

The Bee Cause



Volume 5, Issue 5

May 2008

Points of Interest:

- Next general meeting is 7:30 Tuesday, May 13th at the River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg. Sam Barlin of CFA, will be giving an update of the Honey Inspection Program and speak to lead contamination .

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MBA/RRAA Field Day and Heritage Luncheon

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, together with Red River Apiarists' Association, invites Interested Beekeepers and their Families to attend a unique Field Day and Summer Picnic at Steinbach, Manitoba.

Date: Friday 27 June 2008 at 12:00 Noon

Events: Beginning at 12:00 Noon, guests will proceed to the "Livery Barn Restaurant" to enjoy Russian-Mennonite Heritage cuisine.

At 2:00 p.m. Mennonite Heritage Museum will be unveiling "Honey-The Story of Beekeeping on the Canadian Prairies", along with the exhibit sponsors-Bee Maid, Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, and Red River Apiarists' Association.

All guests are invited to participate in a "Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" for this new Educational Program Exhibit.

For the remainder of the day you will be free to visit, or to roam through one of the largest Mennonite Museums in Western Canada.

Bear Pit Session: Our typical Bear Pit session, on research activities and other beekeeping events may be somewhat different than expected. Come to see what happens!

*cost - gate 10.00
mead 10.00*

Obituary—Dr. Cameron Jay



CAMERON JAY April 4, 1929 - April 25, 2008 Cam was born in Lauder, Manitoba; son of a mechanic and a school teacher. The family moved to Hamilton, Ontario when he was five years old where he and his sister were raised by their mother.

After completing high school and teacher training he taught school in Hamilton for six years. During this time he completed his B.A. degree at the Evening Institute of McMaster University. Cam married beautiful, fun-loving Doreen in

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Interim Policy for Lead (continued from last issue)

... the implicated lot would be requested as well as a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) conducted on the product. CFIA would work with the responsible party to assess the premises, practices, equipment, packaging material, etc. for potential sources of lead and the results of the HRA will further determine actions taken (e.g. product action: recall). An action plan for removal of identified sources will be required within 30 days of notification and a follow up inspection will be conducted to verify effectiveness of recall and implementation of corrective actions.

Lead test kits are available at places like Walmart or paint supply outlets but in many cases these are not high sensitive lead detection methods and should be used primarily as a screening method for the presence/absence of lead on the test surface. In fact, at the time of writing this article, the honey coop was looking into carrying test kit in their bee supply outlet in Winnipeg, so you may want to check there first (204-786-8977 ext 229).

Below are some additional lead test/screening information provided by the CFIA during Connie Zagrosh's presentation at MBA Convention in Brandon.

- **Lead Check Swabs:** <http://www.leadcheck.com/LeadCheckSwab.shtml>
- **Abotex Lead Inspector:** Lead Test Kit: <http://www.leadinspector.com>
- **Accredited Laboratories List (Standard Council of Canada):** <http://www.scc.ca/en/programs>

MBA Meets With the Minister of Agriculture

Jim Campbell, MBA rep

Executive of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association held a meeting 5th May in the government offices at the Legislative building in Winnipeg. The MBA group met with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiative Minister Rosann Wowchuk, to discuss future Cost Recovery payments and other issues of concern within the industry.

Currently MBA submits \$12,000 to the Provincial Government, and the MBA are proposing a moratorium on these fees.

MBA has been considering changing the inspection criteria so Commercial Operations with no AFB history, will be inspected every two years instead of every year. The change in policy will have to be monitored through 2008 to ensure disease history remains within tolerable levels. A change in policy could reduce inspection costs, unless salary and travel costs keep increasing.

In other areas, MBA are seeking continuation of the Wildlife Damage program, as bears are roving beyond normal territories. Impending treatments for West Nile Virus, could increase the exposure to honey bees. If such was the case, disaster assistance may be requested.

In addition, MBA is seeking support for the development of a Provincial Insurance program for honey production.

President's Report

The volunteer beekeeping assignment in Honduras finished in early March with a closing conference at a special all meat restaurant in Tegucigalpa. This place specialized in beef, with any part of the beef being served up on a platter. There were some interesting menu choices.

