

## Qu'appelle – Our Canadian Contributor

By Kevin W. Kinney

When studying the history of the Alpine breed one finds a handful of truly influential herd names, such as Nixon's, Redwood Hills, Hoach's, and Shahena'ko. These as well as others can continuously be found in the most notable herds. The linkages that these names represent have made an undisputed national impact on the breed.

One such herd name that for over three decades has continued to be seen in a number of the top herds, is responsible for not only breeding the sire of the 1986 and 1992 ADGA National Show Alpine Reserve Grand Champions, the sire of 1994 National Champion alpine, but also bred the 1997 Canadian West National Show Alpine Grand and Reserve Grand Champions and most recently saw one of their sires progeny be named the 2005 ADGA National Show first place four year old Alpine with first place udder, GCH Redwood Hills Ember Amicale 8\*M. This herd is none other than - Qu'appelle of Canada; owned by Geraldine Goodman.

Mrs. Goodman was gracious enough to indulge my curiosity of her herd's history, her knowledge and insight into what makes an incredibly superior breeding program. As Alpine breeders we are indebted to Mrs. Goodman for her passion and dedication to the betterment of the alpine breed. The following is a conversation with Geraldine Goodman, in her own words.

### ***How it all began:***

In the winter of 1973, a friend and I decided to take a night course on goat husbandry being offered at a local school. This was in the time of the "back to the land" movement, and we figured that at some point, this knowledge might be useful. The high point of the course was on the final evening when the class was in the industrial arts room. A very patient old Nubian stood on a tarp, and we all lined up for our turn to try to get one squirt out of her long, pendulous udder. I really didn't have any thoughts about it afterward other than a vague idea that I might have a goat someday. Later in the spring, a friend who worked at an animal auction arrived on my doorstep with two Saanen kids, a buck and a doe, which he had bought for \$25, as he figured I would want them. I told

him I really didn't want to have any goats for at least a couple of years. He asked me to take care of them until the next sale, as he had nowhere to put them. By the time the next sale rolled around, the doe kid wasn't going anywhere, although I had enough sense to let the buck kid go back to the sale. The doe kid, now imaginatively named Edelweiss, had horns, which had to be removed. I knew nothing about this so took her to the veterinary to have it done. I noticed a goat in his yard, tied to some large cement blocks, which she was hauling around with great determination and success. This was the first time I laid eyes on an Alpine. When he saw me looking at the goat, the vet asked me if I would like to buy her, as she had just finished destroying his young apple orchard. He had taken her as payment on a bill from a local goat breeder, but she had proven to be completely aggravating to him by pillaging all of his landscaping. From what I know about Alpines now, this doe was truly among the most stubborn and cantankerous of the breed, but I was hooked, and it was Alpines for me from that moment on.

She was a very dairy cou clair named Polly, and once she had given birth to her single Nupine buck kid, she produced a steady 12 to 13 pounds of milk for the summer. There was a local goat breeder, Michael Cassidy, who was doing a lot of importing from the United States, which made him a sort of local "goat guru". He had traveled to California, and had stories of going to the goat Mecca, Laurelwood Acres. He rarely milked without an audience of neophyte goat breeders. I bought my first Alpine buck kid from him, out of Naches and Laurel Hill lines. It was a very exciting time for the goat obsessed. Many people in our area of British Columbia were importing stock from the US, and we held large, well-attended ADGA sanctioned shows with ADGA judges. At that time, the border was very easy for us to cross to show in the US, so we would go into Washington State quite frequently to show. Sue Barker, who was in 4H when I first met her, showed her Toggenburgs, competing with the beautiful Kerri Glen herd. Kerri Glen had imported Diamond Clyde, who was magic when he was combined with the local excellent Toggs. Later Sue bought Kerri Glen Northern Princess, a Clyde daughter, and and showed her to two ADGA National Championships.

In the summer of 1975, I quit my job working for the Canadian National Railway, and embarked on an ill-advised attempt to live off the land on a remote island off the coast of British Columbia. The land we bought was ten acres that had been clear-

cut logged during the 1920s, and was a mess of eroded rock and bogs formed by the soil that slid off all the slopes once the trees were gone. A group of us had bought the ten-acre parcels sight unseen from a couple that lived on a 70-foot yacht formerly owned by movie legend Vivien Leigh. Needless to say, they sailed off into the sunset.

