

# The Bee Cause



Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2009

**Points of Interest:**

- Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, February 9th at the River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg.

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**Antibiotic use could taint honey's reputation as a miracle drug**

Tuesday December 30, 2008 by Andrew Schneider P-I Senior Correspondent  
WW.Apitrack.com

The United States imports most of its honey and for years China was the biggest supplier.

But in 1997, a contagious bacterial epidemic raced through hundreds of thousands of Chinese hives, infecting bee larvae and slashing the country's honey production by two-thirds.

Chinese beekeepers had two choices: They could destroy infected hives or apply antibiotics. They chose to do the latter.

That was a mistake, said Michael Burgett, a professor emeritus at Oregon State University and an internationally known authority on bees and honey.

"You hear about people shooting themselves in the foot? Well, the Chinese honey-sellers shot themselves in the head," he said.

The Chinese opted to use chloramphenicol, an inexpensive, broad-spectrum antibiotic that's so toxic it's used to treat only life-threatening infections in humans -- and then only when other alternatives have been exhausted.

"That's on the big no-no list," Burgett said. "In the U.S., Canada and the European Union, chloramphenicol is on everyone's zero-tolerance list."

Now, 11 years later, some of the honey buyers who take the trouble to test for it still find the banned antibiotic in some of their imported honey.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says tainted honey from China is on top of its watch list and has been for six years -- since the agency released the first of three "import alerts" targeted at banned substances in honey. FDA considers a food adulterated if, among other reasons, it contains an animal drug deemed unsafe for unapproved uses. Chloramphenicol certainly meets that definition.

In 2005, China's Ministry of Agriculture outlawed the use of chloram-

phenicol in food production, but there are reports that Chinese beekeepers are ignoring the ban.

Chloramphenicol is illegal for use in bees and other food-producing animals in the U.S. because it is impossible to determine a safe residue level, said Steve Roach, public health director of Keep Antibiotics Working, a Chicago-based group raising awareness about the hazards of antibiotics in food.

"If the Chinese authorities are unable to keep this drug from being used, then no imports of honey from China should be allowed," Roach said.

Chloramphenicol has never been offi-

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Red River Apiarist's Association By-Laws

**Over the last year or so the RRAA Constitution has been reviewed and By-laws were drafted by Jack Lee. The By-Laws have been reviewed by the RRAA executive and reviewed by membership for further scrutiny. At the January 13, 2009 meeting these By-Laws were amended to include membership suggested changes and past by the membership at large in attendance. Why a change to By-Laws? To define the RRAA functions in more detail providing revisions with less fuss. For your information:**

**A Constitution:**

- Is concise
- Clarifies the group's purpose
- Explains the fundamental purposes of the group
- Provides the basic framework for the group's processes
- Provides historical perspective
- Is rarely revised

**Bylaws:**

- Outline specific procedures for the group's functioning
- Help group conduct business in an orderly manner
- Provide further definition to the constitution
- Easily revised, and revised regularly as procedures change

**What Should Be Covered In A Constitution?**

Constitutions should be concise, yet contain the important framework of an organization. They should be between two and four pages in length, leaving the detailed procedures of a group's daily functions to the bylaws. Below is an outline of the kinds of information that should be included in a constitution. Bylaws are the daily working procedures of an organization. They contain the detailed processes of a group. They are usually easier to change, requiring only a simple majority, than the constitution which normally requires a 2/3 vote. Below is an outline of the kinds of information normally covered in the bylaws.

- Membership Selection - requirements, resignations, expulsion, rights and responsibilities
- Dues - Amount, how collected, special fees, when payable, and to whom
- Executive Board - Structure, membership, powers, responsibilities
- Responsibilities of Officers - Powers, responsibilities, specific job descriptions
- Committees - Standing, special, how formed, chairpersons, meetings, powers, responsibilities, how dissolved
- Responsibilities of Advisor(s)
- Elections - Include when, voter eligibility, winning vote margin, procedures for filling unexpired or unfilled terms of office, removal from office, and the appeal process.
- Parliamentary Authority - Authority used, such as Robert's Rules of Order - Newly Revised
- Amendments - How to propose, notice required, voting procedures
- Other specific policies and procedures unique to your organization (such as a national organization's constitution, etc.)

