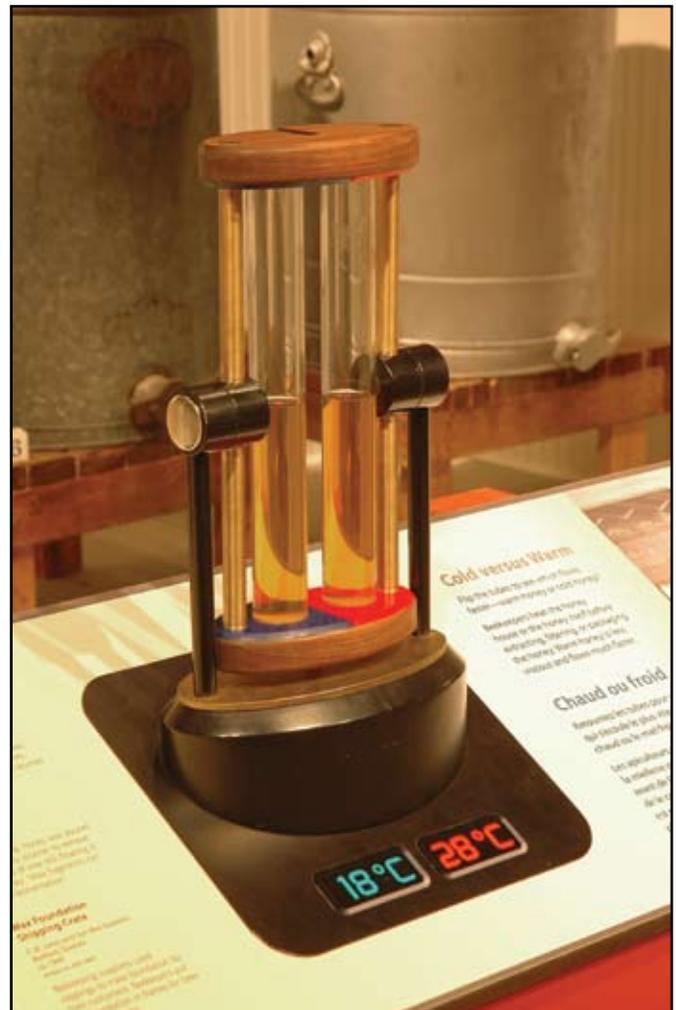
Bees: A Honey of an Idea is a virtual exhibition exploring the essential role bees play in the pollination of many Canadian food crops. The website examines the evolution of science and technology in beekeeping, as well as the ongoing food-production challenges that Canada and other countries are facing as honeybee populations diminish. This online exhibit was developed in partnership with the Virtual Museum of Canada, an initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage, as well as in partnership with the Canadian Honey Council.



Visitors can press a button to see workers, drones and queen inside the beehive.

Bees: A Honey of an Idea can be discovered online at agriculture.technomuses.ca

Bees: A Honey of an Idea is an excellent learning/teaching tool for children and adults that are curious to learn more about the importance of the honey bee in agriculture. Visitors to the website will explore the lifecycle of honeybees, the roles of different bees within a colony, the structural design and organization



Visitors can flip the tubes to see that warm honey flows faster than cold honey.

hive, and the relationship between bee and beekeeper. Games, fun facts, beautiful illustrations and archival images provide an educational experience for audiences of all ages. Visitors will learn about the impact that bees have on the production of our fruits, vegetables and other crops,

as well as on Canada's world-renowned honey production.

"The Canada Agriculture Museum is committed to creating new ways of sharing knowledge, artifacts and programs with as many Canadians as possible," says Kerry-Leigh Burchill, Director General of the Canada Agriculture Museum.

"Bees: A Honey of an Idea is accessible to any community, school or concerned citizen. We are very proud to be working with the Canadian Honey Council and the Virtual Museum of Canada to foster a culture which

understands and appreciates that science, technology and agriculture are essential ingredients in our quality of life."

There is also a new buzz at the Canada Agriculture Museum, in conjunction with the virtual exhibition, the Museum just opened its newest exhibition **Taking Care**



Taking Care of Beesness exhibit at the Canada Agriculture Museum.

of Beesness. This 2000 square foot exhibition includes a variety of interactive learning centres; artifacts and a live hive from which visitors will observe the colony's activity. Educational programs and visitor demonstrations will enhance the learning outcomes on bees, beekeeping technology and the necessity of proper pollination for Canadian agriculture.



Beekeeping through the ages: exhibit of skep, old fashioned bee hive, barrel extractor and new styrofoam hive.