We caused quite a stir when we pulled up to the dock of the island in our open clinker boat. Amid our worldly possessions stood the three goats and two dogs, all wearing life jackets. Long story made short, we were on our way home to civilization five months later, and I signed up for 26 more years on the railroad. I decided that I wanted to buy a couple of purebred Alpine doe kids. Some friends had ADGA yearbooks and goat magazines, and from these I found information and pictures of mostly California herds. The Raymar and Nixon herds appealed to me the most. I saw a picture of Nixon's Dream Girl, and decided that I wanted a daughter of Nixon's Tomboy.

### ***Things to come:***

In the spring of 1976, I picked up two doe kids at the airport, one of who was a Tomboy daughter, Nixon's Amaranth. Unfortunately, a few of the local breeders were put off that I had not bought an animal from them, instead of Nixon's, and they were mercilessly critical of my big, somewhat awkward kid. I did not know much about goats at that point, and I was depressed that I had gotten what I was told was a substandard goat. Imagine my surprise when she was reserve grand champion at her first show as a yearling milker, to a doe named Shady Brook Antonia Pierette. Pierette had been owned in Washington State, had done very well there, and had a huge reputation at the time. The next year, I took Amaranth to the first large show of the year in Mt. Vernon, in Washington State. I met a red headed fireball named Jan Palmer there. She was showing a doe she had just bought from Melba Shaw. The doe had eaten Melba's flowers one too many times. Her name was Wa-Shaw-Me Snow Bird. Snow Bird was from a slow-developing line, which is something I became well acquainted with later on. As a young two year old, she was still in a very developmental stage. Imagine my surprise again, when Amaranth was best doe in show and best udder in show. Amaranth continued to do well at the shows.

I noticed an interesting herd called Serendipity, owned by Tom Koenig, which was working with mostly Nixon bloodlines in California. I bought a doe kid named Black Eyed Susie, out of Daydream, a Jenny daughter. Luck was with me again, and Susie turned out to be a very nice doe that also did well at the shows. Amaranth and Susie each had a win as Canadian West National Champions.

I heard that there was a Tomboy son six hours away by road in Washington State, owned by Jane Hunt. I thought doubling up on Tomboy would be a good thing, so tried driving Amaranth down to be bred, and back home again in one day. She did not take, and I found out later as I did more breedings in the US, that the does had to be boarded, allowed a few days settling in period, and then brought into heat and bred, then allowed some days to settle. I used Veramix sponges or Lutalyse to time when the does would be in heat, and this worked well. The second time around, I took both Susie and Amaranth, boarded them at Hill N Holler, and they both came home bred to Joi Huckster. I got some good animals from those breedings, including Qu'appelle Joi Acclaim and Qu'appelle Joi Alchemist from Amaranth, and Qu'appelle Joi Sunrise, and Qu'appelle Joi Sunflower from Susie. Sunflower finished her championship as a two year old in two weekends in good competition in Washington State. Acclaim went to Redwood Hills, where he sired a first place National Senior Get of Sire, including Aura, who was also the 1986 ADGA Reserve National Champion and Reserve Best Udder. Alchemist sired Qu'appelle Alchemist Goldsmith, and later was sold to Mary Konnersman, and Sunrise ended up at Sanstorm. Goldsmith was sold to Randy Hoach, and there, among some other good does, he sired Goldenlark, who was later an ADGA National Champion. I was fortunate that these bucks went to herds where the does were already beautiful.

During this approximate time, I also was lucky to be able to buy some does with the Wa-Shaw-Me Snow Bird bloodline as the Chateau de Ville herd was dispersing. I bought Chateau de Ville's Snow Goose, Chateau de Ville's Thorn Bird, and Chateau de Ville's Golden Eye. These were all beautiful black-trimmed reddish chamoisees. I was also adding more of the Snow Bird blood by using a Sky Pilot son named Seahawk, bred by Waiilatpu. Seahawk's dam, Forgeron's SFT Rifka, had a lot of Raymar behind her, tracing to Raymar's Impression. She was a striking cou clair doe with a lovely udder. I

took Susie and Sunflower over the mountains to Walla Walla, and boarded them at Waiilatpu so that they could be bred to Seahawk.

Walla Walla is a wonderful area, but the part in between here and there is very wide open and can be windy and desolate in some places. When I was driving through the snow, bringing the does home late in the fall, I just came over the top of Snoqualmie Pass, when I realized I suddenly had no traction whatsoever. Luckily, it was a very wide road, and the semi trailers and I just slowly tobogganed down the ice until we got to where there was something for the tires to hold. I was having a heart attack, and I don't think I stopped shaking for a long time, but as I looked in the rear view mirror, I could see that the goats never missed a beat in their cudding. This was only one of many goat-hauling adventures that I am sure anyone in goats can relate to.