**A copy of the By-Laws will be available at the following regular monthly meeting.**

**What Should Be Covered In Bylaws?**

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For your interest a workshop: **Recalling Food Products Today** February 19, 2009

Renaissance Toronto Airport Hotel, 801 Dixon Road, Toronto, ON

Food industry leaders will teach you best practices for recalling food products from the Canadian marketplace: **Ron Judge, Vice President, Food Safety and Quality, Maple Leaf Foods Ltd.**, will address his company's responsibilities during a product recall as well as how Maple Leaf Foods handles a recall.

**Joanne Allen, Senior Associate Principal, Manufacturing Quality, Kraft Canada**, will discuss industry's duty to manage and label allergens in foods.

Please call Jesse Arsenault, Conference Coordinator, I.E.Canada, Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters, 416-595-5333, ext. 37, 1-866-616-2243, ext. 37 or jesse@iecanada.com

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## Red River Apiarists' Association Minutes of the General Meeting January 13, 2009

John Russell welcomed members and guests to the January RRAA meeting at the River Heights Community Centre.

**Minutes:** Moved by Albert Anderson and seconded by Marg Smith to accept the minutes as circulated in the January issue of the Bee Cause. Carried

**Election Committee Report:** John Russell gave the report for the Election Committee. RRAA members who had consented to let their names stand for election were:

President:	Charles Polcyn
1st Vice President:	John Russell Badiuk
2nd Vice President:	Brian Smith
Newsletter:	Ken Rowes
MBA Representative	Jim Campbell
Treasurer	John Speer
Secretary	Ron Rudiak

John called for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were made from the floor. The seven members who had agreed to let their names stand were declared elected.

**RRAA Bylaws:** On behalf of the Bylaw Committee, Jim Campbell commented on the governance review undertaken during 2008 and the legal wording changes leading RRAA to update the 1994 Constitution document. Copies of the 1994 Constitution document and the RRAA Bylaws (Dec. 2008 Draft) were mailed to all members.

Motion to accept the RRAA Bylaws dated December 2008. Ken Rowes, seconded by Marg Smith.

Jim then reported on amendments received and opened discussion for additional feedback. Jim thanked members for their support and constructive suggestions.

Motion to accept the RRAA Bylaws including discussed amendments. Ken Rowes seconded by Marg Smith. Carried  
The January 2008 Bylaw document will be included in the next newsletter.

**Statement of Operations:** Jim Campbell presented the 2007 Statement of Operations and provided explanations for the costs incurred and the revenue streams. Motion to accept the statement of operations as presented. Ken Rowes seconded by Albert Anderson. Carried

Marg Smith suggested that we should provide an annual audit.

**Manitoba Beekeepers' Assoc. Report:** Jim reported that under the Natural Products Marketing Act (MB) all members of the MBA are now also members of the Canadian Honey Council. Consequently MBA members receive copies of both the Manitoba Beekeeper and Hivelights magazine. Jim noted that the MBA is moving ahead with Regulations for collecting membership fees from all beekeepers with 50 or more hives.

Marg Smith presented the RRAA (2008) report at the MBA annual general meeting in Neepawa on November 19. Jim reminded everyone that the MBA Convention is slated for March 6 and 7 at Canad Inns - Fort Gary, 1824 Pembina Hwy. in Winnipeg. Speakers include Tanya Pankiw, a former Manitoban, who discusses pheromones. More details will be provided in February.

**RRAA Web Site:** On behalf of the Executive, John Russell presented the plan to update the RRAA web site to make it easily accessible and to attract new members. At present two quotes have been received.

**Celebrating Agriculture in the City:** We have been requested by Agriculture Canada to join with the University of Manitoba and MAFRI to take part in this event, March 20 - 22, 2009 at the Forks. This project is in keeping with our mandate to educate the public on the honeybee's role in agriculture.

