

Transcript Clips for Interview with Jack Cameron

	CLIP 1	
JC	We purchased the farm in 1997 and we sold it in 2014.	
DB	You grew up on a farm but you said you were quite young when you left. So did you have any farm chores even at the age of six	
JC	Well, I was seven when we had to sell the farm. I helped with the milking and whatever I could do.	
DB	What crops and livestock did you have on the farm then? Do you remember?	
JC	We had milk cows. We had about twenty head of cattle, and horses, of course. Four horses. That's about all I remember.	
DB	What prompted you to buy the farm [Concession 4, Lot 15] in 1997?	
LC	We bought it as a hobby farm and it sort of got out of control.	
DB	Did you intend to do some farming or was this just a nice place to live?	
JC	Well, it was a hobby farm and we were looking for privacy which we had there. And it was a nice place to live.	
DB	Did you take any hay crops off?	
JC	Yes, we took the hay off every year and we had oats for two or three years.	
DB	Did you have any livestock?	
JC	Yes, we had twenty cows and calves.	
DB	What buildings were there when you bought it?	
JC	There was a hay barn, a cattle barn, and a shop, a workshop.	
DB	Did you put up any new buildings?	
JC	No, the only building we built was a coverall building, a forty by a hundred coverall building.	
DB	Was that basically for storage then?	
JC	For farm machinery.	
GC	And the sugar shack.	
JC	I was going to get around to that later. Yeah, we bought a building from Ken McLeod	

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	on McLeod Road which he had used it as a sugar camp, and we moved it to the farm and wired it and set it up as a... we bought a new evaporator and wired it up as an evaporator house for maple syrup.	
DB	How many trees did you tap?	
JC	We had as high as fifteen hundred taps. That's not trees, that's taps. A lot of the big trees had two or three taps.	
DB	Did you use buckets or did you have a line?	
JC	We had some of each, some pipeline and some buckets.	
DB	And about how many gallons of syrup did you produce in let's say a typical year?	
JC	A year a thousand.	
DB	That many?	
JC	Well, a thousand liters.	
DB	How did you market your maple syrup?	
JC	We sold it at the truck stop.	
DB	Oh, of course, that makes sense.	
GC	We also used it in the restaurant.	
DB	What are your best memories of living there?	
JC	Privacy was our main concern. We had privacy there.	
JC	Yes, it's a nice place to live.	
	CLIP 2	
DB	Okay, Gail, will you tell us a bit more about the house.	
GC	Well, when Jack talks about renovating the house... of course, the floors were not level. You could put a ball in one corner and it would roll to the other corner. So we redid all the floors and there was three plank floors there, and there was chaff and hay in between the floors, but the house before Gordon renovated it, they stored hay in that house. And so the renovation was, yeah. The most amazing thing about that house was we put in French doors going out from the living room so they had to cut through these enormous logs. And when you saw those logs they were just like the tree was cut down yesterday. It was amazing and they're enormous. You could see all the axe marks in them and how they... it's very interesting, lots of history to it. But	

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	unfortunately it just got that we couldn't look after it. That wasn't the original house.	
DB	I didn't know that.	
GC	That was not the original house. The original house was by the machine shop wasn't it?	
JC	Yes. I don't know what size it was.	
GC	When it was first deeded... the first deed went to Sherwood who was the land surveyor. And then that was sold to Camerons and it was in the Cameron line ever since then.	
DB	Would it have gone right down to the river originally?	
GC	Yes, yes. You know where Lorelei Drive is, that all belonged to the farm. And the Lorelei was after his daughter [Gordon Cameron's daughter who was killed in a snowmobiling accident when she was about twelve]. He [Gordon] sold lots off there.	
DB	He was in the process of doing that when we bought his other farm. I must admit after we saw your farm I wished that we had been able to buy that instead of the place we have. However, we have certainly grown to love the place we have [Concession 3, Lot 12] and we have incredible soil down there. Good clay soil down there.	
GC	Where we were its more sandy. I guess Kevin must have had the soil tested to see what was best for that property.	
DB	Okay. We didn't get into that.	
GC	And the barns that are there now, the barns that are there those all used to be log barns. And Gordon sold those, eh, he sold those logs and then built the barns that are there now. But that wasn't what was originally there.	
DB	And then Dale [Cameron, Gordon's nephew] put up a structure. I don't know whether you would call it a barn.	
GC	He put up the calf barn which is closest to the house. He put that up.	
DB	I heard that the sugar shack that was there had burned down. Do you know anything about that?	
GC	We were cleaning up the bush and we had somebody up there doing it and whatever he did, something happened. Up there used to be an old sugar camp right in the bush.	
DB	Kevin was certainly impressed with the size of the evaporator.	
GC	Well, with all those taps.	
DB	He said he is going to have to do more trees to have the volume of sap to run that	

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	evaporator.	
GC	Yes, we did do that. We did that for about the first ten years that we were there. And then we built the truck stop here and it was just too much to do both	
DB	I can understand that.	