### ***Making an impact:***

From these breedings, Susie produced Qu'appelle Seahawk Seafarer, and Sunflower had Qu'appelle Seahawk Sojourn, who was sold to Robin Skillman in Sacramento, and Qu'appelle Seahawk Spinnaker, who became a permanent champion, like her dam and grand dam. Seafarer was bred to Golden Eye to produce Goldenseal, who was sold to Diana Young and Randy Hoach. I then bought a Seahawk son from Waiilatpu, out of an all-around good doe named Waiilatpu Caleb Fiddlesticks. His name was Rembrandt, and when he was bred to Snow Goose, the doe that is really the foundation of what I now have was born.

Snow Goose was quite a flighty doe, and something had given her a bad scare about a week before she was due to kid. She just stood and shook, and would not eat. I had problems getting her bred, and I was not about to lose a kid when it was so close. I had heard about giving does beer in their water to help them make milk and relax at shows. So, I bought some beer, and every few hours, I went out and filled a syringe and fed her a whole beer. I guess it may have been like beer going with pizza, but every time I gave her a beer, she would go over and start eating some hay. I guess those days must have passed in a bit of a haze for her. I was absolutely elated when I scooped up her scrawny doe kid and ran her back to the house. The line coming from Snow Bird could be quite slow to develop and Gazelle was no exception.

Eventually, I even tried to sell her bred, and luckily for me, nobody wanted a small, awkward yearling. On her first kidding, when she was bred to Missdee's RM Bravo, she had a buck named Gambit and a doe named Gherkin. Gherkin, a stylish cou clair, would rank with the four favourite, and best, does that I have had, the others being Gazelle, Eclipse and Essence. Her twin, a bright red chamoise, was sold to the Udder Way herd. I suspect he must have been slow developing like his dam and his twin sister, and he vanished, but not before he sired Kickapoo Valley Gambit Chime, one of Ed Jodlowski's best does.

***Success in hand:***

During this time, I went through a divorce, and ended up having to take care of the farm myself as well as work full time. I was in a half-finished house, and also had to demolish and dispose of my old house. I sold a lot of my herd, and lost some bloodlines forever. During my time working for the railroad, I almost never had a weekend off, and I worked all three shifts. The worst was graveyards, and having to do chores after I came home in the morning, and maybe making it into bed around 10 AM, then doing chores again before I got in the car to make my hour commute back to start at 11 PM. If I wanted to show on a weekend, I had to lose my pay for whatever days I took off, and if I swapped shifts with somebody, I would end up paying them back with some pretty challenging double shifting, or working through on my days off. So, I never have managed to get out to show my animals the way a lot of breeders do, and a lot of my does ended up with two CH legs, as I just couldn't get them out to shows. Due to my job and having the farm to take care of on my own for a few years, Gazelle ended up being bred to some very forgettable bucks until after I went to the ADGA National Show in 1994.

Although that was not the year that she won ADGA National Champion, I had the proverbial gut feeling when I saw Iron-Rod Rev Sutra, that breeding with Gazelle and something from Sutra could work really well. I had heard that Lisa Gardner had an absolutely phenomenal success rate with her AI, so I boarded my does with her, and Gazelle settled to an AI breeding with Iron-Rod Supersonic.

Five months later, my husband came out to the barn when he arrived home from work to find me sitting in shock with three doe kids. I couldn't believe that I had gotten

three does, two reddish chamoisee and one pure black. This is a herd where a lot of bucks seem to be born. These does were Eclipse, Ethereal, and Essence. All three freshened with outstanding udders as yearlings, and they milked incredibly well.

As two year olds, they showed very well at the few shows I made it to, both in the US and Canada. Eclipse had a couple of Best of Breeds and Best Uddered Alpine at two large shows in Washington State. Essence always was reserve to Eclipse until the 1997 Canadian West National Show, where Essence was Grand Champion and Eclipse was reserve.

Milk production of the three does was truly awesome, with Eclipse milking as a two year old in 305 days 4040 pounds milk and 137 pounds butterfat. Her best one-day test was in May at age five when she produced 19.6 pounds milk at 3.2% butterfat. As four year old she ADGA appraised 92 EEEE. As a two year old, Ethereal milked in 305 days 4342 pounds milk and 143 pounds butterfat. Her extended lactation that year was 377 days 5313 pounds milk and 172 pounds butterfat. Her best one-day test was in May as a five year old when she produced 18.1 pounds milk at 3.1% butterfat. As a two year old Essence milked in 289 days 3365 pounds milk and 130 pounds butterfat.

