

# The Valley Beekeeper

Volume 15 / Issue 2 / July 2012 A quarterly report from the Cowichan Beekeepers Club, Box 274, Cobble Hill, V0R 1L0  
[www.cowichanbeekeepers.ca](http://www.cowichanbeekeepers.ca)

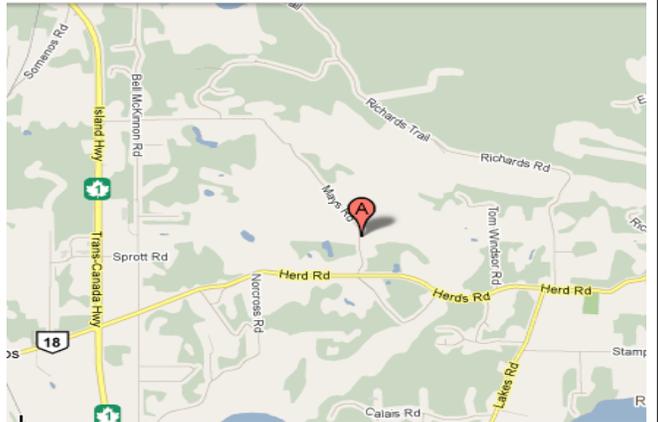
Meeting monthly, 3rd Thursday, 7:30 pm Feb.-Nov., Cowichan Agricultural Hall, brown building end

## ANNUAL PICNIC—JULY 8TH SUNDAY

All members and their families are invited to the Club's Annual Family Picnic. A delicious Baron of Beef luncheon is planned with all the trimmings and don't forget to leave room for dessert.

Bocce ball is always on the agenda. There will be sack races and three legged races. Hosting this year's picnic is our president Mike Pauls and his wife, Laurie. Let's start at 12:00 noon to around 4:00 pm at their farm located at 7087 Mays Road, Duncan, 250-701-4238.

Remember to bring a chair and BYOB. Juice and water will be provided.



## The UN ban on Geo-engineering does not include the United States. Are unknowing Canadians guinea pigs in U.S. Chemtrail Experiments?

Juan de Fuca Straight / J. Gordon

At the end of 2010 several military planes continued dropping chaff over the Juan de Fuca Straight between Sooke (Victoria) BC and Port Angeles Washington. The chaff, otherwise known as a *chemtrail*, is used in radar deflecting and geoengineering (weather modification). The chemtrail is not to be confused with a contrail (normal vapour from a plane). Chemtrails do not dissipate like contrails instead they linger in the sky and slowly spread out. Witnesses say that the planes circled a large area over the straight flew back and forth in a circular motion, leaving long trails behind them that contaminated the blue sky.

Chemtrail spraying was **first confirmed in Victoria** at the Victoria International Airport in December 2000, by Airport Authority Terry Stewart. He described the government spraying program as a "joint Canada-U.S. military operation", where jets were laying plumes in lingering Xs, circles and tic-tac-toe grids over the city. Chemtrails have been known to contain barium, aluminium, titanium, magnesium, and dibromomethane. All of which can cause cancers, respiratory ailments, heart problems, and other illnesses. This was later verified in March 2001 by the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) who admitted that US Air Force (USAF) was crossing into Canadian air space. The purpose of the mission was stated as weather modification.

### Images of dumping



Delegates from 193 countries agreed to ban all weather modification programs until there was sufficient evidence to validate the associated risks. United States *would not agree* to the ban and is not one of the 193 countries to sign the moratorium.



---

## Crossroads – New Market in the Cowichan Valley

By Lexi Baines, Citizen newspaper

Published: Saturday, June 16, 2012

A new farmers market is joining the Valley's fresh food scene. It will be located at the Crossroads Centre at 4485 Trans Canada Highway where the highway crosses Koksilah Road in Cowichan Bay.

A pair of chefs - Aaron Savoy and Keith Lefevre - are the force behind the venture, which opens Sunday, July 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. "We're going a step beyond a farmers market. What we want to do is make it into a gathering place. This has been two years in the making. "We're going to have entertainment every week and stuff for the kids. We don't just want people to do their shopping and leave. We want people to hang out. We've got some food trucks happening. It will be a little festival, a fair every Sunday. When you go out for a drive, you can pop into our place," he continued.

