



The

# BEE CAUSE

The Official Publication of the Red River  
Apiarists' Association

<http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/>

November 2003

Free to Members

Volume 8: Issue 3

## Important Dates:

Next Meeting Date is: **18 November 2003**

7:30 PM Upstairs Meeting Room

**Program:** The topic is Gadget Night. Everyone is invited to bring an item to show and tell and share with other members.

## Meeting Location:

River Heights Community Centre  
1370 Grosvenor St.  
(Intersection of Oak & Grosvenor  
Door Prizes will be offered, Guests are  
welcome and free coffee will be available.

The Bee Cause Newsletter is published by the  
**Red River Apiarists' Association** eight times  
per year excluding June, July, August and  
December.

Membership in the **Red River Apiarists' Association** is \$20.00 per year and includes a  
subscription to the **Bee Cause**.

**Web Site at:** <http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/>

## President's Comments

What a GREAT Honey Show at St. Vital Shopping Centre the weekend of 17 October! Hopefully you saw the promotion on "A" Channel done by Charles on the 15th. This was certainly a lively introduction to the weekend show. The interview was held at about 7:10 a.m. and again around 8:05 a.m., for those of us watching TV early in the morning. St. Vital were pleased that several customers called wanting information on the location of our show. Thanks to Charles for heading up the show this year.

My THANKS goes out to all the volunteers. Our display is still quite impressive. The Bee Maid trophy for the Champion Exhibitor goes to Charles and Verna Polcyn, Winnipeg. Congratulations to all winning entries in the show.

Our Observation Hive continues to be a buzz with activity. A group from Osborne South Nursery School was excited to hear the "Buzz" from the "Live Bees", as they placed their ear close to one of the air holes of the observation hive, or felt the heat they make! This is in part due to the helpfulness of our members providing posi-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## RRAA Executive Members

**President:** Jim Campbell  
Ph 467-5246  
Box 234  
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0  
Email: jaycam@mb.sympatico.ca

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Heather Laird  
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**Treasurer:** Dennis Ross  
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Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0  
Email: rosskr@mb.sympatico.ca

**MBA Delegate:** Jim Campbell  
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**Past President:** Ron Boudreau  
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**Newsletter & Website:** Doug Henry  
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*(Continued from page 1)*

tive "Honey" information to the public.

The Honey crop has been sold for most people. What a great year as we continue to see sales in the \$2.50 to \$3.00 per pound. How long can this last?? As usual, our members continue to share their successes and experiences. Thanks to those discussing the past honey season at our last meeting. Lots of things to contend with as we heard from during Rhéal's inspection presentation.

All beekeepers need to be diligent in checking for AFB and Varroa. This is one reason we continue to have information sessions on the practical elements for maintaining hive health. Most of our members are willing to lend a hand whenever you find something you are not sure of. During this past summer I had several people drop by my place to have a look into the hives, so they would be comfortable with their own observations. On one particular sunny day, we managed to look into my "Russian" hive, and were able to easily get right into the brood box to watch the queen in action. Not something we usually do in July is it?

At our November meeting, we plan to hear from several people about gadgets or things they have tried during the past while. Some things work, while others are a disappointment. We learn most from the things that go wrong. This usually generates lots of discussion. Why not bring something along?

See you at our November 18th meeting!!!

Jim Campbell  
President RRAA

**Red River Apiarists' Association  
Minutes of the General Meeting Oct. 14, 2003**

Jim Campbell opened the meeting with 24 members and guests present.

**Minutes:** A motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting, circulated with the September Bee Cause, was made by Ron Rudiak and seconded by Rhéal Lafrenière. The motion was carried.

**Manitoba Beekeepers' Honey Show:** Jim reminded everyone that a supply of jars is still available for those wishing to display honey in the honey show.

