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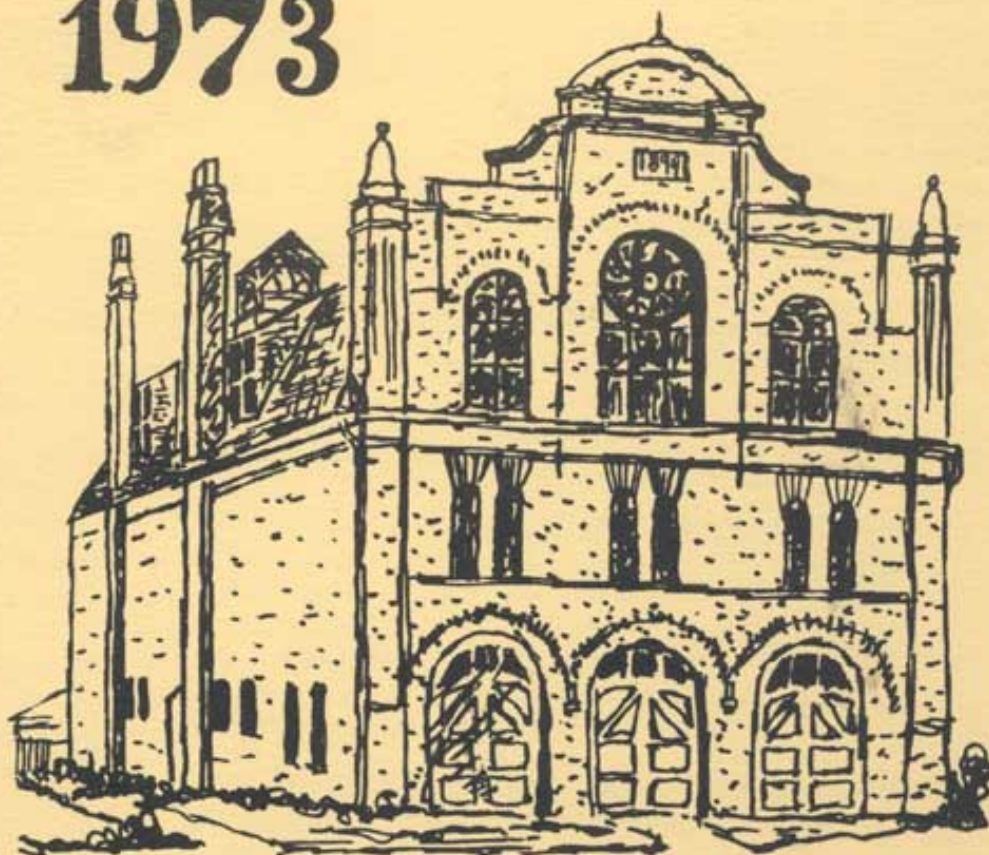
BEE~TON HONEY FESTIVAL



David Ellanson Jones

1836-1910

1973



TOWN HALL ~ 1894

We, in Beeton are proud to present our Honey Festival, believed to be the first in Canada and the second in North America. It would be impossible to list individually the people who have helped in this project, suffice to say that every organization in our village has co-operated 100 percent to make it a success.

However, I would like to mention specifically some of the people who have headed the necessary committees and who, along with their co-workers have made an idea become a reality.

Sincerely, E. McDermott
Chairman
1973 Beeton Honey Festival

Honorary Chairman — Dr. S.R. McKelvey, Reeve of Beeton.
Consultant — Professor Burke, B.S.A. University of Guelph.
Consultant — Professor Townsend, B.S.A.-M.S.A. University of Guelph.
Secretary-Treasurer — Mary Mundy.
Booklet Revision and Writing — H.E. Platt.
Parade and Honey Queen — Mrs. J. Colwell and Mrs. G. Linstead.
Food arrangements — C. Riley.
Set Up — E Hay
Main Street Set Up — Rev. W. Davis.
Advertising — John Parsons, Fred Parsons.
Art Work — D. Aspenleider. — Art Work
Refreshments — W. Littlejohn.
Exhibits — R. Stafford.
Membership — D. Walsh.
Parking — M. Wilson, E. Boynton.
Programme — W. Brandridge.
Entertainment — E. Brown
Promotion - B. Brewer
H. Cross - Dept. of Agriculture

We would also like to thank and express our appreciation to the help and advice given to us freely by the Beeton Fair Board.

