



# KAMI FOUNDATION FOR HAITI

January 2015

ISSUE 9

**Soon 2000 KAMI Stoves will be in Operation in Haiti**

## November 2014 Trip to Haiti

My first trip to Haiti since the death of Michel Jobin in November of 2013 began on November 18, 2014. I was accompanied by Leo Lesperance, back for his 3rd trip, my son-in-law Mike Desroches and grand-son Gabriel. We spent November 19 in the Dominican Republic where we purchased a generator for use with the extruder.

We arrived in Terrier Rouge on November 20 and were welcomed by the local brass band, which marched up and played for us. Jocelyn had even found a bottle of champagne which he opened for us once the baggage was safely unloaded and we could relax. It was good to see Benson, who stays with us when we are there as well as Nazou, who had a meal ready for us. Benson and Gabriel are close to the same age, and hit it off right away.



Our chef Nazou and Stephania

Over the next few days Leo, Mike and Jocelyn worked with the extruder and had it operating on Monday (see accompanying story).

After arriving, we received a call from William Sheard, a friend of Joe Gray from SHARE, who was in Cap Haitian doing Agricultural Research with MFK (Meds and Food For Kids). He, with a MFK Deputy Director Lauren, wanted to come on Saturday to visit us, see KAMI's operation and also visit the Co-operatives to see the Jatropha plantations. Jocelyn arranged to meet them at a neighbouring village to show them the way to

KAMI's premises. Mike went with Jocelyn and had the experience of having the only white face in the back of a pick-up truck eventually packed with about 17 people- standing room only. Mike was given the task of communicating with them by cell phone to tell them exactly where to meet and it was challenging since Lauren was struggling in French. When they finally met Mike discovered that Lauren was American and spoke English.

When we visited the Bawochen Co-operative we were told that due to recent rains there was too much mud to drive all the way there, so we left the truck and had a four-Km. trek in. It would have been an enjoyable walk except that we were not yet

acclimatized, the heat really got to us, and we had not brought water. Ghislain Etienne from Bawochen showed us the well which SHARE had financed the previous year, the vegetables which were thriving, and the Jatropha plantation. Ghislain told us that the Jatropha would do much better if some of the tall grass growing around the trees could be eaten by goats and wondered if there was a chance that we could find funding for a fence to keep some goats confined to just the Jatropha plantation. I assured him that it was a good idea, and that I would look into the possibility.

The second stop that day was at the Raboure Co-operative whose members were also glad to show us their various operations. They raise chickens, have individual garden plots as well as the plantation of Jatropha. St. Onge, the president of Raboure told us how much they had appreciated all that Michel had done for them over the years. Our visit there had to be short since William and Lauren had to be back to Cap Haitian for early afternoon.

....Continued on next page....



Visiting the Bawochen Co-operative:  
from left William Sheard, a Co-op member, Gabriel, Kathleen, Ghislain Etienne (Co-op President), Jocelyn and Lauren, with pruned Jatropha trees in behind.

The next couple of days we spent visiting a school and other points of interest in the village. There was also KAMI business to look after, such as renewing Jocelyn's contract, going over future plans, banking, and reviewing the paperwork. We had brought in parts for 100 more stoves and by the time Jocelyn finishes installing the 200 stoves on order for the month of December, there will be a total of 2,000 KAMI stoves in use in Haiti. We were also entertained by, and provided entertainment for, many local children who kept coming by to see the "blancs."

Wednesday morning at 5:30 a.m. we went to Mass to remember Michel, then came home to a quick breakfast before our transportation to the border arrived. Boss John, our driver, and Jocelyn told us that because of the demonstrations that had been going on for a few days all over the country, all the main roads were blocked. Fortunately they were able to detour through small villages and take roads that were little more than donkey-paths and eventually we arrived at the border where Jose was waiting. What a relief!

We spent the night at Hotel Don Antonio in Sosua, and the next morning Mike and Gabriel were able to have a swim in the ocean before it was time for Jose to take us back to the airport for the flight home.

*Kathleen Jobin*

### Two Fish Frys Raise Money for KAMI

Leo Lesperance was again the host of a fund raiser on July 5, 2014. About 30 people attended the Fish Fry at his residence. All the fish was donated by Leo's sister and brother-in-law Vivette and Martin Gignac. They in turn hosted about 40 people at a second Fish Fry at their residence on September 6. Family and friends helped out in many ways including preparing salads, desserts and gifts for door prizes. As a result of these two dinners, many new people were introduced to the KAMI foundation. Leo and his family wish to thank everyone who participated and contributed to this worthy cause.



