

EAST CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA TOUR TO ONTARIO
July 26 to August 3, 2002
TRIP REPORT
South African Delegation

Dr. G.D. Joubert: Director, ARC (Agricultural Research Council), dealing with industrial crops in SA.

Mr. L.L. Ngada: Director, Agriculture, Technology Development and Transfer, Dept of Agriculture of the Eastern Cape Province.

Mr. Z. Pitzi: Chief Director, Agriculture and Rural Development, Dept of Agriculture of the Eastern Cape Province.

Mr. M.M. Sotana: Assistant Director, Agricultural Development, Dept of Agriculture of the Eastern Cape Province.

Ms. T. Mdledle: Legal Advisor, Dept of Agriculture of the Eastern Cape Province.

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Arrival: July 26 from Hungary. Meet at Terminal 1 at 19:30 from flight LH3477. Stay at Cambridge Holiday Inn 519 658 4601. The delegation arrived on an earlier Air Canada flight and traveled to Cambridge Holiday Inn on their own. I met them in Cambridge on Saturday morning.

July 27, 10:30 am Ridgetown C. in Reek Conference Room with Dr. Gary Ablett. Review Ag College and research co-ordination system and introduce Ridgetown College. Stay at Cambridge Holiday Inn 519 658 4601. Dr. Ablett welcomed and gave the delegation an excellent snap shot picture of the OMAF/ U of G research partnership and infra structures.

11 am to 2-3 pm, meet with Peter Dragla and Claude Pinsonneault. Hemp breeding, THC management/research and OHA. Research and Industry perspective. After lunch (Penny's Restaurant) visit field plots.

Claude Pinsonneault, Executive Director, Ontario Hemp Alliance, welcomed the delegation and introduced them to the OHA and it's activities. Peter Dragla discussed and showed his hemp-breeding program in the field. Peter also demonstrated his DG THC test for field breeding application. Noon lunch was held at Penny's Restaurant in Ridgetown.

In the evening we toured Woolwich Township and had dinner in St. Jacobs.

July 28 Niagara Falls, Tourist. Stay at Cambridge Holiday Inn 519 658 4601. Toured Niagara Falls. Had a ride on the Maid of the Mist and did the Tunnel excursion. Had dinner on the Tower Revolving Restaurant and saw the "lights" and "fire works".

July 29, 9am to 11 am at 1 Stone Road with Bill Baxter, Feasibility Program Analyst Lead. From a Gov perspective, discuss the activities of Industrial Hemp Research and Industry Development in Ontario, successes and failures. What is its future?

Bill welcomed the delegation to OMAF and gave an overview of the industrial hemp industry and initiatives in Ontario and Canada. Spent some time on issues re Health Canada and regulations. Bill provided Ms. Mledle with file of Health Canada Regulations.

July 29, 2 pm Hempola, Barrie to discuss marketing, product development and etc. of hemp food products and building materials. The future of industrial hemp from an industry perspective. Stay at Yorkdale Holiday Inn, Dufferin and 401 (exit 364). 416 789 5161.

Excellent tour and discussion hosted by Greg and Kelly Hariett. Toured the new octagonal house under construction using Enviro Shingles for roof and Hemp straw bales for walls. Demonstrated live hemp oil extraction and processing. Introduced to Hempola store and hemp products being marketed by Hempola. Toured field of Anka and Carmen growing in field. Greg pointed out to the delegation that hemp grain for food products is a relatively fast turn-a-round business for a small business. He is turning a profit processing and marketing oil, flour, flour blends, salad dressings, plus other food, cosmetic, personal care, and clothing products.

July 30, 9 am meet in Yorkdale (Dufferin/401) Holiday Inn. Ruth Shamai (Natural Order), Larry Duprey (The Hemp Club) and David Marcus (Fast Fuel, naturalemphasis) to discuss research, marketing, product development and etc. of hemp food and fibre products. Industry, Marketing perspective.

Ruth discussed her personal journey in development and marketing of Hemp Food Products. Ruth also is involved with a hemp grain-breeding project in Saskatchewan expecting to release a registered hemp grain variety in 2003. Ruth is probably the largest hemp food producer/distributor in North America. Her hemp food product line is now in Loblaw food stores and consists of Hemp oil, salad dressings, tortilla chips, pasta and just new... hemp milk. Her business is making a profit.

David Marcus discussed his business focus on Fast Fuel Energy Bars, hemp cigarette paper and other related hemp food and paper products. Dave also discussed his partnership with Dr. Ernie Small, Ag Canada, Ottawa in evaluating wild hemp from Quebec and Ontario and breeding. Naturalemphasis is making a profit.

Larry Duprey discussed his hemp business and philosophy marketing hemp food and clothing. Larry also demonstrated the Ontario hemp fibre blanket and discussed its short history. Larry's hemp business is making him a living.

3 pm, Gary Gall & Michael Willinsky, BioFiber Research Inc., 314-610 Bullock Dr. Markham. Industrial applications for Agricultural Fibres in Building Industry. Stay at Holiday Inn in Peterborough. 705 743 1144.