COUNCILLORS: '73 '74

Dr. S.R. McKelvey, D.V.M. Reeve.
J. Gray,
J. Mason,
Rev. W. Davis,
W. Lewis.
E. Brown — Village Clerk.

Original draft of this pamphlet prepared by P.W. Burke
Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

This pamphlet written by Bert Platt,

BEES DID YOU KNOW???

Honey is a product of nectar, a sweet liquid secreted by the glands found in certain flower petals.

Nectar is swallowed by the bee and is transformed into honey in the insect's crop or honey sac, and is later disgorged.

The Romans never used sugar, filling in the gap with the use of honey.

Nectar is not obtainable just anywhere. Flowers are temperamental. Conditions must be right before the flower will yield that drop of watery sugar. There must be definite degrees of temperature and humidity. Wet weather is hopeless; overdry weather is as bad.

Bees make up a super family: The Apoidea — comprising some 20,000 species.

The honey bee is a social or communal bee which has developed a distinct caste system (workers) (drones) (queens).

Today it is universally recognized that queen and worker honeybee are both female and that the drones are the males.

The queen bee mates in the air with a drone or drones who are destined then to die.

The queen bee is a highly specialized egg-producing machine. In a day she will produce 1,500 eggs (about her own weight.)

The queen bee lays two kinds of eggs: One is unfertilized giving rise to males (drones), and the other is fertilized always being females (workers or queens.)

Worker bees have definite tasks to perform; some collect pollen, some attend the queen, some look after the young, and a certain number fan the hive by means of rapid wing movements. This keeps the hive cool so that the wax cells will not melt.

The honey bee was not a native of North America — coming after the arrival of the Spanish and English in the 16th century.

Bees dislike sweating horses. The odour agitates the bee.

Bumble bees store such a small quantity of honey that they are almost useless to man as honey producers.

Bees can distinguish between different colours and perfumes and can associate both with certain flowers.

Bees work a "foraging area" if one has difficulty covering the area then this scout quickly goes for recruits.

A honey bee colony becomes over populated as a form of emigration called "swarming" takes place. The queen leads a large number to a new site.

Worker bees convey information about a promising food source to other bees by means of a series of dances.

The worker bee leaves the ovipositor (or sting) in the body of the victim and the bee dies.

The ovipositor of the honey bee queen is smooth; thus this bee can sting its enemies repeatedly without harm to itself.

Some of the most progressive work accomplished with the honey bee was achieved in Beeton (Beeton), Ontario.

In Canada the art of beekeeping never really amounted to much. Settlers were very much aware of the bountiful harvest of this little insect and the easiest manner to obtain it was a quick raid on a discovered beehive. Some people managed to produce small amounts of honey, but it never really amounted to a lucrative cash crop. Besides there was more sensible work to be done with one's time. To reveal the history behind the origin of beekeeping as an industry, one has to journey to a small Ontario village called Clarksville. This village was then located about sixty miles from the city of Toronto which in the 1860's extended northwards to about St. Clair Avenue.

Thirty-one-year-old David Allanson Jones arrived in Clarksville in the 1860's. He had a variety of experiences to his credit. He was born in Ringwood, York County, in 1836 and as a young man he moved to Illinois in the United States. Here he worked at farming and showing an interest in livestock. He later operated a training school for dogs and horses. This proved to be a failure, so for awhile he attempted to sell books and fruit trees. Obtaining enough money he was able to return to Canada and ultimately opened a store in partnership with his brother. The location for this endeavour was the village of Clarksville. This move was the turning point in the life of D.A. Jones. In June 1867, he acquired his first fifty-acre property in Clarksville. Little did he realize how much he would change this small village and how much it would contribute to his life.