**Program:** Jim gave a presentation on the RRAA activities that took place during 2008.

**Membership Form:** Jim presented some new wording for our membership application form. The new wording would add the words, "Information may be used to provide products or services useful to our members". The discussion was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

**Loonie Draw:** The following members won items in the loonie draw. Ron Rudiak (fruitcakes), Mike Grysiuk (carry bag), Janice Lupinette (carry bag), Marg Smith (honey pot), Carol Anderson (calendar), Stan Grysiuk (raspberry flavoured honey), Nelson Szwaluk (mead). Congratulations to the January winners and thanks to those who donated items for the draw.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Ron Rudiak, Secretary RRAA

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*Temperature recorded in the presence of moisture shows higher and more variable readings than those taken under normal conditions*

## RED RIVER APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

### January 2009

#### 1. Name and Purpose

- (a) The Name of the not-for-profit organization, founded 26 March 1963, shall be the Red River Apiarists' Association, hereinafter referred to as RRAA or the Association.
- (b) The head office of the Association shall be at such place in the Province of Manitoba, as decided by the Association Executive.
- (c) The objectives or purposes of the Association are:
- (i). To provide members with continuing education in beekeeping skills and a forum for the exchange of beekeeping ideas.
  - (ii). To increase public awareness of the values of beekeeping.
  - (iii). To support research in bee products, markets and merchandising, management, pollination, bee genetics, bee diseases and treatments.
  - (iv). To promote honey and other beekeeping product sales, and fair exhibits.
  - (v). To provide members, where possible, with quantity discounts for purchases of bees and beekeeping supplies.

#### 2. Membership

- (a) Membership is open to all persons interested in and willing to support the aims of the Association and who have applied for membership in writing upon the membership form and paid the membership fee. Fee payment also confers membership of that person's spouse.
- (b) Paid up members receive the RRAA newsletter, are eligible to attend, speak and vote at any members meeting, and hold any office of the Association. (continued on page 5)

*(Continued from page 1)* **Antibiotic use**

cially found in honey produced in the U.S. or Canada, and experts say honey containing traces of the antibiotic doesn't pose a health risk to most people.

While the FDA says chloramphenicol has been linked to aplastic anemia, a rare but serious blood disorder, other food-safety agencies point out that two teaspoons of honey laced with chloramphenicol residue contain less than one 10-millionth of a treatment dose of the antibiotic.

Most properly labelled honey warns against feeding it in any form to infants younger than 1 because studies have shown it can cause sometimes fatal botulism.

Many health practitioners, though, consider honey a minor miracle drug. As the world's oldest sweetener, the amber syrup has been heralded by grandmothers, nannies, nurses, tribal medicine men and physicians around the globe.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine, prescribed honey for its nutritional and pharmaceutical value.

The index of medical and scientific journals at the National Medical Library in Bethesda, Md., lists hundreds of studies exploring honey's value in treating, controlling or preventing diabetes, Alzheimer's, osteoporosis, stress, skin conditions, sexual problems and scores of other maladies.

Honey makes a natural antibacterial agent, in part because of its high sugar content and acidity, and many Third World countries still use it to treat burns and wounds. —//—

(RRAA By-Laws continued from page 4)

(c) Members fees, and members categories, such as Student, Honorary, Life etc. and their criteria, shall be determined by RRAA officers and approved by members at the annual meeting.

(d) Members may resign by non-payment of fees by April 1 in any calendar year or at any time using written notice to the treasurer.

**3. Officers**

(a) The Officers of the Association shall be a President, Immediate Past President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, MBA Representative, Newsletter Editor, Secretary, and Treasurer, with these members constituting the Executive Committee.

(b) The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Committee, receive and submit all motions

merchandising, management, pollination, bee genetics, bee diseases and treatments.

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(b) The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Committee, receive and submit all motions made by members, put all questions to a vote and announce the results thereof, maintain order and decorum, present all messages and communications or cause such to be done, and speak to the media or community on behalf of RRAA.

(c) The **First Vice-President** shall, in the absence of the President, assume the duties of the President and shall perform such duties as assigned from time to time by the Officers.

(d) The **Second Vice-President** shall, in the absence of the First Vice-President, assume the duties of the First Vice-President and shall perform such duties as assigned from time to time by the Officers.

(e) The **Secretary** shall keep a record of meetings, motions and resolutions, shall have charge of all correspondence, shall arrange the agenda of the executive, annual and other meetings and distribute meeting minutes, notify members of their appointment to committees, and send out meeting notices as directed by the Executive Committee or the President.

