

**Barry Gordon Fingler
1954-1995**



Barry Fingler passed away peacefully on May 23, 1995 at the Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg. Barry's passing followed a brief but courageous battle with cancer. In mid-January, 1995 Barry was diagnosed with a brain tumour and since then he had undergone surgery and radiation treatments.

Barry was born June 9, 1954 in Winnipeg, Manitoba where he spent his childhood years and attended school. He graduated from Churchill High School and then entered the University of Manitoba in 1972 to study agriculture. While attending university Barry worked during the summer in a variety of entomology related activities. It was during these summer work experiences that Barry was introduced to the study of bees by Dr. S.C. Jay in the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba. The resulting interest in apiculture by Barry would later become the focus of his academic and professional careers. He graduated in 1976 with a B.Sc. in Agriculture majoring in Entomology.

At the time of Barry's introduction to the beekeeping industry, in the mid to late 1970's, it was an exciting period of rapid development and expansion for honey producers in western Canada. In addition, interest in another species of bee, the leafcutter

bee (kept for the pollination of alfalfa), was just starting to take hold in Manitoba. Much of the research and extension associated with the growth of these two industries in western Canada was focused on the ambitious research and teaching programs at the University of Manitoba.

Immediately after receiving his degree, Barry entered a graduate program of studies under the supervision of Dr. Jay. At that time Dr. Jay was involved in numerous studies related to honey bee field behaviour and management related research designed to assist western Canadian beekeepers become more self-sufficient in bee supply. Much of the work related to improved self-sufficiency was directed at indoor wintering of honey bee colonies and local honey bee queen rearing. Barry's research activities were directed at improving the techniques for the successful wintering of honey bee colonies stored in an environmentally controlled building during Manitoba's relatively harsh winter conditions. Barry was awarded his Master of Science degree for this work in 1980. The close relationship of both mentor and friend that developed between Barry and his graduate studies advisor, Dr. Jay continued throughout Barry's life.

During this time, Barry was introduced to, and worked with, several other graduate students and bee research scientists who would later become professional colleagues employed in provincial Agricultural Departments and research and educational facilities across Canada, the U.S. and several other countries. Barry would later spend most of his career working in partnership with one of these graduate students, Don Dixon, initially within the Entomology Section and later the Apiculture Section of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

Following the completion of his M. Sc. research program at the University of Manitoba, Barry took a position as a Research Technician with the Alberta Bee Breeding Program at Brooks, Alberta where he worked for two years from 1979-1981. This work involved the assessment and selection of honey bee queens, reared in Alberta, for characteristics particularly suitable to western Canadian beekeeping.

In June, 1981, Barry was appointed to the position of Extension Apiarist with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture - a position he held until his passing in 1995. In this position Barry was involved in a broad range of educational and regulatory programs associated with both the honey bee and leafcutter bee industries. During this period, both of these industries underwent rapid expansions and faced several challenges related to introduced diseases, management changes and product marketing. Barry played a key role in assisting with the development of solutions to several problems in both industries as well as working with producers to take advantage of opportunities for new product development and marketing.

Barry's background in wintering honey bee colonies proved to be an important resource to beekeepers who were first interested in wintering bees for economic reasons and later required to winter their bees from 1988 onwards following the decision by the Government of Canada to place an embargo on U.S. bees because of disease concerns. Barry also played a key role in obtaining registration for some of the control products that producers have come to rely on to protect their honey bee colonies from two recently introduced parasitic mites of honey bees.

Within the leafcutter bee industry Barry has worked with producers on a number of important management and economic initiatives. In particular, he was active in his support of programs that were implemented to identify and control the spread of chalkbrood disease and thus avoid the serious economic losses that have resulted from this disease in other areas.

One of Barry's greatest professional pleasures was to share his enthusiasm about bees and bee management with both novice beekeepers as well as highly experienced commercial beekeepers. Barry was an excellent instructor and lecturer and was often invited to present talks on bees at schools and beekeeper meetings. Barry regularly attended and presented talks on beekeeping to the two Manitoba regional beekeeper associations, the Red River Apiarists Association and the

Brandon Area Beekeepers Association. For many years Barry assisted with the instruction of the "Beekeeping for the Hobbyist" evening course at the University of Manitoba and lectured on bees in other undergraduate courses. He was the author of and assisted in the production of several publications regarding bee management.

Barry has been a member and active participant in both the Entomological Society of Canada and the Entomological Society of Manitoba (ESM), including being the current President of the ESM. He was an active supporter of the Manitoba Forage Seed Association and the Canadian Alfalfa Seed Council. Barry has served as the Manitoba representative on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Canadian Leafcutter Bee Cocoon Testing Centre in Alberta. His interest in the honey bee industry included his support of and participation in the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association, the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists and the Canadian Honey Council.

Barry enjoyed spending his summers at Brereton Lake, Manitoba with his family. He was an avid fisherman who took great pleasure in teaching his nieces and nephew the joys of fishing. Barry was also a sports enthusiast who followed both professional and amateur sports of all kinds with great interest. Barry was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Winnipeg.

In addition to Barry's many friends and colleagues associated with entomology and beekeeping, he is survived by his father and mother Gordon and Marian Fingler, his brother Derrek and wife Leslie and their children, Daniel and Jane and by his sister Karen and husband Ward Karlberg and their daughter Robyn. He will also be missed by his grandmother Katherine Fingler and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

D.P.Dixon, Winnipeg