Shortly after arriving at Clarksville, he married Jessie Thompson of Whitby. After her death, he remarried, but he had no family. Eventually, he became Postmaster of the Town — a position he would hold for nearly half a century. Thus D.A. Jones settled down and quickly became one of the communities leading citizens.

Eventually Mr. Jones began to get involved in all kinds of projects. He leased his store to another man so he could devote more of his time to other enterprises. He delved into building, logging, lumber, local politics and gardening. He eventually drifted into beekeeping and its mysterious challenge became the driving force occupying his life.

● On one occasion some smart man told me that a community which could boast a good minister, a good doctor and a good schoolmaster would provide useful citizens for the world. In our village we had all of these plus the restless intelligence of a man named D. A. Jones, who sparked the whole community.

K. Aitken, "Never a Day So Bright" (Toronto, 1956), p.118

In 1870 he purchased two swarms of bees from a neighbour and he was now in business. He never looked back. In fact Mr. Jones from this simple beginning would become the first commercial beekeeper in Canada. His contributions to the bee industry became impressive:

- pioneered large-scale honey production.
- developed beekeeping equipment.
- developed better breeding stock.
- printed a bee journal.
- founder of the Ontario Beekeepers Association.
- became internationally known abroad and referred to as the "Bee King" of the Nineteenth century: as a tribute to his endeavours the village name of Clarksville was changed by postal authorities to "Beeton" in 1874.

In 1870, shortly after acquiring his first two swarms he developed an improved hive which he called the "Jones-Perfection Bee Hive". He saw the possibilities of selling his patent so a beekeeping equipment manufacturing plant was developed in 1872.

Staff here were paid \$12.00 a month for a foreman with boys acting as assistants earning 35 cents a day. Honey production continued to increase —1880 he produced 70,000 pounds from about 400 colonies. Within four years his Beeton yards were operating 1,000 or more colonies. D.A. Jones' fame as a bee man began to spread and he rapidly became the most successful beekeeper in the Dominion. In 1886 young men sought the chance to journey to Beeton and work under the direction of this now respected man.

These young men paid no tuition but did receive 10 cents per hour when there was work for them in the wood factory. But it was in the apiary that they reaped the rewards. Many of these men later became well known in the beekeeping circles of America. In 1886, Mr. Jones journeyed to London and displayed 30,000 pounds of honey which was quickly purchased by eager shoppers.

Mr. Jones was always changing the stock in his colonies. One of the questions he turned his attention to was how to upgrade his breeding stock. To do this he had to journey to the area of the origin of the honeybee and this of course was Europe and Asia. Nobody had imported bees from the continent before specifically for breeding.



The Federal Government were not too interested in the endeavour so the only answer to the problem was to go himself and purchase his own future breeding stock. In 1870, Mr. Jones travelled to the continent and eventually found himself in the Holy Land. At the expense of himself, an apiary was established on the island of Cyprus for the sole purpose of raising queens. He spent several months here developing a solid line of sturdy bees destined to improve his stock at home. In 1880, he returned home with his prize. Transporting these bees to Canada appears to have been a difficult undertaking. Mules were used to convey the boxes containing old combs containing honey and the new queens to the ships. Mr. Jones himself accompanied them on the voyage.

The queens that Mr. Jones brought back from Cyprus and Palestine were established in his apiaries near Beeton. From this foundation stock queens were shipped to island in Georgian Bay for mating and were returned to Beeton after they had begun to lay eggs and thence mailed out as ordered. This distribution of the queens in the Georgian Bay region was a very costly and tedious process. Numerous islands were chosen and colonies were established. In the 1880's getting there itself was a considerable task.