Gary and Michael discussed their background and interest in utilization of agricultural fibres for various building construction materials replacement of wood. They discussed utilization of various Ag fibres (wheat, corn, soybean, flax and hemp). They introduced and demonstrated various types of materials. They discussed their present initiative using soybean straw to fabricate a pressed panel board. Mrs. Gall provided a most generous lunch and refreshments.

July 31, 10 am meet John Baker (Stonehedge Phytomedicinal Consulting Ltd. & Medicinal Plant Exploration), Canadian Natural Fibres Ltd. and Kawartha Hemp Grower's. Discuss research, processing and marketing of hemp fibre products. Meet at Holiday Inn in Peterborough. Research, Industry and market development perspective. Lunch – Bar-B-Q lunch at farm of Ed Haass. Visit will include field tour. Return to Cambridge Holiday Inn 519 658 4601.

John Baker (SPCL), Paul Shaughnessy (CNFL) and Ed Haass (KHCL) introduced and discussed the activities of these three groups. The KHCL has been involved growing hemp since 1998. John is involved collecting wild hemp cultivars from the Peterborough district and is developing several varieties for registration. The CNFL is developing plans and establishing a fibre processing plant in the Peterborough district. This would be processing hemp fibre for the commercial short fibre applications.

A generous traditional Bar-B-Q lunch with fresh sweet corn was served at the Haass farm.

The delegation was shown a hemp Kemper/Champion harvester/swather, hemp straw in storage and several fields of growing hemp.

August 1, 9 am to noon at 1 Stone Rd. meeting OMAF and U of G Senior officials (details still to be confirmed) to discuss potential research and industrial development partnerships. Government and University of Guelph perspective. Dr. M Bitran, Director, Innovation & Risk Management Branch, OMAF; Dr. M Goss, Resource Management & Environment, U of G/OMAF Science & Technology Branch.

The delegation was met by: Bill Baxter, OMAF; Dr. Maurice Bitran, director of Innovation and Risk Management Branch, OMAF; Darren Bolding, Technology Transfer Manager, Business Development Office, U of G; Stuart Budd, Research Analyst, Innovation and Risk Management Branch, OMAF; Dr. Michael Goss,

Resource Management and Environment, Science, Technology and People, U of G/OMAF.

Mr. L. Ngada made a brief power point presentation introducing South Africa and East Cape Province to the group. Discussions were held concerning OMAF and U of future partnerships.

Dr. Goss and Dr. Bitran gave a brief overview of the OMAF/U of G research infrastructure, funding and administration.

The East Cape delegation expressed sincere appreciation for the valuable tour of the industrial hemp industry and research in Ontario to date. They communicated interest in future partnerships: tour to East Cape in February, technical training in crop production, processing and product development, professional training in either or both a MSc and/or PhD focusing on hemp breeding and pathology.

The delegation was advised to contact CIDA re potential financial assistance.

Before leaving Guelph and traveling to Owen Sound we were able to visit a Loblaws (President's Choice) food store (Imperial & Pasley), health food section and see industrial hemp food products presented for sale. The sales clerk was very helpful and discussed with the group the marketing of hemp food products to the public.

August 1, 3pm at Peter Elkerton, The Georgian Highlands Co., Owen Sound. Gold Hemp oil production and marketing. Stay at Cambridge Holiday Inn 519 658 4601.

Peter gave an excellent presentation and demonstration of his hemp oil-processing factory. Peter is developing a new process for producing gold hemp oil without the green chlorophyll discoloration. He is bottling and capping his oil in a very attractive dark glass bottle. Peter showed us his field production of Anka.

August 2, 10 am to noon at Jim Hill, Hill Agra Machinery, Shelburne. Specialize in fibre retting, drying and separation equipment.

Jim gave the group an excellent demonstration and discussion of his technology developed for hemp fibre separation and processing which is portable and has mobile field application.

Aug 2, Noon to 3pm. Return to Toronto. Stay at Airport Travel Lodge **416 674 2222**

Dr. Joubert left to return to South Africa on a late Friday evening flight to Frankfurt. The remaining 4 in the delegation remained in Toronto at the Travel Lodge Hotel and returned to South Africa on Sunday.

Aug 3, Saturday. Free for visiting Toronto Stay at Airport Travel Lodge
416 674 2222

Aug 4, Depart to South Africa.

I sincerely appreciate the commitment and excellent cooperation of each of you in making this visit/tour of these senior Ag Gov officials/guests from East Cape a great success.

The SA group saw the big and small business potentials of industrial hemp grain and food products. They heard about the failures, challenges and success of industrial hemp initiatives in Ontario and Canada. They saw the challenges of establishing a hemp fibre industry compared to the hemp food industry.

The first major challenge facing the South Africans will be developing and putting into effect federal regulations for legal production of industrial hemp. The Canadian model was intensively discussed during the tour and is seriously being considered.

Tentative plans are to develop a tour to East Cape in February involving several people involved with industrial hemp research and industry. Potentially this could be Mr. Peter Dragla, Claude Pinsonneault, Gordon Scheifele, and Bill Baxter.