The Canada Agriculture Museum is located on the Central Experimental Farm, a national historic site in Canada's capital. Animal Barns are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibitions and demonstrations are available from March 1 through October 31. For more information, visit agriculture.technomuses.ca.



Honey for Health

Brochures
available from the
Canadian Honey
Council
for \$25 per bundle
of 100
plus \$12 shipping



Contact:
geoff@honeycouncil.ca
for information and orders



Business Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9-5
Saturday: 9-12

Tel.: 613-821-2797
1-800-214-7366
Fax: 613-821-2621

BENSON BEE SUPPLIES LTD.

*Beeswax
Candle Supplies*

P.O. Box 9, 4556 Victoria St.
METCALFE, ONT.
K0A 2P0

Have a honey of a day!

Miel Labonté Honey Inc.



HONEY WANTED

530, rang Nault, Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada, G6P 7R5

PH: (819) 758 3877 FAX: (819) 758 9386

jm.labonte@labonteinc.com

HAWMAN CONTAINERS

1-705-719-6042

hawmancs@bellnet.ca
www.hawman.com



*Your source for all your container needs
Clean and ready to go.*



Open top steel drums 45 Imperial, 55 US gallons can be painted any color.

New 45 gallon open top poly HDPE UN certification drums.

Intermediate Bulk Containers 275 gallon UN rating Group II and III.

APINOVAR

Key Tool

for an Easy

Control

of

Varroa



*Now with
stainless
steel
wire mesh*

Monitor easily

MADE IN CANADA



distributors:

F. W. Jones & Sons
Alberta Honey Producers

Treat efficiently by the "flash" method

More information including
IPM guide and schedule on our web site

www.apinovar.com

Honey Market Survey Summary

Canadian Honey Council Trade Show

Green Isle Consulting, Victoria BC

Introduction

As part of its Agricultural Marketing Program (AMP) Project, the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) participated in the American Beekeeping Federation Convention and Trade Show held in Orlando January 12th to 17th, 2010. All CHC Directors worked at the CHC trade show booth during the 5-day event.

The CHC booth provided information on Canadian honey and on the work of the Canadian Honey Council in order to



Geoff Todd with his wife Johana and Garry McCue (centre) collecting surveys. Photo: ABF

1) raise the profile of the “Pure Honey 100% Canadian” brand in the American market, and to

2) learn more about American honey consumer habits, attitudes and preferences.

Five kinds of Canadian honey were displayed and offered as samples, and visitors to the booth were asked to respond to a Honey Market Survey Questionnaire. The results of this survey, summarized below,

point to some important considerations for marketing “Pure Honey 100% Canadian” and could also help focus Canadian Honey Council research efforts to establish Canadian honey as a superior product for discerning American consumers.

Survey Respondents

It is important to note that Trade Show attendees do not, by any means, represent the average American honey consumer. The 260 people who took time to complete the survey are almost all knowledgeable about the honey

industry and many produce their own honey rather than buying it elsewhere.

Of those who completed survey questionnaires, about half were female (48.5%) and half were male (51.5%). At least 89% were associated with the honey industry and at least 86% were American.

Other respondents were visitors from Canada (4.5%), Mexico and elsewhere. The average age of respondents was about 50 years and, not surprisingly, the average honey consumption per respondent was very high, more than



ten times greater than for the average American consumer.

Honey Preferences

Those who completed a survey questionnaire were offered a choice of 5 different Canadian honey samples: certified organic creamed, blueberry, buckwheat, clover and creamed. Which sample each respondent chose was recorded and the results of their preferred honeys are as follows:

- Blueberry (31%)
- Clover (27%)
- Buckwheat (21%)
- Certified Organic Creamed (11%)
- Creamed (9%)

There are a number of interesting observations about these results. First is the strong preference for blueberry honey that may be a result of the blueberry industry’s very successful efforts to research and report on the health benefits (specifically the antioxidant properties) of blueberries. Second is the dramatic preference (80%) for honey with identified floral sources (blueberry, clover and buckwheat), which reflects



Samples of Pure Honey 100% Canadian. Photo: Geoff Todd



Chair Corey Bacon giving opening address at Orlando conference and asking all attending to complete the CHC survey.
Photo: ABF

respondents' comments (respondents often wrote that certain Canadian honeys - fireweed, buckwheat, and clover are mentioned specifically - were particularly excellent). Third is the low preference (11%) for organic honey, which is surprising in view of the caché "organic" tends to currently possess. Moreover, several respondents note that they seek honeys that are raw, unfiltered, free of chemicals, pure and/or clean. Fourth is the very low preference (9%) for creamed honey, which is not universally reflected in the respondents' comments (several respondents praise Canadian creamed honey as "good" and "the best").