One such island, christened Palestine Island, was located sixteen miles from Parry Sound, approximately one hundred miles from Beeton. Forty of these miles were travelled by rail and the remainder by steamboat.

Four islands were created and specific stock was developed on each.

Cypriys Island was devoted to the Cyprians, Holy Island to the Italian, Palestine Island to the Palestine stock and Carniol Island to the Carniolan bees.

These islands were located away from the main streamboat route between Parry Sound and Collingwood. They were about six to eight miles apart being reached by rowboat. On each island there was a number of nucleus hives accompanied by a number of full colonies containing the best drones produced at the Beeton apiaries. Everything had to be brought to the island as a hive of bees could not live there on natural supplies. Also, the bees gather very little during the summer season and have to be fed continually.

All of this took time, money and considerable staff. Mr. Jones absorbed the expense being chiefly motivated in improving his breeding stock.

Unfortunately, the queen breeding undertaking proved to be very unprofitable. The islands were used for only four seasons. The stock line itself improved considerably. Queens developed by Mr. Jones sold individually for as high as fifteen dollars and were distributed over Canada and the United States. The failure resulted in too few orders being received plus the breeders found the queen line too cross in temperament and declined to use them.

Mr. Jones also tried to improve the feeding availability for his stock. Around the area of Beeton he scattered wild white clover seed along the railway right of way. These roots spread rapidly and when mature the light fluffy seeds blew for miles. The bees loved it, but the farmers became somewhat agitated by this "damnable weed".

The honey produced by bees feeding on the succulent sweet flower produced the purest honey ever seen in Canada.

So knowledgeable did Mr. Jones become in the art of beekeeping that he decided to devote his findings to a publication. Thus, "The Canadian Bee Journal" made its first appearance on April 1, 1885.

It was printed by D.A. Jones and Company Ltd. of Beeton, as a weekly and sold for \$1.00 per year. It was published in Beeton for 8 years under the direction of Mr. Jones. Unfortunately, a fire in June, 1893, destroyed the entire plant. In conjunction with this bee journal this press also published "The Beeton World" and the "Canadian Poultry Journal".

This fire spelled the end for the Bee and Poultry journals while "The Beeton World" continued as a popular source of news for several more decades.

Following the fire in 1893, Mr. Jones bee empire slowly disintegrated. The loss of his plant, the expense of the importation of bees from Europe and Asia, the expense of his colonies, the infiltration of poor stock, all sent Mr. Jones into bankruptcy. Thus, in the short span of only twenty-three years, D.A. Jones had vastly contributed to beekeeping, made his name internationally known and respected and put Beeton (Beeton) on the map.

He was not yet finished. After these financial difficulties he turned his energies into the building up of his community. The land which he owned was surveyed into plots and laid out into streets, along which were planted native soft maple, basswood, and elms, all pollen and nectar-producing trees. They were planted for the use of his loved bees as well as to beautify the village. D.A. Jones died quietly in his 75th year at his home in Beeton in November, 1910. He was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery, Beeton.

HONEY RECIPES

SWEET PICKLES

- 16 ounces honey
- 8 ounces vinegar
- 2½ inches cinnamon stick
- 6 whole cloves
- quantity of apples

Mix honey, cinnamon, vinegar, and whole cloves together and boil. Cook apples in syrup. When transparent remove and store in sterilized bottles and seal.

HONEY FUDGE

- 16 ounces brown sugar
 - 8 ounces evaporated milk
 - 8 ounces nuts
 - 1 square unsweetened chocolate
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - ¼ cup of honey
 - 2 tablespoons butter
- PREPARE AS FOR REGULAR FUDGE.