Visit to a Terrier Rouge School



Mike with a Haitian girl

### My Trip To Haiti - November 2014

My Name is Gabriel Desroches; I am Michel and Kathleen Jobin's grandson. I was invited by my grandfather to come with him to Haiti last year, to show me what he does there. I was excited. As you know mothers will worry but she did apply for my passport. My Dad was invited as well. The day came, I had the ticket but my passport hadn't arrived! I was sad but it was decided that I would go on his next trip in March. A couple weeks after my grandmother Kathleen and our friend Leo, returned from Haiti, I came home after school like usual and there was a message on the answering machine from Jocelyn Latour: my grandfather Michel passed away. I remembered many good things of my grandfather and one thing he said often, "La vie Continue," Life Goes on.

We planned for our next trip several months later when my Grandmother said she had to go. The day came, nervous, excited, curious, wondering what's to come. When I came off the plane it was a heat shock. From super cold to super hot, it was like 30 degrees. We stayed for 2 nights at a nice Hotel in the Dominican Republic. The owner was French Canadian from Montreal. Then we were on our way to Haiti. When we arrived at the building that Grandpapa used as his office and a place to sleep, we were surprised by a warm welcome. A horn band was in front of the building playing "Haiti Cheri," my Grandfather's favorite song. The Haitians played it beautifully with their instruments. There were lots of people all gathered welcoming us. The first thing I felt was how much the Haitian people loved my Grandfather.

I met a new friend. His name is Benson. He is about my age, 15-16 years old. He would work for Michel whenever he came to Terrier Rouge. His duties included locking the doors, fetch the water for washing and drinking water. He was also there when my Grandpapa



Gabriel and Benson sharing the iPod



Martin Gignac, Bob Strilchuk at July Fish Fry

died. I was happy that he could speak both French and Creole because I had trouble understanding the people. He was my Google translator. We became great friends. We went to see the field of Jatropha trees. I was impressed by the amount of work they did all day long. Again it was hot, and I also had a cold. It was an experience I will never forget.

Thank you Mom for letting me go and see all that your father did. And thank you Grandpapa for having invited me.

*Gabriel Desroches*

## EXTRUDER READY FOR OPERATION

An important part of KAMI Foundation's stove project has been that eventually the people using the stoves would produce at least part of their own fuel to replace or supplement kerosene. Michel Jobin believed that Jatropha could be the source of that fuel. The planted Jatropha trees are now entering production; the next step was to procure an oil press. Kathleen Jobin had purchased an extruder and as reported in the previous newsletter, the extruder had been loaded into a container in



Kathleen Jobin with the crated extruder in the container in Virgil

Virgil, Ontario, ready to be delivered to Haiti. The container left Virgil on May 12 and after a trip that involved truck, rail and ship, the container arrived in Gonaives, Haiti. It sat there for some time as Pastor Benoit, the Lutheran Pastor who was to receive it, was visiting family in Miami when it arrived. Fortunately since the extruder was put in the container last it was first to be unloaded once the Pastor returned. Jocelyn Latour then arranged for a truck to deliver it to Terrier Rouge, which was a very expensive trip since the cost of gas had doubled. Further, along the way, they had to stop to repair a flat tire on the truck. But by September 13, the extruder was safely stored in the KAMI office awaiting Kathleen Jobin's next trip to Haiti.

One of things that was still needed was a generator to work with the extruder. So on the November trip, before going into Haiti, Kathleen, Mike and Leo searched in Puerto Plata for a generator. After looking at several and comparing makes, models and prices, they finally went back and bought the first one that she had looked at. Jose, their faithful driver, skillfully fitted it into his van along with the four people and their four heavy suitcases for the 4 hour trip to the D.R./Haiti border. Although the generator ended up costing more than they had planned to spend, considering time and customs costs at the border, it was still cheaper than the price Jocelyn, KAMI's agent in Haiti, had been quoted.

After arriving in Terrier Rouge, Kathleen Jobin reports: "Leo, Mike and Jocelyn got busy with the oil-press, which was still safe in its shipping box, securely fastened in with lock nuts. After they finally got it out of the box, the generator fired up and plugged in, the oil-



Jocelyn preparing to uncrate the extruder

press controls lit up, but the motor would not turn. NOW WHAT! After much experimentation, tinkering and problem solving, testing electrical circuits and so on, they finally discovered they did not have the right plug. JUST TRY TO FIND A FOUR-PRONG PLUG IN HAITI! After scouring the entire village with two local electricians who had come to help them, they finally located one which cost an arm and a leg, but once plugged in the oil press purred like a kitten.