Honey Buying Habits

When asked where they purchase their honey, a slight majority of respondents (54%) indicated that they are honey producers and consume their own product rather than buying other honey. Most other respondents buy honey at their local farmer's market (18%) and directly from a honey farm (15%), while the remainder purchase honey at grocery (7%) or big box stores (3%).

Respondents were given the opportunity to rate (on a 5-point scale, with 5 being most important) the influence of 7 honey characteristics:

honey colour, style, price, origin, quality, floral source and "organic."

The results (out of a possible 5 points) are as follows:

(Country of) Origin (4.3)
Quality (3.8)
Floral Source (3.8)
Style (3.5)
Colour (3.2)
Price (2.8)
Organic (2.4)

Here again, organic fares surprisingly poorly; price too seems to matter little (this may also be because most respondents are producing their own honey rather than buying it). Quality and floral source (as evidenced by the samples selected) were second in importance, with style and then colour slightly lagging. Regarding honey colour, several respondents refer positively to Canadian honey as "light" in colour (and in taste and texture). The most important factor among respondents is for origin, which is further supported as 89% of respondents indicated they had a preference for country of origin, though not all stated which countries' honey they preferred. Of those respondents who indicated one or more of their origin preferences, most (104 out of 141) chose American honey as a first choice. The most popular second choice for honey origin was Canada (100 out of 141). The most common third choice for country of origin was Australia (41 out of 141), with Mexico, Argentina and Brazil following (21, 14 and 11, respectively, out of 141). An origin not listed on the survey, which was mentioned by 16 respondents, is "local."

Overall, 100% of respondents would buy American honey, while 75% would buy Canadian honey and 18% would buy Australian honey. Interestingly, of respondents who indicated that they had a "country of origin preference," 37% indicated they would not buy Chinese honey, 22% would not buy Indian honey, and about 9% indicated they would not buy honey from either Mexico or Argentina. Only one respondent

would not buy honey from Canada, but it is worth noting that another respondent "has heard" that Canadian honey sold in the United States is in fact Chinese honey sold under a Canadian label "to get around US import quotas."

Written Comments

Of the 260 total respondents, 161 wrote comments about Canadian honey. These comments, in general, are positive, though nearly 20% of respondents say they have never tried Canadian honey.

Respondents like Canadian honey for several reasons:

- 1) because of its "great," "good," "the best" flavour (particularly of specific varieties such as fireweed)
- 2) because of its reputation as being held to high national standards in terms of "quality" and "purity"
- 3) because Canada and the United States are "neighbours"
- 4) because the honey produced in both nations tends to be "similar," and
- 5) because the respondent has a personal connection with Canada or with Canadian honey producers.

One respondent's comment is worth displaying here in full, in view of the implications for the Canadian honey industry as a whole. Kirsten Traynor, a Humboldt Scholar at Arizona State University (Phoenix) writes:

"Good luck promoting Canadian honey. I think educating your customer is of utmost importance. The US and Canada should unite to test the antibacterial properties of North American honey. I'm sure we can produce a honey that rivals Manuka in its medicinal properties. I recently spent 18 months researching the European honey industry and have completed the final draft on a book on the scientifically demonstrated health benefits of honey. We need more medical research in this field. Honey is a functional food with properties far exceeding pomegranates, but we don't have

the marketing power behind us to drive consumer demand.”

Survey Implications

As about 80% of Canadian exported honey is sold to the USA, the results of this survey may point the Canadian honey industry and the CHC in new marketing and research directions.

First and foremost, this survey's data reinforces what Kirsten Traynor notes in her comment. 20% of respondents to the survey have never tried Canadian honey, and these people are among the most educated of American honey consumers. The vast majority of Americans are thus likely to be even less aware of Canadian honey. In order to appeal to the average American consumer, Canadian producers and exporters will need to work hard to educate US consumers by informing them, first that Canadian honey exists, and second that it is a superior product.

Part of Canadian honey promotion might also correct misinformation (i.e. Canadian honey is low-quality Chinese honey in disguise) by partnering with packers/exporters to ensure that "Pure Honey 100% Canadian" labels appear on all drums and retail containers of exported Canadian honey.

If the Canadian honey industry were to use the results of this survey to market Canadian honey to Americans, several potential elements of a successful advertising campaign emerge. The following keywords appear over and over again in respondents' comments, and are worth considering as starting points for appealing to the American consumer:

- **Light.** Canadian honey has a reputation for light, clear colour and mild, sweet taste.
- **Flavour and Variety.** Respondents praised the excellent flavour of identified floral-source Canadian honeys (including fireweed, buckwheat and clover) and were most interested in blueberry honey as a

sample.