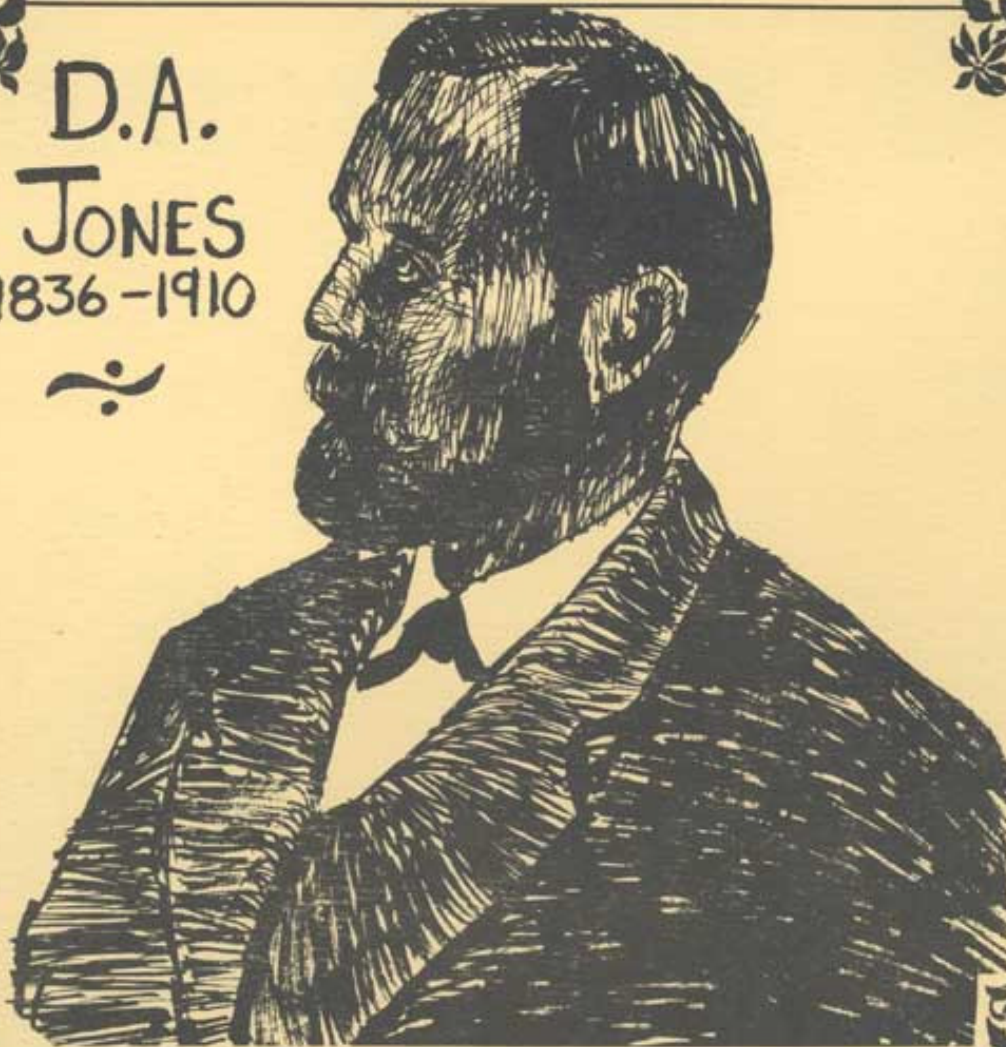


BEETON GLAZED CHICKEN

- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1-3 cup honey (light)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt

Cut up chicken and arrange on greased dish. Mix ingredients with egg. Spoon over chicken, place in moderate oven one hour. Turn and baste during cooking. Increase heat during the last ten minutes to give a real crisp skin.

D.A.
JONES
1836-1910



The **BEE TON CENTENNIAL**
1874 - 1974

Beeton is going to celebrate its centennial year in 1974. Lets start and get ready. The Reeve and Council are appealing to all our citizens to assist us in making our centennial year a real success. Get in touch with all our ex-Beetonits and invite them to return and help us celebrate. We will be organizing our various committees in the very near future and would ask you to give us your cooperative support.



S. R. McKelvey, D.V.M.
Reeve