The saddest day I have had in goats was when Essence died of enterotoxemia soon after she turned three. Eclipse's sons that were exported to the US are Qu'appelle Titan Solar Flare that went to Jewel Craft and Bonnie Winger in Pennsylvania, Qu'appelle Goldsmith Supernova went to Oak Acres in Illinois, Qu'appelle V Ember went to Jennifer Bice, Grant Colfax and Sam Whiteside, and Qu'appelle V Etienne went to Iron-Rod. Essence's twin sons, Enchanter and Encounter, went to Brad Wigle/Michael Harris and Diane Kirsch respectively.

I am very glad that Enchanter was sold back to me, and at nine years, will be bred to three does this fall. I have bred many other animals and used some different lines other than the ones I have described here, but the doe line coming down from Snow Bird, through Gazelle, has been the most consistent and the one I have liked the best. I also have always loved the look; style of the Nixon bred and related animals. I have always felt that the two lines could be very complementary to one another.

### ***Crossing the Board:***

As you can imagine, living north of the US border has made things complicated as far as access to American genetics and being able to export animals to the US. At this point, there are not any breeding goats of any age allowed to cross the border. The closure commenced in December of 2003 when a single case of BSE was discovered in Alberta, Canada, and it may still be in effect for years to come. The most optimistic predications for breeding stock to cross either way are for late 2007. Groups such as R-Calf are doing their best to ensure that US import regulations stay as restrictive as possible. Unfortunately for people like me, things may never again be easy or even possible as far as movement of breeding animals back and forth. When I started in goats in the 1970s, all we had to do was have a herd health inspection by a federal vet, who would make up a permit identifying by tattoo the goats that were going to go over the border. The goats were identified by tattoo at the border, their health status examined, and the permit checked by the USDA veterinarian. Upon return, in the case of having attended a show or for breeding, the Canadian federal vet would check the permit, the goats' tattoos and health status to readmit them to Canada. This was all free of charge. As the years went by, there were more and more charges for these services. When I last exported, it cost roughly \$200 to get a goat or up to ten goats across the border. I always shipped just one or a few goats at a time, so this became increasingly burdensome, as I was forced to absorb more and more of this cost. I took the goats, usually kids, across the border myself to handle all of the customs procedures in all but a few cases. I would then drive them to Seattle to send them off by airlines from there. With some of the flights to the eastern US leaving only in the early morning, and heat restrictions to deal with in summer, I really ended up doing some fancy footwork as the border veterinary inspections only operated from 8 AM to 4 PM.

In my earlier years in goats, people from southern British Columbia showed in the western states quite regularly. In turn the breeders to the south of the border came for some of the bigger shows that paid good prize money. This was because they had to contend with Canada's bluetongue regulations and had to pay a certain amount for the testing in order to be able to attend the shows. In this area, we held ADGA sanctioned shows, judged by ADGA judges. At the time there was a real boom in importing animals

from the US, and many of us dual-registered all of our animals with ADGA and the Canadian Goat Society (CGS). Due to Canadian law, we could not avoid registering with CGS. CGS did not have any provisions for sanctioning shows or training and licensing judges. After awhile, CGS came up with sanctioning for shows and judges training, due in no small part to the fact that people were going ahead with this kind of thing through ADGA. We also held ADGA judges training conferences in this area. During my early years in goats, we had no access to milk production testing except through a program called Record of Production, which was more oriented toward cow dairies. It required the owner to have a large number of milkers of the same pure breed, which made things almost impossible for the average goat owner. We were aware of the testing options available in the US to the goat owners there, and tried to no avail to get something going through CGS. I was even told at one point that if goat owners had milk production testing, it would encourage illegal sales of milk.

Once again, some of our ADGA friends came to help us out. John and Lou Ed Gorman did a workshop on milk testing with a large group of us. Our intention, with the Gormans' help was to join the North West Dairy Goat Herd Improvement Association, and do our milk testing through that organization. All we had to arrange was for the butterfat testing to be done in Canada. Suddenly, CGS came up with a milk-testing program. The US obviously has a larger base of breeders than Canada by a long shot, and that much greater resource to draw from. However, I think that the people of ADGA have to be given a lot of credit for developing the programs that are in use today, such as judges' training, show sanctioning, linear appraisal, and milk production testing. In my opinion, the level of knowledge and expertise that exist among some of the senior judges and appraisers in ADGA would be very difficult to find elsewhere. Likewise, the systems that have been developed by the people who make up ADGA have facilitated the rapid improvement of the dairy goat breeds as a whole.