- Jim has been working on the presentation to be given at the MBA annual meeting in November.
- The program for the evening will be an update on the Provincial bee inspection and mite levels by Rhéal Lafrenière.
- The program for November 18th will be gadget night. Jim encouraged everyone to bring along that new piece of equipment or tool that they have made or otherwise acquired.
- Door prize is a tic-tac-toe game donated by Heather Laird.
- Dennis Ross, Jim Campbell, Rhéal Lafrenière and Charles Polcyn are on the RRAA nominating committee for this year. There are several vacant positions to be filled.
- Charles Polcyn gave the members an update on the honey show. The focus will be on the celebration of the MBA's centennial and the RRAA's 40th anniversary. Charles will promote beekeeping and the Honey Show twice during the "Big Breakfast" show on the morning of October 15th, Channel 13.

**The following bills were presented for payment:**

- Buttons for prize ribbons \$76.57
  - Ribbons \$111.16
  - Posters \$193.80
  - Postage and misc. expenses
- Moved by Ted Rebenchuk and seconded by Brian Shewfelt to pay the bills as presented. Carried.

**Nov. 17 MBA annual meeting:** The MBA will conduct an election for 8 directors.

**MBA Convention and CHC Program:** Jan. 26 and 27 will be a CHC executive meeting with the 28th being open to all members. A reception will be held during the evening. On Jan. 29 the focus will be presentations on integrated pest management followed by a fund raiser for research. Jim encouraged everyone to attend these informative sessions. Jan. 30 will be presentations on market and trade issues.

For further information, visit the MBA and CHC websites.

**Discussion:** Winter preparation, the publication "Beekeeping for Dummies" available at Chapters and the report from Vancouver Island regarding bee movement from the mainland.

**Loonie Draw:** The prize for the Loonie draw was won by Steve Rohatynsky.

Ron Rudiak, Secretary

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**Baking Competition Winners**

**COOKIES:**

- 1 Erin Polcyn
- 2 Diane Miner
- 3 Lorna Miner

**MUFFINS:**

- 1 Lorna Miner
- 2 Margaret Younka
- 3 Diane Miner

**QUICKBREADS:**

- 1 Margaret Younka
- 2 Margaret Kunz
- 3 Lorna Miner

**CAKES:**

- 1 Erin Polcyn
- 2 Verna Polcyn
- 3 Lorna Miner

**SQUARES:**

- 1 Margaret Younka
- 2 Verna Polcyn

**PIES:**

- 1 Lorna Miner

Ron & Shirley Rudiak

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**Manitoba Beekeepers' Association Centennial  
Honey Show Competition Winners 2003  
St. Vital Shopping Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
October 17-19, 2003**

**Liquid White Honey:**

1. Jim Campbell
2. Charles Polcyn
3. David Dawson
4. Ron Rudiak
5. Dennis Ross
6. Judith Roe
7. Ken Fehler

**Creamed Honey:**

1. Ron Rudiak
2. Jim Campbell
3. David Dawson
4. Ray Hourd
5. Charles Polcyn
6. Ken Fehler

**Sweet Taste:**

1. David Dawson
2. Charles Polcyn
3. Jim Campbell
4. Ray Hourd
5. Ken Fehler

**Sunflower Honey:**

1. Charles Polcyn
2. David Dawson
3. Jim Campbell
4. Dennis Ross

**Buckwheat Honey:**

1. Ron Rudiak
2. Charles Polcyn

**Beeswax:**

1. David Dawson
2. Ron Rudiak

**Chunk Honey:**

1. Charles Polcyn
2. Ray Hourd

**Comb Honey:**

1. Charles Polcyn

**Frame of Honey:**

1. Ron Rudiak

**Baking with Honey - Muffins:**

1. Lorna Miner
2. Margaret Younka
3. Diane Miner

**Baking with Honey - Cookies:**

1. Erin Polcyn
2. Diane Miner
3. Lorna Miner

**Baking - Quick/Yeast Bread:**

1. Margaret Younka
1. Margaret Kunz
2. Lorna Miner

**Baking with Honey - Cakes:**

1. Erin Polcyn
2. Verna Polcyn
3. Lorna Miner

**Baking with Honey - Pies:**

1. Lorna Miner
2. Verna Polcyn

**Baking - Dainties + Squares**

1. Margaret Younka

## **Nominating Committee Seeks Names**

Our Nominating Committee has been busy contacting members of RRAA. It's Election time again!! As we approach our annual meeting on January 13, 2004, a slate of officers is needed for presentation to our members. For 2004 we need a President, Editor, Treasurer, and Vice Pres. At the October general meeting two executive and two members at large formed the Nominating Committee. Jim Campbell, Dennis Ross, Rhéal Lafrenière, and Charles Polcyn, are the members of the 2004 Nominating Committee.

