

# Buzzword Canada Day 2025 Issue

## Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers' Association - 50 years!

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



### Keynote Speaker – Bob Dewar: Swarm cells and double nucs

Bob is a respected and seasoned beekeeper who has mentored many of us over the years. Since the pandemic hit, Bob has moved from honey production to more of a fun experimental phase in his beekeeping career! Bob revealed some useful **YouTube resources**: Micheal Palmer, Tom Seeley, Barnyard Bees, University of Guelph.

### Minutes of June 18, 2025 meeting

7:05 pm Welcome: Meghan Mitchell

This will be our **last in-person meeting** until September but we will be hosting a **picnic/BBQ at Fielding park on Aug 17 between 11am-2pm**. The association will provide hamburgers/hot dogs, drinks and door prizes. The format is potluck so please bring a small side dish to share. An RSVP form is included with this Buzzword mail-out. The Deadline to RSVP is August 10th, 2025.

#### Annual Beelection!

#### Election of Executive for Sept 2025

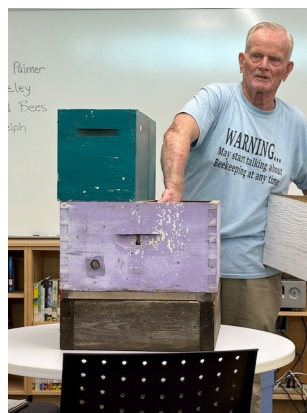
Bob Dewar presided over election of your new Executive. The existing Officers were re-elected by acclamation as follows:

<b>President:</b>	Meghan Mitchell
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Justin Gervais
<b>Secretary/Editor:</b>	Alasdair MacLeod
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Denise Zapelle

#### Directors at Large:

Otto Rost, Laura Schmidt, (Jo-Anne Beauparlant/Paul Adam/Rose Aniol) share one position, Bob Dewar, Pierre Rossini (new!) We would like to **thank the current executive** for their efforts over the last year!!

Bob first spoke of **raising queens from swarm cells**. Queens from swarm cells are generally superior to those raised as emergency or supercedure cells due to being raised in a planned fashion with ample resources and space to develop into a quality queen. Bob modified a brood box so that frames would have some additional space the bottom, where swarm cells are usually found. He also described embedding a small cage around other queen cells to prevent the queens from fighting. Some members have heard the classic “piping” sound that virgin Queens can make within the same hive. This serves as a form of communication, often indicating the presence of multiple queens and their willingness to compete for dominance.



Bob stacks a double nuc using a modified deep brood box

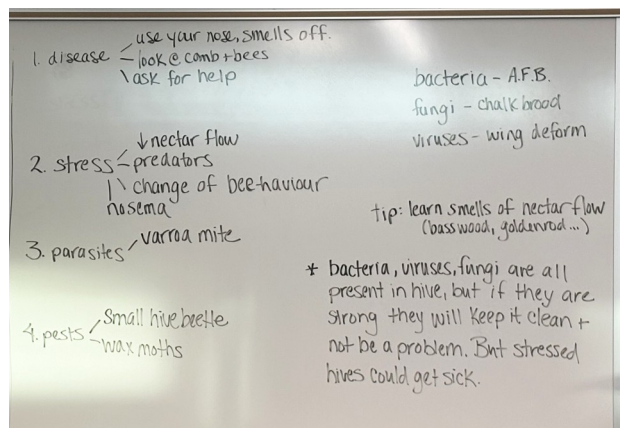
Bob demonstrated his setup of a **double nuc**. He uses a full-sized brood box with a solid divider in the middle. A similarly divided bottom board is modified to have a small entrance at the back for one side of the box and the front for the other. Full-sized supers can be placed on top of this setup (with a queen excluder to keep the queens apart). The supers can be shared by both colonies without any issues between the bees! The advantage of this setup is that you have 2 colonies with 2 queens, giving you a bit of an insurance policy. The bees tend to cluster in the center, sharing the center wall and heat (not unlike living in a semi-detached house!). Let's hope they both like the same music. To get such a hive through the winter would require a second divided box to give them ample room to store honey.