The push to include the area's many farmers. "We just started the website on Monday and we're up to 18 vendors already," he said. We have rules vendors have to follow. People will see they can also come to the farm gate on certain dates," he said. He and Lefevre are looking for anyone interested in being part of the Sunday scene.

Honey vendors and those selling value added honey bee products check out the website [www.southcowichanfarmersmarket.com/](http://www.southcowichanfarmersmarket.com/) for more information.

---

## News Around the World

### New York State

This year's unusually mild winter, the fourth warmest on record, may have allowed more bees to survive. Flowering plants and trees began blossoming several weeks early, causing colonies to peak early. In the spring, a colony can explode tenfold to take in nectar. National Survey of managed honey bee colonies released this month. It showed that about 21.9 percent of bee colonies nationwide died over the winter, a substantial drop from the 30 percent average losses reported in the previous five years. The New York State Agriculture Department estimates there are 60,000 to 70,000 colonies in New York. And the state's 17 or so beekeeping clubs have generally doubled in size in the last five years, said Paul Cappy, the head apiculturist for the Agriculture Department's Apiary Inspection Program.

### Poland beekeepers kick Monsanto out of the hive, successfully ban bee-killing Genetically Modified (GM) corn

Tuesday, May 29, 2012 by: Ethan A. Huff, staff writer, Nature News and [www.polishnews.com](http://www.polishnews.com)

(NaturalNews) A significant health freedom victory has taken place in the European nation of Poland, where all plantings of Monsanto's MON810, a genetically-modified (GM) variety of maize (corn) that produces its own built-in Bt insecticide in every kernel, have been officially banned.

The decision comes after thousands of protesters recently took to the streets in demonstration of the undeniable fact that both MON810 and the chemicals applied to it are at least partially responsible for causing Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), the worldwide phenomenon in which entire swarms of honey bees disappear or turn up dead.

"The decree is in the works. It introduces a complete ban on the MON810 strain of maize in Poland," said Polish Agriculture Minister Marek Sawicki, who also explained to the press that pollen from MON810 appears to be responsible for further devastating the already dwindling bee population throughout the country and elsewhere.

According to reports, Poland's decision to ban MON810 makes it the first nation to formally acknowledge that Monsanto's GM corn is definitively linked to CCD. It also affirms the findings of several

earlier studies that have identified a link between Bt GM crops and bee deaths, including independent

---

---

## Canadian Honey Council (CHC) News

The CHC is the national association of beekeepers representing 7,000 apiculturists across Canada. The CHC provides a forum where producers, packers, professionals, provincial associations and officials from different levels of government can talk and recommend action in the best interests of the Canadian honey bee industry. The Canadian Honey Council receives half its operating budget from membership. The rest is from the generous support of sponsors. The B. C. Honey Producers Association (BCHPA) is our liaison with the CHC.

### Commercial Beekeeping Program – unique in Canada!

A new certificate program at GPRC Fairview, Alberta will be the first beekeeping vocational program in Canada for the education and training of commercial beekeepers. The program had a January 2012 launch.

"The program will provide needed training for those wishing to pursue a career in this industry and will provide an avenue for a new generation of producers to enter the industry," says Steve Pernal, Officer-in-Charge and Research Scientist AAFC at Beaverlodge Research Farm, B.C. "Together with the recently announced National Honey Bee Diagnostic Laboratory located in Beaverlodge, and building on existing cooperation with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, GPRC is positioning itself as a leading player in training and applied research for the honey bee industry."

The launch of the Commercial Beekeeping Certificate Program by GPRC is a significant step forward in the development of a successful and sustainable bee, honey and pollination industry in Canada says Corey Bacon, Chair of the Canadian Honey Council.