When I think back to the general quality within the breed I know the best, which is Alpines, the improvements in the mammary systems are simply amazing. I view the trend toward larger animals with some apprehension as even though the really big does can be very impressive, I think that the medium sized doe with lots of dairy character is best in the long run. I also think that there could be some readjusting of the

focus toward dairy character. It seems that some aspects of dairiness are now being equated with fragility or frailness, and over-conditioning is not penalized to the degree it used to be as far as I can see.

However, these are the opinions of someone who has a very narrow focus upon what kind of animal qualifies as something that I think is good. I have always had a definite idea of what I wanted to use as far as a buck, and have pretty well always had to import bucks from the US to keep moving the direction I have chosen. Because of the border being closed, my ability to use American bloodlines has been cut off for the most part. There is very little goat semen available in Canada, because of restrictive regulations that make collecting a buck a very expensive proposition. Semen from the US cannot come into Canada unless it has been collected in a facility that conforms to the Canadian regulations, and unfortunately, very little is collected this way.

In the past, I managed to use American bucks or semen on my does by taking them across the border and inseminating or breeding them in Washington State. At first, I synchronized them with Lutalyse or sponges, and boarded them with breeders whose generosity and help I will never forget. I found that the does had to have four or five days to settle in, and then they could be brought into heat with Lutalyse or by withdrawing the sponge, bred or inseminated, then allowed about a week to settle. In all, this would amount to about three weeks in the US. Since I live less than ten minutes from the border, I was later able to arrange with a former goat breeder that I could bring my does to her place, use her nitrogen tank, and inseminate my does less than a 30 minute drive away. Of course, there were border inspections going both ways, which took roughly 40 minutes each time. The round trip, with inseminations, usually took around three hours. I tried to have two or three does in the right heat stage for insemination, which meant I had to synchronize more than that. I calculated to inseminate around 62 hours after the Lutalyse shot (which was the second after an initial shot ten days earlier to make the does more synchronized).

It was quite a comedy of errors at times when I took the does to be inseminated, with both of us in a mad rush to get things done. One straw of semen that ended up fertilizing triplets did a high back flip through the air after springing out of our hands in the confusion. The conception rate was excellent on these breedings. Keeping the stress

low when moving the does, and making sure the process was done as swiftly as possible were essential to this. You can see how I might be envious of those in the US who have a semen tank conveniently sitting in their barn.

***Herd in a Tank:***

As my foundation doe, Gazelle, neared the end of her productive years, I looked into having embryo transfer done on her. I had Dr. Brian McOnie highly recommended to me, and the results of his expertise with my does certainly justified the enthusiasm with which he was mentioned. At twelve years, Gazelle produced ten excellent quality embryos, eight of which resulted in kids being born. I had hoped to use my next herdsire, Sand Dance WRS Night Hawk on her, but could not get him moved in time, so I had to use a buck kid that I had kept as a back up. Most of the kids were bucks, but I did end up with a doe that had one of the most outstanding udders I have had in my herd. One of Gazelle's daughters, GCH Qu'appelle Supersonic Eclipse, was the second candidate to undergo embryo collection.

Eclipse had carried quads as a two year old, two of which were conjoined twins. The vet pulled the conjoined twins out in one piece, and Eclipse suffered permanent damage that caused more and more problems as the years went by. Her last kidding as an eight year old was so bad, mainly because of the tightness of all the scar tissue, which I decided I could never put her through anything like that again. Eclipse had also been a buck machine all her life, and I really wanted to have some does from her if possible. So that fall, she was bred to Night Hawk, and produced 21 top quality embryos, four of which were put into two recipients. There were three does and a buck born from that occasion. In March, Eclipse was flushed again. We hauled her to Dr. McOnie's clinic five hours away as he needed to have a goat to flush during a federal veterinary inspection of his facilities to qualify for international standards certification. She produced six embryos, which was not unexpected as it was late in the season for goats in my herd. We drove back home over two mountain passes during a blizzard and she never missed a beat.

In the next fall, she was bred to Sunshine Tirtic Tishri, and we got six embryos, which were implanted into three recipients. I had one more recipient ready; so three frozen embryos from Night Hawk and Eclipse were implanted in her. Five bucks and

one doe came from the Tishri/Eclipse breeding, and a doe and a buck from the Night Hawk/Eclipse breeding. I have kept all of the embryo transfer doe kids from Eclipse. Three will be freshening as two year olds in the spring. Eclipse and her sister Ethereal live together in retirement now.