- **Purity.** Canadian honey has a reputation for being pure and clean.
- **Quality and Standards.** Respondents are aware that Canada has stringent standards for honey production and that Canadian honey is of consistently high quality as a result.
- **Neighbours.** Canadian honey is appealing to Americans because Canada and the US are geographically close.
- **Similar.** Respondents find Canadian honey to be similar to familiar US honey.
- **Personal.** Respondents with a personal connection to Canada have a greater interest in trying and praising Canadian honey.

With these keywords in mind, Canadian honey may be particularly appealing to American consumers seeking:

- Honey that tastes and looks like their "ideal honey" (i.e. liquid, golden, clear, mild, sweet)

- Honey from floral sources unique to Canada and thus generally unavailable in the US
- Environmentally-friendly honey from Canada's vast wilderness that is pure, clean and natural
- Honey produced under strict regulatory control and held to high quality standards
- "Local" honey produced by the US' friendliest neighbour

It is also noted that there was an enthusiastic response to the Canadian Honey Council's generosity in providing 5 distinctive and attractive honey samples Trade Show booth. Offering visitors the opportunity of choosing one of the five to take home encouraged them to think about Canadian honey and made them familiar with the "Pure Honey 100% Canadian" label. The popularity of the CHC Orlando Trade Show booth suggests that CHC's participation in future US events could continue to "expand the brand."

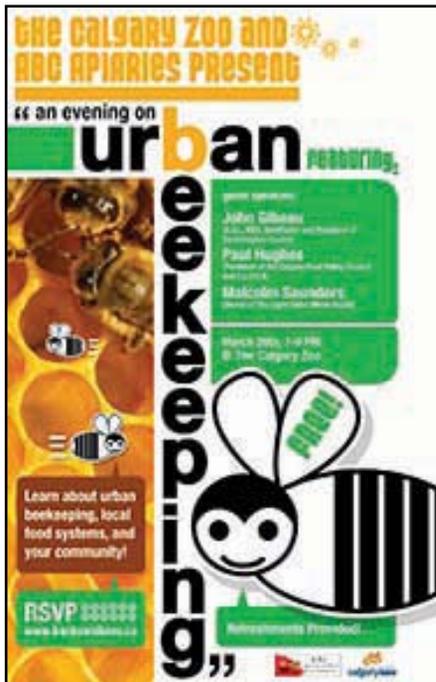


Hawaiian, Australian & Chilean Queens
Plan now • Order Early • Ensure Your Requests
Quality service and reasonable pricing for early season:
splits, re-queening or pollination needs.
Shipping from Toronto
By air (Air Canada) to major Canadian centres.
By courier (Priority Post) to Ontario destinations
Arrival Dates - Through April and May
Confirmed Final Orders - in by March 14, 2010

Early Queen Arrivals - providing queens to beekeepers since 2001
Contact: Peter Mewett
Call: 613 395 3225 - Fax: 613 395 1835
Email: Info@EarlyQueenArrivals.ca - Web: www.EarlyQueenArrivals.ca

Apiaries and Bees For Communities

Eliese Watson, ABC, Calgary AB



pollination of their gardens, improving public education of the important role bees play in our food supply, and ensuring ecological bio diversity.

We are looking to educate the public about the importance of bees in our environments especially urban environments.

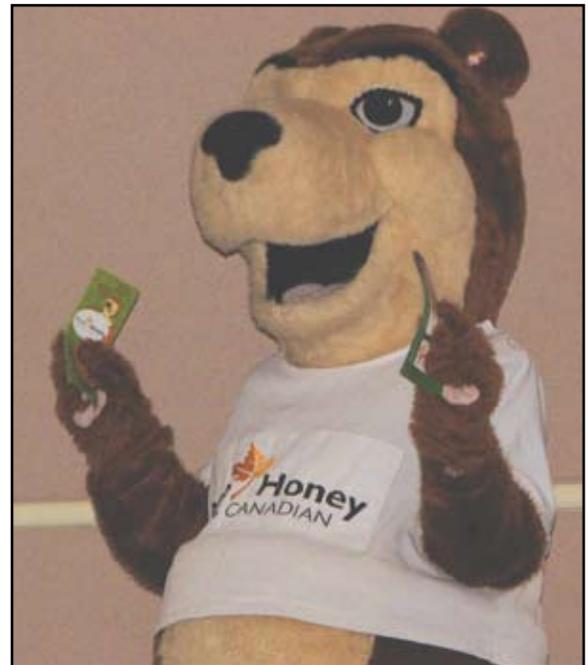
Through education and forums, members of the community will learn how to support ecological bio diversity and sustainability through the development of urban beekeeping.