During 2004, the RRAA celebrates 41 years as an organization. To assist in the programs and meetings, a full slate of candidates for the officers is being sought. If you feel you would like to contribute by serving on the executive, let Jim (or any of the committee) know. Call him at 204-467-5246. The final report is presented at our annual meeting. Perhaps this will be a good year for you to join our team.

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## **Manitoba Award Winners**

Congratulations to our own RRAA competitors Charles Polcyn and Jim Campbell, for their Honey entries at the Canadian Western Agribition, in Regina, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, in Toronto, this year. They have both done well in demonstrating the supreme calibre of Manitoba Honey!

The RWAF results are now official and posted on their web site [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org) for all to see. You will find that Charles has captured second place in the Champion of Champion category, and Jim took the Lorna Robinson Trophy. Both these guys won similar awards in the 2002 competition as well. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see their placings for our own Manitoba Honey Show. In addition, Jim captured a first place for Liquid Honey in Regina. Clearly these people will need more wall space to display their colourful awards.

## **ITEMS FOR SALE**

Beekeeping operation for sale, consisting of 10 hives of bees, 10 frame Maxant extractor, bee blower, tanks, knife, pails, etc. Call Ted Rebenchuk at 204-642-1338, Gimli for details.

Plastic Honey Pails - Sizes from 15 kg to 32 kg. Ready to use. Perfect for storing honey or many other uses. Reasonably priced. Call Charles Polcyn at 284-7064

## **ITEMS WANTED**

Wanted: 2 or 4 frame extractor. Send a message to rafnson @ mts.net or call Rory Rafnson (204) 334-3581, East St. Paul.

Wanted: Solar wax melter; large enough to hold queen excluders. Contact Doug Henry at 757-4694 or email at [dhenri@ieeee.org](mailto:dhenri@ieeee.org).

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**Next Meeting:** The next Annual General Meeting of RRAA will be held on Tuesday 13 January 2004. Business to include Elections, Budget Approval, and Celebrating RRAA 40<sup>th</sup> year end.

## Honey Show News

1) Honey Show Volunteers: The honey show at St. Vital centre went off smoothly with a great display and the help of these volunteers who provided information to the public, as well as assisted in special events related to the show. My thanks, as the 2003 Honey Show Chairperson, go to the following RRAA volunteers who found the time to make this Centennial Year a difference: Dennis & Linda Ross, Fred Jones, Rhéal Lafrenière, Albert Anderson, Walter Wright, Ted Scheuneman, Emil Rekrut, Sharon Kletke, Henry Weibe, Dave Dawson, Judith Roe, Ken Fehler, Dan La Coq, Ted Rebenchuk, Heather Laird, Brian Shewfelt, Verna Polcyn, Jim & Barbara Campbell, Ron & Shirley Rudiak, Donna & Rae Hourd. Particular thanks to those members of the RRAA executive who did so much to make this years show outstanding. You all contributed to make the 2003 Honey Show a success.

2) The Fabled St. Vital Mall Honey Baking Judges Honey Identification Competition of 2003 After the judging of the Honey Baking competition is completed, the 4 judges are asked to don blindfolds, and in full view of the mall public, identify several different types of honey produced in Manitoba this year.

This years baking judges were: Ron Robinson of the CBC Radio Weekend Morning Show, Judy Storey- Home Economist with the Dept of Agriculture, Tammy Jones of the Farm show with Golden West Radio from Southern Manitoba, and David Dawson- Beekeeper and Food Connoisseur from La Broquerie. Sadly, Ron Robinson had to miss the blindfold honey identification session due to prior commitments at CBC, so a volunteer from the mall public, Herb Spencer of Sisler High School, took Ron's place.