The embryo collection and transfer process has enabled me to continue to develop the herd over the last few years despite the lack of availability of the US genetics. I have reduced my herd to a low level, as I don't want to breed to bucks that I don't think would move the herd in the right direction. I have enough to get me through the next couple of years, and then possibly it will become more obvious what is going to happen with the border regulations. I have been very fortunate to have access to someone with the level of dedication and expertise of Dr. McOnie in the field of embryo collection and transfer. I have been able to take advantage of having two excellent brood does to work with and have them produce several years worth of potential kids in one flush. The next step may be working on non-surgical flushing techniques with some of the younger animals.

I am very disappointed that ADGA regulations demand that DNA typing be done on all animals involved in embryo collection. I cannot see why it is believed that the embryo collection and transfer process is more prone to error or deception than other methods of breeding. Certainly it is done in a very controlled setting, with a vet and assistants necessary to accomplish the surgery involved. All tattoos of bucks, donors and recipients are recorded on the vet certificate for the procedure. Since the beginning of animal registries, the integrity and honesty of the breeders in the association has been the lynch-pin of the system. This cannot be legislated. I don't think that breeding naturally with a buck, or using frozen semen can be considered to be more reliable than the embryo collection and transfer process. Most breedings done by a live buck or by artificial insemination are unwitnessed by anyone except the owner. Failure of fencing in buck enclosures is the main cause of unintended natural breedings of does by bucks, which can leave open the possibility of error. The embryo collection/transfer animals should not be subject to any more scrutiny than those from AI or natural service. Embryo transfer could allow more superior females to have a greater impact on their breed, much as widely used AI bucks can.

### ***Future Outlooks:***

Although sometimes it has been a challenge to keep going as far as maintaining a breeding herd of Alpines along with everything else that has to be done, overall it has been a very beneficial experience for me. I think I have learned a lot about life that you can only learn by working very closely with animals. The applications of this knowledge range far beyond just animal husbandry. I have always said that in having goats, you learn to have fortitude as well. There are the tragic deaths of favorite animals to deal with, and then the births of kids that are everything you had hoped they would be. As far as working with the Alpine breed, there really has not been another breed of goats that has had the same attraction for me. And within the Alpine breed, there has been only a certain type of animal that I have wanted to work with. It has been a consuming interest for me in all the time that I have been involved.

Unfortunately, due to all the new food safety and animal health regulations that are a worldwide trend, export and import of breeding animals between the United States and Canada may prove to be too expensive and difficult for the small breeders in the future. Except for a few bucks that I used in my first couple of years in goats, all of the bucks I have used over the years have been imports from the United States. The identification tagging systems for the tractability programs in both the US and Canada have not yet been finalized or implemented at the date of this writing. The animal identification and location systems as well as the scrapie surveillance and prevalence programs in both countries are likely to be part and parcel of any regulations for import and export. Regulations have yet to be written regarding breeding stock crossing the border possibly because of where all of these programs stand in their development. If the regulations regarding identification of premises, identification of individual animals, and tracking of animal movements follow what is being done in many other countries, especially the European Union, having goats may become too arduous for many of the small breeders, as well as being very discouraging to those who consider getting involved in breeding goats. So the challenge to future breeding of Alpines is shared by all of the breeds.

Thanks to Dr. McOnie, I have seventeen embryos from Eclipse still frozen. Working on non-surgical collection of embryos could add more to my "herd in a tank". I would hope that at some point in the future when these "goats in waiting" have been brought to life, that more people will see the benefit of using embryo transfer to propagate the genetics of the best quality does they have.

Due to being located in a country outside of the United States, the number of animals I have sold to American breeders has been more limited than if the herd was within the US. I have tried to preserve and improve upon the bloodlines that came down from the old Wa Shaw Me/Raintree/Chateau de Ville herds. Some of the animals I have sold have made it into the right herds and the genetics have come together the right way. Since the lines I work with can be slow to develop, these people have had the patience to allow these animals to mature.

I would hope that at some point in the future, it will be possible for me to again have free choice of what bucks I would like to work with, as well as being able to contribute some excellent animals back to the Alpine gene pool. I have always enjoyed the many friendships I have had with American breeders, as well as appreciating the particular dedication and professionalism that they have brought to their work.