At the dinner we were presented with Thank You certificates and some Honduran souvenirs. A report of my recommendations was also discussed and was left behind along with a variety of equipment generously donated by Bee Maid of Manitoba as well as myself. Queen rearing with Africanized bees is being done very well here by several local beekeepers. The key element seems to be location of the apiaries at higher elevations up in the coffee groves. There are larger varieties of pollen that come in, along with the nectar from different flowering plants and trees. The coffee blossoming time here is quite short, so my hope of collecting coffee honey did not happen. We did not have much success of acceptance of queen larva grafts at lower locations as it was a very arid valley, and the bit of pollen coming in was always the same white color. We were able to feed syrup all the time, but did not want to use artificial pollen substitutes. Thus the queen production success rate was not very high.

The most popular idea here were the honey bee escape boards, with the Quebec escape board being the most popular as the local cost was very reasonable. There is much interest in plastic foundation as the cost here would almost be the same as pure local beeswax sheets if the freight costs could be minimized. However one positive change now is that the wax foundation made by the local lady's wax crew is now a full size width, rather than the 80 % width as before. The local explanation was that the open space on the bottom of the frames was necessary for bee movement between frames, and helped the bees work. Since the narrow wax sheets were cheaper as they are sold by weight, the new size sheets will potentially create more income for all parties.

The news of Billy BEE being bought out by a USA conglomerate may not be good for prairie honey producers. Sales choices have been reduced and prices may follow. Also the news from Rheal of a new artificial sweetener on the market that closely resembles honey in every way AND that has zero food value may not help retail honey sales. Thus we have even more reason for beekeepers to support the Canadian Honey Council to promote the many reasons for consuming Canadian produced honey. This will be money well invested and will provide a return to all of us. We have a great story and a great wholesome food for all ages- we have to continue to promote and provide the rationale for regular consumption and utilization of our pure honey.

I had a chance recently to do some shopping in the local President's Choice store and found only 2 choices of pure

Canadian honey out of more than 13 examples of honey on their store shelves. This certainly makes it hard for any shoppers to buy pure Canadian honey at a reasonable price. The other choices of honey were all blends from various countries south of Canada.

A recall of the circle of life was a good reminder to all of us with the sudden, unexpected loss of Dr. Cameron Jay. He suffered a fatal stroke/heart attack on April 25th, 2008. He will be remembered by many beekeepers as a mentor, teacher and good friend to all. I attended a memorial service for him on May 1st and was struck by the many people who came to show their respect for Dr. Jay and his family. A flyby by several friends from the flying club bought back memories of Dr. Jay and a MBA Field Day of a few years past, where the flying Dr. Jay threw out small parachute packages that resulted in a reward of a new local queen for whoever was lucky enough to collect one.

I hope to see many of you at our May meeting on the 13th and the Field Day in Steinbach on June 27th. We are all looking forward to a good beekeeping summer. You will have a chance to collect some great honey to enter into the fall Manitoba Honey Show, so be reminded and put some aside for the show. Details of location and dates for the show should be available at the May Meeting.

Let us hope for many days of sunshine and a few evenings of showers for the next four months.

All the best - Charles Polcyn - RRAA President

Tribute to Dr. Cam Jay

- Jim Campbell

The memorial service for Dr. Cameron Jay was held on Thursday, 1 May 2008. (Cameron Jay, April 4, 1929 – April 25, 2008). Don Dixon, former Extension Apiarist, gave a fitting tribute to his long time teacher, mentor and friend, as he talked about Cam and his mischievous nature. This revelation was not new! Cam's daughter reflected on the fact that dad realized growing old was mandatory, yet he relished in the reality that "growing up" was optional.

I think most of us in Red River Apiarists' Association, that were either taught by Cam at the Beginning Beekeepers course, or heard him at MBA conventions, recognized the valuable contributions to our industry and lives he made, yet laughed with him at the humorous pranks he played.