The 11 honey choices the blindfolded quar-

ter had to possibly identify were as follows: Basswood, Borage Buckwheat, Creamed Honey, Clover, Dandelion, Golden Rod Raspberry, Sunflower, Wildflower, & Wild Orchard. Henry Weibe selected seven choices for the judges to identify. The results were as follows: a tie for first between David Dawson & Tammy Jones with 3 correct, and another tie for second with 2 correct, Judy Storey and Herb Spencer. The three correct honey choices were: Golden Rod, Buckwheat and Sunflower. My thanks to the honey baking judges for a job well done and being able and willing to undergo the famous St. Vital Mall Blindfold Honey Identification Competition.

Charles Polcyn

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## Importation of US Queen Bees

It's beginning to look as the border may soon be open to the importation of American queen bees. Unfortunately there was only room to include the covering letter from Heather Clay to the Canadian Honey Council on this subject.

The whole article can be read on the web by going to:

<http://www.honeycouncil.ca/users/folder.asp?FolderID=2395>

## Editor's Comments

This will my last edition as editor of the Newsletter. It's been a short three years and I have enjoyed doing it but I have a lot of things on the go right now that demand my time so I'm packing it in. Best Wishes to all for the festive season.

Doug Henry

Canadian Honey Council  
Conseil Canadien Du Miel  
234-5149 Country Hills Blvd NW  
Calgary AB T3A 5K8

28 October 2003

Dr Bill Anderson  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
59 Camelot Drive  
Ottawa ON K1A 0Y9

Dear Dr Anderson

The Canadian Honey Council (CHC), the national representative of Canadian beekeepers, convened an ad hoc committee of industry stakeholders October 21-22 in Kelowna BC. The goal of the committee was to bring together expert opinion of the major stakeholders (industry, provincial and federal governments) to develop industry recommendations for import conditions that address the health and environmental concerns of the bee industry.

The results of that meeting are attached for your information. The recommendations for importation conditions were unanimous but were prefaced with one major concern. All provinces would like to have a partnership agreement that allows the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to share information with the provincial apiculturists regarding the location of queen importers. This will allow the provinces to conduct traceability, if needed, to manage risks that could arise from any importations.

Several provinces have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CFIA to streamline food safety, inspection, and animal and plant health activities. A similar agreement regarding honeybee importation could help our industry to move forward and get unanimous support for the importation of queens from continental USA.

We look forward to an early response from the CFIA regarding the issue of traceability. The CFIA response will help the provinces to make their decision of supporting the proposal to amend the regulations for importing queens.

Yours truly,



Heather Clay  
CHC National Coordinator

CC: Import Meeting Working Group: Wink Howland President CHC, Medhat Nasr, AB Provincial Apiculturist and Rhéal Lafrenière, MB Provincial Apiculturist.

NOV 2003

**MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
2004 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____	COMPANY NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____	POSTAL CODE _____
TELEPHONE _____	
NUMBER OF COLONIES TO BE OPERATED IN 2004 _____	

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**    NEW \_\_\_\_\_    RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

**Is the information that you provided on your registration form still current:**    Yes     No

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$75.00 BASIC FEE, PLUS \$0.25/COLONY (TO A MAXIMUM OF 1,000 COLONIES)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE TO OUT-OF-PROVINCE BEEKEEPERS  
AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.  
NOT AVAILABLE TO MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS WITH 50 OR MORE COLONIES

**CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL**    NEW \_\_\_\_\_    RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - \$40.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1 - 99 COLONIES - \$40.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

100 - 499 COLONIES - \$75.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

500 and up COLONIES - \$150.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

INDUSTRY RELATED BUSINESSES \$200 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS**    NEW \_\_\_\_\_    RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$133.75 per year (including 7% GST)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BEE RESEARCH FUNDS**

BARRY FINGLER MEMORIAL FUND (Manitoba Beekeepers' Association)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CANADIAN BEE RESEARCH FUND (Canadian Honey Council)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**JOURNALS - THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MBA MEMBERS ONLY**

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL - \$55.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BEE CULTURE - \$53.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CANADIAN BEEKEEPING - \$21.40 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SPEEDY BEE - \$28.00 per year    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by: CASH \_\_\_\_\_    CHEQUE \_\_\_\_\_    TOTAL AMOUNTS    \$                     

I request that the above amount be deducted from my account at the  
Manitoba Co-operative Honey Producers Limited.  
THERE IS NO "AUTOMATIC" DEDUCTION FOR PAST MEMBERS.