Our focus is to bring beehives to community gardens and residential gardens alike. We believe this is possible through the use of bar-top beehive management.

Bar-top beehives are type of apiary that is user friendly, movable, and affordable. The bar-top beehives that we have been building look akin to a long birdhouse on stilts. The system works best for small hives because within the community, the size of the brood is easily controlled and the maintenance is easily done with little stress to the bees. Our focus is NOT honey production as an

agricultural byproduct; it is instead the support and education of the environment and healthy bio diversity within communities.

ABC is looking for individuals and communities interested in getting involved with the growing bee-culture in Calgary. We are looking for donations of bee swarms to add to our beautiful hives as well as individuals interested in taking part in the



Pierre the Bear made a surprise visit to the ABC meeting at the Calgary Zoo. Photo: Douglas Clay

development of events and forums.

For more information visit www.backyardbees.ca

Apiaries and Bees For Communities (A.B.C) is a community based organization dedicated to bringing small scale controlled apiaries to community and residential gardens. We think that it is important to have healthy bio diversity of plant and bug life in our communities. Healthy native pollinator populations will ensure that. But, unfortunately, bees are under a profound amount of stresses these days, from pesticides to mono culture crops, to habitat destruction (development of parking lots and lawn installations). By bringing in very small and maintained bee hives, communities are capable of ensuring

"Day of the Honey Bee" Film Jubilee

The theme of this Jubilee is "Status of the Honey Bee in Canada". We are planning to have three guest speakers at this event to speak specifically on the history of the Honey Bee from the time of ancient Egypt to the present with prediction to the honey bee's future, given the current trends of global bee losses, current honey bee losses, causation of current honey bee mortality, current theories explaining their disappearances across Canada, the importance of honey bees to agriculture and the economy

as well as current research trends into Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). We are arranging for a documentary to be played followed by "The Bee Movie". Admission is open to the public and free of charge.

This event will be held at the Roxy Theater, 320 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0X2, ((306) 665-0552) from 1:00pm to 5:00pm Saturday May 29, 2010.

ClintonShane Ekdahl
1 (306) 651 3955
cccsseee@hotmail.co.uk

The Canadian Beekeeping Annual Convention will be held in Galveston Texas. It will be held at the same time as the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference, 4th - 8th January 2011.

PLAN NOW

Location is the San Luis Resort, in the heart of Galveston's Tourist Attractions.

There are 3 hotels in the Resort. The Hilton is the closest hotel to the Galveston Convention Center. Only about 50 steps between facilities. The largest hotel is the San Luis Resort Hotel which is a couple hundred yards away from the Galveston Convention Center where the meetings will be held. The 3rd motel on site is the Holiday Inn which is next door to the San Luis. Both the Hilton and the San Luis are 4 Diamond Hotels with a special Conference price of \$99/night. The Holiday Inn is \$89/night. Complimentary shuttle service will run between all hotels and the convention center.



Photography by Lee DeForke, Jr.

Sponsorship Opportunity

Platinum (\$20,000.00):

- Sponsor Status at CHC events
- Official recognition in CHC publications
- Plaque in appreciation of being a Sponsor
- Recognition in CHC's monthly Newsletter
- Preferred and large location at Annual Trade Shows
- Registration for Research Symposium
- Opportunity to meet with the Board

Gold (15,000.00):

- Sponsor Status at CHC events
- Official recognition in CHC publications
- Plaque in appreciation of being a Sponsor
- Recognition in CHC's monthly Newsletter
- Preferred and large location at Annual Trade Shows
- Registration for Research Symposium

Silver (\$10,000. 00):

- Sponsor Status at CHC events
- Official recognition in CHC publications
- Plaque in appreciation of being a Sponsor
- Recognition in CHC's monthly Newsletter

Bronze (\$5,000.00):

- Sponsor Status at CHC events
- Official recognition in CHC publications
- Plaque in appreciation of being a Sponsor

The Canadian Honey Council, as the national voice of the Canadian honey bee industry, has served the industry for more than 50 years. During this long history the Council has been supported by generous donations from many individuals and organizations. To strengthen its relationships with current sponsors and encourage new sponsors, the Canadian Honey Council has created a Sponsorship Program to offer individuals and organizations opportunities to support the national organization and receive specified benefits and recognition in return.