Although Cam could be serious, like the time in 1983 when he spoke at the RRAA 20th Anniversary banquet (Masonic

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Red River Apiarists' Association Minutes of the General Meeting April 8, 2008

Charles Polcyn welcomed everyone to the April RRAA meeting at the River Heights Community Centre. Charles noted that although he has been back from Honduras for two weeks he still finds that it's cold in Manitoba.

Financial Report: John Speer reported that the account balance is currently \$6500.60. Jim will forward notices of membership payments due to Jack Lee for inclusion in the May newsletter.

MBA Report: Jim reported that the Brandon Area Beekeepers Association had a promotional booth set up at the Brandon Winter Fair where they distributed honey sticks and recipe folders from Canadian Honey Council. Jim cautioned that some of the barrels from other countries (China) had been found to have lead in the paint used on the outside.

RRAA/MBA Field Day: The combined beekeeping field day will be held on Friday, June 27th at the Mennonite Heritage Village. Field day activities begin at noon and include a tour of the "History of Beekeeping in Western Canada" display and lunch at the Livery Barn restaurant. The MHV is located at the north end of Steinbach beside Highway 12.

For the Good of the Industry: Rhéal Lafrèniere will be sending out requests for wintering loss information. This information will be used to study regional wintering losses. The spring inspection program is ready to begin. Small beekeeping operations will be inspected once every three years (depending on disease history).

Rhéal also announced that 75% of his time, for the next year, will be spent working on special projects for the CHC.

Program: Charles Polcyn showed pictures of beekeeping in Honduras and gave a detailed description of his recent experiences in that country.

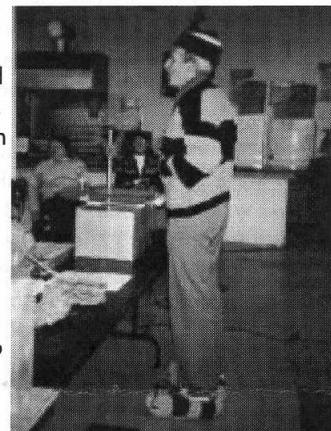
Loonie Draw: A variety of items were donated for the loonie draw. Emil Rekrut won the three handled cup and a bag of pine cone smoker fuel, Rhéal won the jar of Chinese honey, Dan Lecocq won the promotional poster by CHC, Margaret Smith won the honey spoon and a bag of pine cone smoker fuel, Brian Smith won the honey from Columbia and Andy Lecocq's name was drawn for a CHC poster and a bag of smoker fuel.

Ron Rudiak, Secretary RRAA

Tribute to Dr. Cam Jay

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Temple, Corydon Ave), on his and Doreen's adventures in "Kiwi Land", he often surprised us. In 1990, when RRAA met at Skills Unlimited (Scott St.), Cam had been invited to talk about leafcutter bees. We all knew something was up, when Doreen started laughing, just before Cam appeared. Out he came, wearing a yellow and black striped sweater, black cap with antennae, and fluffy yellow and black slippers. Here was this "stately professor" getting us all to roll with laughter, as he got ready to give us a talk. What wonderful memories!



Cam enjoyed a range of interests, and this was reflected after the funeral, when friends from the Springfield Flying Club performed a "Fly By". This was especially eventful, as someone flew Cam's open cockpit bi wing "Kelly D".

As Dixon reflected earlier in the eulogy, Cam genuinely enjoyed people! He loved to interact with people and exchange stories with everyone. A memory we will cherish.

The Man in the White Lab Coat

- Jack Lee

Dr. Cam Jay, when I knew him as an undergraduate student of entomology in the early seventies, was always dressed in a white lab coat. It was the dress code for scientists of that vintage who were themselves undergraduates during and shortly after the Second World War.

Science had so much promise then. The vaccine for polio had been discovered. Penicillin had diseases on the run. Insecticides had vanquished insect borne diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. Fertilizers and modern scientific agriculture would eliminate hunger and the United Nations would see that science and technology would make it work. A white lab coat was a symbol of hope, knowledge and learning. It was also a sign of almost priestly authority.