(f) The **Treasurer** shall receive, collect and deposit all funds of the Association, shall keep an accurate record of memberships, receipts and expenditures and pay expenses and present interim financial reports as directed by the Association or Executive Committee. Treasurer shall co-sign RRAA cheques

*(Continued on page 8)*



Editor's Note by Ken Rowes

Scratch a hippie, "the old sixties saying went, and you'll find a Porsche." Scratch a back-to-the-lander, we suspect and you may find a beekeeper." More accurately, you may find someone with an appreciation for quality honey.

It's been awhile since I tackled the RRAA Newsletter which was unimaginably (1969) called "Notice of Regular Meeting." The agenda tracked business the 1st hour then a couple of speakers handled the next hour then refreshments at 9:30 courtesy of the ladies! Ad-journment at 10.

Hybrid bees were the talk, along with packages from California and Texas. There was also talk of save the skunks to kill mice and grasshopper larvae with pointed nail boards. The RRAA also had a library where a member could read up and a publicity committee concern with photographs and door prizes.

Speaking of photos, would be nice to have our first 21st Century Annual Apiary photo Contest this year. So while your out in your apiaries, be sure to take along your camera and send us your best. Executive will have to clear this.

Taking the common sense approach I am committed to provide a RRAA newsletter that will quicken the conscience by pertinent articles, feed the mind of our beekeepers, and possibly purge the imagination by new insightful ideas, methods and technologies.

Please feel free to e-mail me your comments or points of interest and we'll try to accommodate. There I've said my piece and it's okay to tell me to go take a walk.

*The Bee Cause* is the official publication of the Red River Apiarist Association for distribution to its members and their colleagues in the beekeeping industry. It is published eight times a year on a monthly basis excepting December and the summer months of June, July, and August when membership meetings do not occur.

Articles can be best submitted in HTML or RTF formats as email attachments. Though they may be edited for spelling and basic grammar, no changes will be made to their contents, message and opinions. They are those of their originator and not of the Red River Apiarist Association.

Deadline for any submission to this newsletter is the second Saturday preceding the membership meeting to allow for publishing and mailing delays. Regular membership meetings are normally scheduled 7:30 PM on the second Tuesday of every month at the River Heights Community Centre located at 1370 Grosvenor Avenue in Winnipeg except the months as noted above.

The Red River Apiarist Association, formed in 1963, represents the beekeepers of the Red River Valley and environs in southern Manitoba. The association provides a forum for the promotion of sound beekeeping practices through education, networking opportunities, meetings, field days, workshops, presentations by local apicultural experts, as well as the dissemination of this monthly newsletter.

*We are on the web!*  
[www.geocities.com/ve4tg/](http://www.geocities.com/ve4tg/)

## CLASSIFIED

**1. For Sale:** Strong 5 frame nucs, some with laying queens \$150; 4 frame nucs \$125; 3 frame nucs \$110. Available approximately May 15 weather permitting. Ph Dennis Ross 878-2924

**2. For Sale:** Made 2009 well established strong 4-frame nucs with queen bred from hardy local stock. Ph Ted Scheuneman 338-6066, West St Paul

**3. For Sale:** Frames of brood and bees, also nucs available after May 15, 2009. Ph Mike

Grysiuk at (204)831-0691, (204)330-1714 or (204)799-7973

### Up and Coming

MBA Convention, 6-7 March, Canad Inns-Fort Garry, 1824 Pembina Hwy, Winnipeg. Registration \$135, or \$75/day. Topics-Rearing Season impaction Queen Honey Bees, Use of Acids with Thymol treating Varroa, Winter Survival under late fall treatments, Impact of varroa on Manitoba Bees, etc.

**Red River Apiarist's Association**  
**Winnipeg, Manitoba**  
**2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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I apply for membership in the Red River Apiarist's Association. Membership includes one-year subscription to the newsletter "The Bee Cause" (8 issues)- \$25.00.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

New Member [ ]    Renewal [ ]    Student [ ]    [free 1st year]

I do not want my name and address published in the Bee Cause newsletter membership list in accordance or disseminated for other's use, with accordance to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

I would be interested in the following activities.