The purpose of the Program is to expand participation to those who wish to demonstrate their support for the day-to-day work of the Canadian Honey Council.

There are several types of sponsorships and the benefits vary with each.

We need your support. If you would like to be a sponsor of the Canadian Honey Council please contact our office or call 403-208-7141.





The proof is in the frame!

Made from 100% Natural Vegetable Ingredients

Contains:

No Pollen - No Hive Products - No Animal Products
- No Soy Products - No Chemicals

Formulated to closely emulate the natural diet of
Honeybees

Available Dry and in Patties

Available from:

Ellingson's Inc. – 1.888.273.2300

Cell - 1.320.760.6769

www.FeedBee.com



Above, picture taken
February 14, 2008 (TX)

Below, picture taken March
18, 2008 (TX)



Classifieds:

Bee Supplies for Sale

Bee Supplies- Feeder Pails: Dawson Creek (BC)

For Sale: 2.5 gallon feed pails complete with lid & screened insert. Reply to: old_rifleman@yahoo.ca

Beekeeping Supplies - Mite Away Quick Strips (Canada)

NEW Mite-Away Quick Strips™, formic acid varroa mite treatment. 2 strips per hive, 7 day treatment. 95% mite kill, kills mites under the cap.

Available across Canada spring 2010 from major beekeeping suppliers.

Visit www.miteaway.com for a distributor near you. NOD Apiary Products Ltd., 1-866-483-2929, details@miteaway.com.

Bee Supplies - Silicon Moulds for Candles: Petawawa (ON)

Over 18 years selling high quality silicon moulds for making beeswax candles. The moulds do not require lubrication. Easy to follow instructions included in \$5.00 catalogue. Cost of the catalogue is refunded on your first order. Contact: E. & R. Schmitt, 3468A Petawawa Blvd. Petawawa, ON K8H 1X3. Phone: Business 613-687-4335

Honey supplies - Foundation for honey comb: Fairview (AB)

For all your foundation needs, any size wired or without,

organic or conventional, place orders by phone 780-835-2115 or fax 780-835-2873 or email tegart@telusplanet.net.

Honey Bees For Sale

Honey Bees For Sale- 4-Frame nucs and queens: Lanark (ON)

4-frame nucs available mid-May, queen cells ready for pick-up June and July, mated queens shipped from mid-June to September. Contact Phil Laflamme, Highlands Honey, RR 3, Lanark, Ontario, KOG 1K0. Phone 613-267-4614 or highlandshoney@storm.ca.

Honey Bees for sale- Hives and Super Nucs: Winnipeg (MB)

300 outdoor overwintered colonies and super nucs (10 frame nucleus colony with minimum 4 frames bees and laying queen). Available mid May to June. Bees inspected annually, disease free history. BeeMaid contract to supply honey can be transferred on approval. Call Rod Boudreau 204-885-3344.

Wanted to Buy

Wanted - Borage or buckwheat honey: Toronto (ON)

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

Wanted - Round Comb Honey Equipment: Milo (AB)

Used Round Comb Honey Equipment.
Supers, Frames, etc. Cobana/Ross Round Size.

Best Price. We pick up. 403-599-3953.

Summit Gardens Honey, Milo, Alberta.
www.summitgardenshoney.com

Wanted – Bees Wax for candles: (ON)

Light Yellow rendered beeswax cappings.

Email: busybeewax@busybeebeeswax.ca,
Phone: 613-478-3784

Contact: Ian or JoAnn Fraser.

Use round comb section equipment by Ross Rounds, Inc. and see how this low cost investment can increase your profits.

- 8 oz. Sells For Same As 12 oz.
- Minimal Labor
- Bees Fill Completely
- No Breakage And No Propolis
- Attractive Durable Package

To purchase, contact your dealer.
For more information call
toll-free: 877.901.4989

**ROSS
ROUNDS**TM
www.rossrounds.com
PO Box 11583, Albany, NY 12211



Announcement

BASF and NOD Apiary Products partner for bee health

BASF SE Crop Protection, Ludwigshafen, Germany and NOD Apiary Products, Sterling Ontario.

BASF and NOD Apiary Products have announced a partnership to bring to European beekeepers a new product that controls the *Varroa* destructor, a parasitic mite that has been identified by independent institutions as a major contributor to the declining number of bee hives on a global scale.

BASF and NOD are investing in "Mite Away™ Quick Strips" (MAQS), which target *Varroa* mites while they feed on developing baby bees.

The backbone of this easy-to-use strip is a film made of BASF's biodegradable plastic Ecoflex®, which is filled with the miticide formic acid in a saccharide (plant sugar) formulation. The strip's secret: Designed to penetrate the brood cap, it stops the mite where it reproduces.