Dr. Jay wore a white lab coat for any of the lectures that I can remember. Outside the classroom, he is remembered as an easy going person with always a smile. He was that way in

(Continued on page 7)

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: 5 frame nucs \$150.00, three or four frame nucs made upon request. will be available may 15th. please contact

Dennis Ross - 878-2924

Wanted: Looking for a solar wax melter.

Doug Henry 757-4694 dhenry@skyweb.ca

For Sale: Also Over wintered super nucs for sale next mid may. 3 frames of brood + 1 frame honey. Price is \$130.00 each.



Call **Pierre Faure:** 1 .204.248.2645

For Sale: 300 supered nucs for sale. Includes 10 frame laying queen. No less than 3 brood pollen feed. Inspected and treated. Wintered outside. Ready for May 15 to June 5. Some queens from Chile and marked available.

Contact **Rod Boudreau** 204-885-3344

For Sale: 60 frames Cowen extractor in mint condition.

Phone : 204.248.2645

Cell : 204.295.2856 Ask for **Pierre Faure**

For Sale: 50 hives for sale.

Call **Rudy Harsany** at (204) 866-2276

For Sale: Small number of 4 frame nucs with 2007 queens. Some 3/8 plywood inner cover with 7/8 * 7/8 pine rim. \$7.50 each.

Please call **Ted Scheuneman** 338-6066, West St Paul

For Sale: All of Operation: Wintering Bees and hives, Plastic Insulated Supers, 30 frame Maxant Extractor.

Please call **Javad Niazi** 885-0576

Wanted: 4 frame extractor

Please call **Ted Scheuneman** 338-6066, West St Paul

For Sale: Small number of 4 frame nucs with 2007 queens.

Please call **George Chwist** 338-5078

For Sale: 250 double hive bee operation for sale Inspected, treated. Wintered inside. All related equipment for maintenance and transport All honey house equipment including Cowen extractor, wax spinner heated sump, uncapper

Phone: **Linda Schroeder** 204-736-2770

Cell: 204-371-0106

For Sale: 2 year old stainless steel honey extracting equipment. Queen excluders, screened bottom boards, metal hive covers, many more items. No bees, boxes, or frames.

Call **Reg** at 204-326-9591 or email b_morrow@shaw.ca.

For Sale: Queens for sale during summer months.

Call **Lance Waldner** 433-7178 or email lancewld@gmail.com

Ending Beekeeping Career: Selling all of operation except extractor. Prefer to sell to one person, all equipment for 5-10 colonies, including supers, uncapping supplies, etc.

Call **Emil Rekrut** 487-3146 in Winnipeg.

Obituary—Dr. Cameron Jay

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Hamilton in 1952 and later with her unfailing devotion he obtained within a period of six years his B.S.A at the University of Manitoba, M.Sc. at the University of Toronto and Ph.D. at the University of London. They raised four children, Maureen, Marlene, Corinne, and Murray, and were blessed with six grandchildren, Rachel and Zoe (Maureen), Curtis and Kirstin (Marlene and Don), and Robert and Brittany (Corinne). He is also survived by his sister Maxine and her family.

Cam adored both his kids and grandkids and because he was a big kid at heart . He always had great fun with them. He especially enjoyed entertaining them (and many others) at Christmas in an old, ragged Santa suit. The walls of the rec room are covered with photos of the family, special events, friends and travels. Cam joined the Entomology Department at the University of Manitoba in 1961 where he taught undergraduate and graduate courses, and undertook extensive research using honey bees and leaf-cutting bees with beekeepers and seed growers. His research and teaching involved extended time in England, USA, Kenya, Jamaica, New Zealand, Tasmania and mainland Australia; and his den walls are covered with the honours he received for his efforts. He was particularly proud of the awards from the University of Manitoba: University Gold Medal, Outreach Award, Excellence in Teaching Award, U of M Alumni Assoc. Jubilee Award and his appointment as Professor Emeritus. He was also pleased to have been Head of the department in which he had formerly been a student.

Cam loved the 27 years he spent teaching where each of his students were special—particularly the M.Sc. and Ph.D. students he trained. He valued their friendship and keenly followed their careers after graduation. Many interests filled Cam's life. His volunteer activities included: Canadian Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, Winnipeg Cheer Board and Lyncrest Airport. He loved outdoor life and as a Boy Scout and long time Scout Leader made the be prepared motto an integral part of his life.