- ( ) Helping at various shows including the Manitoba Honey Show, and MBA/RRAA Summer Picnic.
- ( ) Retrieving honey bee swarms.
- ( ) Giving school talks.
- ( ) Writing articles for the "Bee Cause" newsletter.
- ( ) Setting up and closing the hall before and after meetings.
- ( ) Helping to maintain observation beehives at various nature centres and parks.
- ( ) Organizing field days.
- ( ) Acting as a buddy for beginning beekeepers.
- ( ) Other. Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_

This completed form may be brought to the meeting or mailed with your cheque to :

**John Speer, RRAA Treasurer**  
**Box 16, Group 555. Winnipeg, Manitoba R2C 2Z2.**

Make cheques payable to Red River Apiarist's Association.  
Please do not send cash in the mail.

made by members, put all questions to a vote and announce the results thereof, maintain order and decorum, present all messages and communications or cause such to be done, and speak to the media or community on behalf of RRAA.

(c) The **First Vice-President** shall, in the absence of the President, assume the duties of the President and shall perform such duties as assigned from time to time by the Officers.

(d) The **Second Vice-President** shall, in the absence of the First Vice-President, assume the duties of the First Vice-President and shall perform such duties as assigned from time to time by the Officers.

(e) The **Secretary** shall keep a record of meetings, motions and resolutions, shall have charge of all correspondence, shall arrange the agenda of the executive, annual and other meetings and distribute meeting minutes, notify members of their appointment to committees, and send out meeting notices as directed by the Executive Committee or the President.

(f) The **Treasurer** shall receive, collect and deposit all funds of the Association, shall keep an accurate record of memberships, receipts and expenditures and pay expenses and present interim financial reports as directed by the Association or Executive Committee. Treasurer shall co-sign RRAA cheques with with one or more persons as appointed by the Executive. The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on January 1. An audited financial statement will be included in the treasurer's annual report.

(g) The **MBA Representative** shall represent the Association views, recommendations, questions, requests and opinions at the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association director's meetings. The representative may provide verbal or written reports of director's discussions during regular or executive Association meetings.

(h) The **Newsletter Editor** shall collect, prepare, arrange, edit and assemble appropriate educational and informative material that generally supports the objects of the Association and the directions of the executive, and shall be responsible for the timely distribution of the Association newsletter.

#### **4. Election of Officers and Appointments**

(a) Members of the Association may, at the annual general meeting, nominate any person who has been a paid up member for at least one year, for election to any office, provided the nominated person consents verbally at the meeting or has consented in writing.

(b) A majority of votes shall elect whenever more than one candidate is nominated for election to any office, with voting by secret ballot or a show of hands, according to the wishes of the membership.

(c) Officers shall hold office until re-elected or until a successor is elected or appointed.

(d) The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint or remove a committee chair as required.

(e) The unexcused absence of an executive member from three consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee shall be deemed to be a vacancy in the office of the member concerned.

(f) Should a vacancy occur in any office, the Executive Committee may appoint a person to fill the office for the un-expired term.

(g) An auditor may be appointed by the general membership at the Association annual meeting, and if the auditor resigns, the general membership may appoint a replacement.

#### **5. Committees**

(a) Appointed standing committees may include: Program, Social, Honey Sales Promotion, Library, Newsletter, or other committees as required by the Executive Committee.

(b) Each committee chair should recruit a committee of at least two (2) members, and may submit a written or verbal report of the committee work at the annual meeting.

(c) The Nominating Committee shall have its chair and one member appointed by the Executive Committee approximately three months prior to the annual meeting, and may have two (2) people appointed by the membership approximately two months prior to the annual meeting.

(d) The Nominating Committee shall propose for election at the RRAA annual general meeting, a slate of Officers from the eligible paid up members who consent to let their names stand for

#### **6. Meetings and Quorum**

(a) Regular Meetings of RRAA may normally be held in the months of January, February, March, April, May, September October and November or as determined by the Executive Committee.

(b) The following order of business may be observed at regular meetings unless varied by the president with the consent of the meeting.

- (i) Call to order
- (ii) Minutes of the previous meeting
- (iii) Business arises from minutes
- (iv) Correspondence
- (v) Treasurer's report
- (vi) Reports of chairperson of committees
- (vii) New business
- (viii) Program
- (ix) Social time

(c) The Annual General Meeting shall normally be the Regular Meeting held in January for the presentation of reports and the election of officers.