"Through our work with scientists, farmers and beekeepers in the Bee Biodiversity Network in France, we have gained a broad understanding of the factors impacting bee health," says Sandrine Leblond, France-based BASF bee expert. The Network has delivered practical, tested solutions to improve bee nutrition, but to date there is no easy way to control the *Varroa* mite. Bringing MAQS to the market will help fill this gap, supporting beekeepers and BASF's farmer customers.

The strips reproduce a defense mechanism observed in nature. Formic acid occurs in the venom of bees and the sting of many insects, such as ants. Nonetheless, it is the convenience and effectiveness of MAQS that gives beekeepers' peace of mind. The strip can be applied right through the season and beekeepers also enjoy the benefit of a single application product with a short treatment period (7 days versus 42). In product trials in the US, Canada and France, MAQS have controlled up to 97 percent of *Varroa* mites.

Paying tribute to NOD's entrepreneurial spirit, Markus Heldt,

www.countryfields.ca
1848 Route 112
Upper Coverdale, N.B.
E1J 1Y5
Tel. (506) 387-6804
Fax (506) 386-2599
E-Mail: info@countryfields.ca



George & Ruth
Wheatley
Country Fields
Beekeeping Supplies Ltd.
EVERYTHING FOR THE BEEKEEPER & MORE
Containers Candle Supplies Honey

President of BASF's Crop Protection division said, "We are pleased to be part of a positive solution that addresses the important issue of bee health, which is of central importance to beekeepers and farmers. This is a great example of partnership on many levels. The solution was co-designed not just by BASF and NOD, but importantly by the people who experience the problem first hand – beekeepers. Within BASF, we also used expertise and products from across a number of different divisions."

David VanderDussen, CEO of NOD Apiary Products said, "I am excited about this relationship and I am very pleased with BASF's great support. While our companies are very different in terms of size and focus, we share common values and are both passionate about the importance of biodiversity and the protection of the honeybee."

The strips are already on the market in Canada and the U.S., and authorities in Hawaii requested and received a "Special Local Needs" registration to ensure that beekeepers obtain access to the solution as quickly as possible. BASF and NOD plan to work with registrations authorities in Europe to make MAQS available to the European beekeeping community within 2 years.

According to the terms of the agreement, BASF will provide substantial support to facilitate a global product launch, including on-going technical and regulatory assistance over a five year period. Both companies currently co-own the patent, with BASF committed to providing support for product registration and distribution within the EU.

BEEKEEPERS PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

SHERRIF



ref: S21
vest
& veil



ref: S28
smock



The ORIGINAL

ref: S36
Apiarist
All-in-One
size: XS to 5X

S36: the ORIGINAL Apiarist suit



ref: S41
jacket

size:
S to 5X

Apiarist suit
as worn by
Honey Queen
Ceri Collingborn



Manufacturer of Fine Beesuits for Optimum Performance **The**

ALBERTA HONEY PRODUCERS CO-OP Ltd - www.beemaid.com

ALBERTA: ph (780) 962 - 5573 fax (780) 962 - 1653 cmarion@beemaid.com

FLYING DUTCHMAN - flydutch@telus.ca NANAIMO BC: ph (250) 390 - 2313 fax 390 - 5180

COUNTRYFIELDS - info@countryfields.ca NB: ph (506) 387 - 6804 fax (506) 386 - 2599

F W JONES SON Ltd - info@fwjones.com QUEBEC: ph (450) 248-3323 fax (450) 248 - 2592

B J Sherriff - England Ph + 44 1872 863304 Fax + 44 1872 865267

bjsherriff.com beesuits.com beegift.com e-mail: sales@beegifts.com

**PROVEN
PROTECTION**



**IN YOUR BUSINESS,
PRECAUTIONS ARE A WAY
OF LIFE. DON'T OVERLOOK
THE MOST OBVIOUS ONE.**

Apistan® anti-*varroa* mite strips are an essential part of any *varroa* mite control program.

- The convenience of no-mess strips.
- Easy-to-follow application.
- Fluvalinate, the active ingredient in Apistan® is released at a constant, controlled rate, targeting *varroa* as they emerge from brood cells.
- Tough on mites. Gentle on bees.
- Won't leave a residue in honey.
- Economical, Health Canada approved *varroa* miticide.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT WWW.APISTAN.COM OR CALL 1-800-263-2740.