Flying was one of Cam's passions. He completely rebuilt a 1949 aircraft and flew it for over 35 years. Most recently he obtained an open cockpit, bi-wing Kelly D. He built a large hangar at Lyncrest Airport to house his two planes, and where he enjoyed the company of members of the Springfield Flying Club. Doreen and Cam owned a hobby tree farm at Starbuck for many years which family and friends enjoyed visiting. Cam kept busy with building projects at the farm or in the city and was always making something, big or small.

Above all else, Cam dearly loved and cherished Doreen, his wife of 55 years. He fully appreciated how fortunate he was to have her as a friend and partner. Each decade Cam, known as the Billboard Romeo would publicly proclaim his love for Doreen by stating it on a large billboard in Winnipeg. Together they shared trips to foreign lands, and traveled North America in their 5th wheeler along with friends in the Redboine Travel Club. Cam would like to be remembered for being a good husband, father and teacher and as a good friend who was fun to be with

A memorial service was held Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at Green Acres Funeral Home. A private urn placement will take place at a later date in Holy Angel Mausoleum. If one wishes, donations may be made to the Victoria General Hospital. GREEN ACRES Funeral Home and Cemetery Hwy. #1 E. at Navin, (204) 222-3241 Life stories may be shared with friends and family across the globe at www.mem.com

Did You Know !

It takes a pound of pollen to raise 4000 bees.

Since a strong hive can raise 200,000 bees a year, it would take 44 pounds of pollen to raise a strong hive.

The Hive and the Honey Bee, 1992. Pp 198

Honey Chiffon Cake

4 eggs
1/2 cup oil
2 Tbsp. Water
1 1/2 cup cake flour
1/2 cup honey
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 325F . With electric mixer, beat the eggs and water for 10 minutes. Gradually beat in sugar. Add the honey and oil. Continue beating. Sift flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt into the egg mixture. Beat until smooth. Pour into 10" ungreased tube pan. Bake at 325F for 1 hour. Invert and let stand until cool.

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Hydro

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We are on the web!
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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.

The Man in the White Lab Coat

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the classroom as well. But behind those smiles and soft-spoken delivery style of his lecture, there was a very serious person who was very mindful of his role as a scientist to understand and his role as a professor to instill in his students more than facts.

Out of all my professors, he was the only one that warned us of the dangers of anthropomorphism—the attribution of uniquely human characteristics to nonhuman beings. To him, there was no greater sin. There was also his lecture on the properties of a scientific theory ...

"It must be simple. A good theory is always simple". And with that statement, he would silence any comeback thought that might have flashed across anyone's head with indisputable examples followed by further reinforcement of the main statement. It was his most passionate statement that I heard him express.

He told me once in his office how his academic advisors in London had driven out of him any tendency to use unnecessary words in his papers. Rather than complain about the experience, he told me how grateful he was of that hard lesson. He would then move on to dreamily tell me how hard those days were and how he attributed it all to his wife to look af-

ter the family.

Accordingly, when my own papers were returned, they had words crossed out here and there with his suggestions of better choices. It was clear that to write with eloquence and conciseness was an important skill for which every scientist had to strive. I worked on the first qualification, however for me, marriage would have to wait.

After I graduated, I kept my papers. Last summer, as my wife and I were moving, I came across one that Dr. Jay had marked.

I gritted my teeth when his swirls of his red ink jumped into view. Clearer to me now than it was long ago in the fog of many nights of little sleep, there was eloquence of the man's hand even in the way the he corrected. There was deliberation in his approach and sensitivity in his suggestions. I could imagine the man in his white lab coat in his quiet office looking at every paper and evaluating the embryonic scientist before him.

Dr. Jay was a product of his time and those times were marked by a world seared with upheaval and destruction. A time where people were instilled with a higher calling to serve humanity and somehow use knowledge and technology to make a difference. He took his responsibilities seriously. He wore a white lab coat and was in every way a man of that cloth.