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**Letter to the Editor**

## A TRAPPER/BEEKEEPER RESPONDS TO TRAPPING LETTERS

In response to Jonathan's Wright's essay on trapping, I would like to bring up the subject of beekeeping. I will not go into the history of beekeeping in Alberta, but I do want to mention that bees are really a cute and fantastic little creature.

When I kept bees some thirty-odd years ago, the practice then was to buy packaged bees every year from the U.S. in the spring, keep them all summer producing honey and then on a good frosty night in early September we would give each beehive a good shot of cyanide gas, shake the bees out of the hive onto the ground and leave them to slowly freeze to death. Beekeepers thought nothing about doing that.

Times have changes since then and most beehives are insulated and overwintered now. You might say that beekeepers operated in the dark ages back then, but did people stop eating honey because of the way bees were treated? I think not.

Now trapping has come a long way since Mr. Wright had been a trapper, and I, being a professional trapper for thirty years plus, know this for a fact. A good trapper checks his traps on a regular basis and if a trap is set for a beaver, a beaver is what you are going to catch. Set a trap for a weasel and that is what you will catch. I can see an animal pulling out of a weak spring trap, but the traps we use today don't have weak springs. If you get your hand caught in a magnum conibear type trap, it will break your hand, so you can imagine what it would do to the neck of a raccoon. Beekeepers and fur trappers are not in the dark ages anymore.

I invite Mr. Wright to come on the trapline with me; he can take a video camera and if I catch any animals the way he said he did when he trapped, I will give up trapping.

**- Dave Donahue**