Cook's Bee Supplies

A complete line of Beekeeper's Supplies
Quality & Service for over 70 years
91 Edward St., Aurora, Ontario L4G 1W1
Phone/Fax 905-727-4811 1-888-645-9722
A CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR DADANT & SONS



WIPE OUT YOUR MITE PROBLEMS

Safe and least expensive method for applying formic acid to control bee mites in honeybee colonies. Available at your local beekeeping supplier or call:

Telephone (519) 847-5333 Fax (519) 847-5340
E-mail: dbryans@xcelco.on.ca

BETTER BEE SUPPLIES

265 AVENUE RD., CAMBRIDGE ON N1R 5S4
Phone (519) 621-7430
A complete line of beekeeping supplies.

VESPER TRANSPORT LTD.

Fully reconditioned and #1 Quality Export Drums - Offering custom trucking across western Canada and western states.
Office/Cory 250-499-5773 - Lee 250-499-5753 -
Fax 250-499-5752



PLANET BEE HONEY FARM TOURS & GIFTS

5011 Bella Vista Road
Vernon, B.C. V1H 1A1
Phone 250 542-8088
email: info@planetbee.com
website: www.planetbee.com

Retail / Wholesale & Distributor Pricing, Re-sellers Wanted

Specialty Honey, Pollen, Propolis, Royal Jelly, Filtered Beeswax

Western Apicultural Society 2010

August 30 - September 2

Red Lion Hotel, Salem, OR

See the WAS website for Preliminary Program, information about Salem, and a Registration form: groups.ucanr.org/WAS/ and click on "Conference".

VANCOUVER ISLAND APIARY SUPPLY
Beekeeping Supplies Equipment & Glassware
Larry & Marilyn Lindahl
6456 Cowichan Valley Hwy
PO Box 1491 - Lake Cowichan BC V0R 2G0 -Canada
250-749-3800 - www.thebeestore.com



PARADIS VALLEY HONEY



Custom Pollen cleaning and drying services
Fresh frozen pollen available
Purchase of Canadian Pollen

Call Danny or Ginette Paradis
1-866-624-8175
Tel. (780) 359-2772, Fax (780) 359-2773
PO Box 30 Watino, Alberta T0H 3R0

www.apinutrition.com
email: forpollen@gmail.com



QUALITY HONEY WANTED

CAPILANO CANADA INC. Trois Rivières, Quebec, CANADA G9A 5M6
Tel: 819 378 8406 Email: honey@capilano.com.au

MENTHOL BOARDS

Please order early

HAMILTON BEE RANCH LTD.

Box 1169, Nipawin SK S0E 1E0

Phone 306-862-4194

Fax 306-862-4193

Producers of Northern Blossom Honey

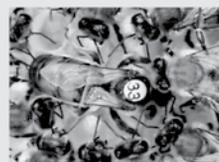
With Pilgrim Russian Stock

You could obtain the following:

1. Double selection: mothers & drones
2. Reduced treatments
3. Lower varroa count
4. Superior hygienic behavior
5. Excellent honey production

Implement integrated pest management.

Adopt the Pilgrim **recommendations**



Pilgrim Honey House
François Petit
613-577-6790
brfrank@pilgrimventure.org
www.pilgrimventure.org



GIVE YOUR BEES THE BEST NUTRITION!

Bees require proper nutrition to produce new bees and to increase longevity. Here at Mann Lake we have been involved in bee nutrition for over 20 years - supplying the best feed products at the most economical prices available!

Don't be taken in by hype and high prices.

Nutrition is based on good science.

- **Bee-Pro®** gives your bees the best nutrients available for the production of larval food.
- **Bee-Pro®** is a high protein pollen substitute which supplies the lipids, minerals, and B-complex vitamins honeybees need to produce larval food.
- **Bee-Pro®** is specially formulated for the commercial beekeeper feeding syrup as the source of carbohydrates in the bee's diet.
- **Bee-Pro®** can be fed in dry form in a feeder box placed in the yard or made into patties by mixing with high fructose corn syrup or sugar syrup and placed in the hive.
- **Bee-Pro®** is free of all contaminants. Natural pollens may contain pesticide residue and disease carrying bacteria (foulbrood.)
- **Bee-Pro®** can be used for building colonies in late winter or early spring, to prepare for pollination and to maintain or increase brood production prior to and after honey flow.



Save time and money with our pre-made supplement patties. They can go from box to hive in seconds! Feed your bees in early spring and fall to increase colony numbers.



Authorized Dealers:

Manitoba Cooperative

(204) 783-2240

Alberta Honey Producers

(780) 962-5573



800-880-7694

Mann Lake Ltd.

www.mannlakeltd.com