

### *Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!*

Sudbury and District Beekeepers Association - 50 years!

[SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com)



*Easter bee likes sweet things!*

#### Minutes of April 16, 2025 meeting

**Welcome:** Meghan Mitchell / Justin

**Approval of March 2025 minutes:**

- moved by Rose seconded by Bob, Carried

**Approval of modified April 2025 Agenda:**

- moved Bob, seconded by Otto – Carried

#### **New business:**

Four people indicated they would join by Zoom. As this was the first meeting that we offered by Zoom there was a bit of a learning curve. Hopefully we can improve as times go by. Watch for the next notice of meeting and keep an eye out for the Zoom link to be sent to members.

**Dawn Lalonde** requested before the start of the meeting to speak briefly related to an investigation surrounding the loss of many of her hives last season potentially to pesticides. It appears that changes may be coming soon provincially to facilitate reporting of honey bee losses due to pesticides as well as the proper methods to collect samples. More information will be available going forward.

**Kristina Greer – Bee Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness**

We were very fortunate to welcome Kristina who, along with her husband is a bee inspector for most of Northern Ontario plus Southwestern Ontario.

Kristina mentioned some useful sources of information for beekeepers in Ontario:

- [Ontario Beekeeping Association](#)
- [Ontario Apiculture](#) (gov't landing page)
- [Uni of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre](#)
- [Niagara College](#)

Kristina, one of 14 inspectors in the province, has the main responsibility is to administer the Bees Act in Ontario. **Inspectors are there to assist the beekeeping community**, particularly surrounding monitoring and testing for pests and diseases that affect apiaries. Their scope does not include oversight related to pesticides or honey production.

Kristina spoke about the Bees Act in regards to registration, pest and disease reporting, apiary location, signage and cleanup of dead outs.

Anyone who owns or is in possession of honey bees must [register](#) with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA). It's free to register. There are **4095 registered beekeepers** with over 110,000 colonies. Note that some vendors now are requiring a beekeeper ID to purchase equipment and chemicals.

**Pests and diseases** that are regulated in Ontario include American foulbrood (AFB), European foulbrood (EFB), Varroa mites and Small Hive Beetle.

Last year inspections found 16 apiaries with AFB and 4 with EFB. Small Hive Beetle is prevalent in Southern Ontario, especially the Niagara region.

Inspections can be made upon request and are required if you wish to sell used equipment, nucs, bees or queens. **Selling Permits** are issued for the sale of honey bees or used beekeeping equipment if you have only 1 yard. **Queen and Nuc Permits** are issued for the sale of honey bees (not equipment)

and should be obtained if want to sell bees from more than one yard.

### **Damage compensation program**

Beekeepers can be compensated if they suffer losses due to **bears, deer, raccoons** or **skunks**.

The first step is **notifying an inspector** and preserving and documenting the site damage.

Compensation requires the beekeeper to be registered with a [beekeeper ID](#). You must also obtain a Premises ID ([www.ontariopid.com](http://www.ontariopid.com)) but this can be done at any time before the claim. Registration is free in both cases.

The maximum compensation for a bee colony is \$250. The maximum compensation for beehive-related equipment is \$100.

### *Coffee break*

## **Basic Beekeeping Presentation Part 2– Apiary setup**

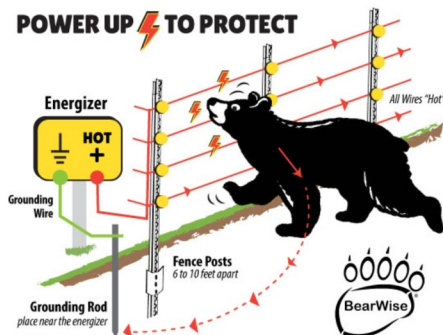


Meghan and Justin kicked off the discussion surrounding **location setup** for an apiary. Most agreed that a south/southeast facing location was ideal, with dappled sunlight. A water source nearby is essential. It can be natural or created by the beekeeper. Hives should be raised up off the ground on a sturdy surface to discourage unwanted visitors. This can also make it easier for the beekeeper to work with heavy hive components.

Alasdair presented some **parameters for electric fence setup**. Fences should be located at least 4' away from hives to best deter bears and give room

for the beekeeper to work. Bears can climb trees so large overhanging limbs should also be avoided.

**Materials** A typical fence can use wood or metal T-posts with insulators, or plastic or fibreglass posts for more temporary setups.



**Wiring** - Polywire fence wiring should have strands starting no more than 7" from the ground with additional wires 7-10 inches apart. There should be *at least* 3 wires but more is better. The fence will need to be grounded to complete the circuit. This is typically done using a grounding rod inserted deep into the ground. Where the soil is very dry or difficult to insert a grounding rod, a 2' strip of chicken wire at the base of the fence (or alternating hot and ground wires in your fence) can also be used for grounding.

**Energizers** can be powered by AC (cheaper) or DC with a 12v deep cycle battery with optional solar charger. They should have a minimum output of 0.5 joules to be effective against bears. The voltage should be at least 6000 volts. A voltage tester will determine if your fence and grounding is working.

Fences should be clearly marked on 4 sides to indicate they are electrified. If a neighbour's dog gets shocked it is useful to understand that such fences are very low amperage and do not harm animals. A jar of honey on hand usually eases tensions with neighbours!

**Entrance** - Your yard should have a way to get in – springs or insulated handles make an easy way to create an opening and also allow a bit of flexibility in the fence so it doesn't break.

I have included with this newsletter an attachment from **bearwise.org** which illustrates many of these points more clearly.

***Meeting adjourned 9:10pm***

## **Help to keep us operating!**

Thanks to so many who renewed their memberships today. Memberships can be paid in person at the meeting to Denise Zappel SDBA Treasurer or by e-transfer to [beesforfun64@gmail.com](mailto:beesforfun64@gmail.com)

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- Seniors \$15
- Students \$15
- Individuals \$20
- Family \$25

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Our next public meeting is **May 14, 2025**

## **Keep in touch with us!**

### **On Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551619900921>

Or search Facebook for **Sudbury and District Beekeepers Association.**

### **On the Web**

[SudburyBeekeepers.com](http://SudburyBeekeepers.com)

**You can also email us at**

[SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com)

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