Jocelyn, Mike and Kathleen, with the assembled extruder

"Unfortunately due to our limited time, we were not able to get enough Jatropha seeds for a real trial run, but we know that everything is ready to go when they do."

All this was possible due to the financial help from the Collingwood Rotary Club and the Share Agriculture Foundation, and the active participation of Ann Lay, May Maskow, and Sylvie GilAlfau, and the kindness of the Haiti Lutheran Mission.

### OIL PRESS FUNDRAISER Raised \$7,000 for KAMI

To support KAMI, Ann Lay and Sylvie GilAlfau organized an afternoon of Readings by Mary Keenan, Karl Backhaus, Elizabeth Armstrong and Fr. Stephen Deák and Music by Alexandra Asher, Floyd Rickets, Melissa Kerr, Nancy & Pamela Claridge and Sylvie & Serge Gagnon. This was on Saturday July 19 at the Mount Alverno Retreat Centre in Caledon. The afternoon also included a sale of donated art and wonderful refreshments.



Anne and Sylvie with Art for sale



Musicians Sylvie & Serge Gagnon and Melissa Kerr

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can **change the world**; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

With thanks to KAMI supporter Barbara Davis who was reminded of this Margaret Mead quote when reading the Extruder story in Newsletter 8.

## Awareness Trip to Haiti

KAMI offers supporters the opportunity to visit Terrier-Rouge to see first-hand the KAMI operations and experience the life and culture of Haiti. Attend KAMI stove orientation sessions. Visit homes with KAMI stoves installed. See the welders who make the stove frames and the kerosene containers. See the Co-operatives with Jatropha trees growing to maturity. Visit the Terrier-Rouge market and a local school, attend church and be entertained by local musicians.

For information, contact Kathleen Jobin at 705-526-7554  
e-mail: [kathleenjobin@yahoo.ca](mailto:kathleenjobin@yahoo.ca)



### **Manager:**

Kathleen JOBIN

### **Advisors:**

Vitoria MENESSES, Finance

Ann LAY

May MASKOW

Jean-Paul GAUTHIER

Stephen WHITE

Sylvie GILALFAU

Leo LESPERANCE

Idalina FERREIRA

WEBMASTER: May MASKOW

NEWSLETTER: Robert WILSON

### **Contracted Agent in Haiti:**

Jocelyn LATOUR

### **Supporter to KAMI**

S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation

### **KAMI'S Goals:**

To locally manufacture economical, efficient, environmentally friendly and healthier kerosene stoves to replace wood and charcoal.

To encourage the culture of Jatropha and its transformation into bio-diesel to eventually replace kerosene.

To provide environment education to the local population.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT SUPPORTERS**

Thank you to the Collingwood Rotary Club along with the S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation for supporting the purchase of the extractor and oil cleaner. Thanks also to the S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundations and the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society for funding the transportation of the oil extractor from Wisconsin to Haiti.

### Thanks also to:

Leo Lesperance and family and Vivette and Martin Gignac for hosting 2 Fish-Frys

Ann Lay and Sylvie GilAlfau for having an Artist/Author Day  
Orangeville Knights of Columbus for donations

Catholic Women's League of Orangeville for donations

Idalina Ferriera and her friends and family for donations

Toronto Funding Network for raising money for 300 KAMI stoves  
AND to many individuals such as you, who have made contributions to KAMI

### **YOU TOO CAN HELP!**

For Donations of less than \$100, please make cheques to KAMI Foundation for Haiti (KAMI is too small to issue Tax Receipts).

For Donations of \$100 or more, please make cheques payable to S.H.A.R.E AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION with "KAMI Foundation" in the memo box. S.H.A.R.E. will issue Tax Receipts.

All Donations are most gratefully received and should be mailed to:

KAMI FOUNDATION for HAITI

927 Montreal Street

Midland, Ontario M4R 1H1

e-mail: [kathleenjobin@yahoo.ca](mailto:kathleenjobin@yahoo.ca)

Web: [www.kamifoundationforhaiti.org](http://www.kamifoundationforhaiti.org)