---

## Certification Bodies Providing Organic Certification Services

Want to Certify for Organic Honey contact:

### [British Columbia Association for Regenerative Agriculture \(BCARA\)](#)

Post Office Box 1601  
Aldergrove, British Columbia  
V4W 2V1, Canada  
Administrator: Sarah Davidson  
Telephone: 778-240-8746  
E-mail: [bcara.admin@gmail.com](mailto:bcara.admin@gmail.com)  
[www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

### [Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards](#)

....The foraging site is not treated or exposed to substances not in accordance with this **standard**.

7.1.10.3 **Organic honey** and pollen shall be the major foodstuff.

**URL:** [www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards](http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards) ...

---

2012 organic gardening needs. For healthier bee foraging.

### [WestCoast Seeds](#)

Choose from a diverse selection of certified organic open pollinated, heirloom vegetable, herb, and flower seeds.

Fabulous Catalogue <http://www.westcoastseeds.com/catalogue>

Retail Store: 4930A Elliott Street, Ladner, B. C., British Columbia V4K 2Y1

9:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday to Saturday

Open Sundays 11am to 4pm (Closed all statutory holidays)

TOLL FREE Order Desk: 1-888-804-8820

### [Salt Spring Seeds](#)

Welcome to the website and online Heritage & Heirloom Organic Seed Catalogue 2012

<http://www.saltspringseeds.com/>

---

---

A website devoted to ensuring the bee populations on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands are thriving. Hosted by Lana Popham.

<http://www.healthyislandbees.blogspot.ca/>

Dear bee-keepers and bee-supporters,

Last week during the Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Agriculture, I turned the spotlight onto the serious challenges facing bee-keepers in British Columbia.

As a past farmer and lifetime local food supporter I know that we cannot have BC agriculture without pollinators.

You may be surprised to learn that in the glossy new "agri-food strategy" just released by the provincial government, bees and pollinators were completely left out!

Take a look at these videos on this website. I'm looking for your feedback and current stories from BC bee-keepers in order to make this industry a priority in B.C.

Cheers,

Lana Popham

NDP Agriculture Critic, MLA Saanich South

lana.popham.mla@leg.bc.ca / April 3, 2012.

---

## CTV Vancouver Island. May 2nd, 2012

VICTORIA Fairmont Empress Executive Chef/Beekeeper Kamal Silva is out in the Centennial Garden once a week, making sure his 200,000 or so honey-making friends are comfortable. The gentle creatures appear to be thriving in 10 hives outside the hotel, where they've been churning out honey for a year. "Last year 1700lbs of honey, this year the plan is to get 2600lbs of honey" says Silva.

The honey is proving popular in the Fairmont store. Maybe too popular. You won't find it next to the world famous tea, instead, it's locked up tight. "We can't keep it on our shelves, literally. We've never had problems with theft before until the honey came along. It was the most stolen item in the store" says Manager Elizabeth Stevenson. By the middle of May 40kg of fresh honey is already being brewed into the first batch of Empress honey ale that'll be sold all over town. It's honey hefeweizen to be exact, being brewed up by Sean Hoyne.

**Newsletter Editor: The first of the Empress Hotel honey bees came onto the Island as hived colonies on drawn comb in 2011. Brought over to Victoria on the BC Ferries by John Gibeau of the Honey Bee Centre, Surrey. This action is now allowed due to Vancouver Island and surrounding Island's quarantine been lifted by the B. C. Liberal Government. The colonies were inspected on the Mainland side by a bee inspector, Jacquie Bunse.**

**Thank goodness the bees seem to be well managed and doing well. I asked the Fairmont Manager, why didn't he obtain honey bees from local Island sources and he basically told me to mind my own business. See article above and visit the site for more information on the NDP's support of The Vancouver Island Honey Bee Coalition and in fighting the B. C. Liberal Government for getting rid of the Islands' quarantine.**

### Interesting statistic from Ministry of Agriculture 2012

Wintering bees in British Columbia has become an attractive option for many beekeepers. During the last 10 years some 30,000 colonies have been brought in from Alberta and Manitoba each fall.

### [Natural Beekeeping Forum - - Hello from Vancouver Island...](#)

View topics, ask questions and chat at:

<http://forum.biobees.com>

Natural beekeeping forum - supports sustainable, low impact beekeeping for everyone.