Please signify by initialing here. \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_    SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed application together with payment to:  
**Manitoba Beekeepers' Association**





**63<sup>rd</sup> CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL  
98<sup>th</sup> MANITOBA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL APICULTURISTS  
CONVENTION  
HOTEL FORT GARRY - WINNIPEG  
JANUARY 26 - 30, 2004**

**ITINERARY**

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>Monday January 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CHC Directors' Business Meeting (8:30am - 5:00pm) CAPA Business Meeting (8:30am - 5:00pm)</b>		
<b>Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CHC Directors' Business Meeting (8:30am - 3:00pm) CAPA Business Meeting (8:30am - 3:00pm) Registration (1:00pm - 5:00pm)</b>		<b>Trade Show Registration (7:00pm - 9:00pm) Prov./Fed./Committee Reports (7:30pm - 9:30pm)</b>
<b>Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trade Show Registration (8:30am - 5:00pm) CHC General Business Meeting (9:00am - 5:00pm)</b>		<b>Trade Show Reception - MBA Centennial Celebration (7:00pm - 10:00pm)</b>
<b>Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Registration (8:30am - 5:00pm) Trade Show Research Symposium - IPM in Beekeeping (9:00am-5:00pm)</b>		<b>Fundraiser Banquet - Roast/Awards Ceremony &amp; Auction (6:30pm - 9:30pm)</b>
<b>Friday January 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Registration (8:30am - 1:00pm) Trade Show Research Symposium - Trade &amp; Marketing (9:00am-5:00pm)</b>		

**Updates** - Information pertaining to Research Symposium presentations and itinerary will be posted on the Internet:

Canadian Honey Council - [www.honeycouncil.ca](http://www.honeycouncil.ca) & Manitoba Beekeepers' Association - [www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org)

**ACCOMODATION INFORMATION**

The historical Fort Garry hotel in downtown Winnipeg is the perfect venue to host this year's Canadian Honey Council, Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists and Manitoba Beekeepers' Association Joint Convention. In addition to providing first class meeting facilities and accommodations, this 90 year old hotel is the perfect backdrop to celebrate the Manitoba Beekeepers' Associations 100<sup>th</sup> year as a beekeeper organization.

In honour of this historical meeting, The Fort Garry hotel has greatly reduced the guestroom rates for all participants attending this convention. Please refer to The Group Code **MBBEE** when making reservations to receive the special discount rate. Rooms will be held until December 27, 2003, after which time room availability is not guaranteed.

- Luxurious One Bedroom Suites - \$119.00 + tax
- Deluxe Rooms (King size bed) - \$99.00 + tax
- Standard Rooms (Queen or Double/Double) - \$79.00 + tax

To make reservations contact The Fort Garry, 222 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Phone (204) 942-8251 or toll free 1-800-665-8088, [www.fortgarryhotel.com](http://www.fortgarryhotel.com)

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 CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL APICULTURISTS  
 CONVENTION  
 HOTEL FORT GARRY - WINNIPEG  
 JANUARY 26 - 30, 2004**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Name of Registrant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Accompanying Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees:** Advance Registration deadline is December 1, 2003. Registration Forms post-marked later than December 1<sup>st</sup> will be charged the Full Registration rate.

**Fundraiser Banquet:** Ticket price includes choice of Roast Sirloin of Beef Dinner or Vegetarian meal and a \$30 tax-deductible donation to the Canadian Bee Research Fund. Banquet Activities include a Celebratory Roast of Don Dixon, Research Auction and Free Draw for prizes such as complimentary room nights during the convention.

Advance Registration (December 1, 2003): \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration (after December 1, 2003): \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Single Day Registration: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraiser Banquet\* (Thurs. January 29, 2004) \$75 x \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me my receipt for my \$30 donation to the CBRF  Yes  No

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form and payment to:

**Manitoba Beekeepers' Association  
 Lot 19 Kingsway Kort, RR#1  
 Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 5Y1**

VISA Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_