## Otto Rost: discussion on honeybee diseases

Bacteria, viruses and fungi are always present to some extent in the hive. **Strong hives are able to resist disease** by keeping the hive clean and removing problem brood and dead bees which become reservoirs for infection.

**Stress can weaken hives** and makes bees sick and more susceptible to disease. Stress can be caused by reduced nectar flow, predators, parasites and pests and even by the beekeeper's actions.

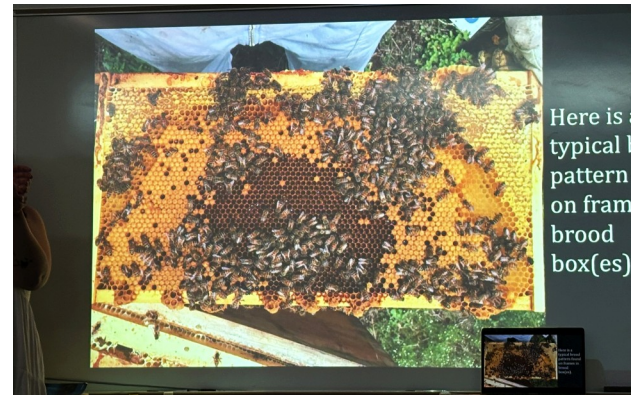
**Use your nose as a tool!** There are many good smells that come from healthy beehives depending on what is being foraged. Learn from others what is being foraged in your area. Goldenrod nectar has a distinctive musky smell, usually coming in very late in the season. Some bacterial diseases such as American (AFB) or European (EFB) Foulbrood have a distinct sour odour. If something smells off, there could be a problem. Do not hesitate to reach out to a mentor if you are not sure.



Some discussion was had regarding storage of unused boxes and how to keep waxmoth and other pests away. Otto uses **mothballs**. Look for those with **para-dichlorobenzene** and **not naphthalene**.

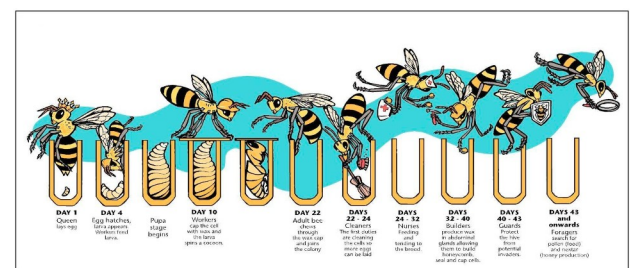
## Coffee break

## New Beekeeper Segment led by Meghan and Justin - The honeybee life cycle



*A healthy brood pattern on a frame*

Meghan discussed the **honeybee life-cycle**. Understanding the honeybee life-cycle is essential and can give you heaps of information about what is going on in your hive. A well-informed beekeeper should be able to look at a frame and tell down to the day, when the **queen was last laying** on the frame. You should also be able to distinguish a **queen** from **worker bees** and **drones** with a quick glance. Meghan discussed the and the various jobs that bees have throughout their careers.



**Queens** - While it is easier to find a 'marked' queen, an experienced beekeeper can look for **movement patterns** on the frame to help locate the queen. Workers tend to herd the queen around and will often clear a path to direct her along a frame. There was discussion on what a queenless hive behaves and sounds like. Slides were presented showing what a queen looks like, including that of a

virgin queen. Often a hive might at first glance look queenless but it could have a virgin queen.

Sometimes virgin queens can be heard 'quacking', 'tooting' or 'piping', even before emergence from a queen cell. This is thought to serve as a communication method between one or more virgin queens in a hive, serving as a declaration of their existence and readiness to compete for the coveted role of the colony's queen.

*Meeting adjourned 9:05pm*

## Upcoming Meeting

We are hosting a picnic on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to the RSVP form included with this mailout. The deadline to RSVP is August 10th, 2025.

Our next public meeting is **Sept 17, 2025** location TBA.

## Help to keep us operating!

Thanks to those who renewed their memberships. Memberships pay for our room use at the school, Zoom access, coffee, donuts and occasional honorariums for speakers who have travelled long distances.

12-month Memberships can be paid in person at the meeting or by e-transfer to [beesforfun64@gmail.com](mailto:beesforfun64@gmail.com)

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Seniors or students \$15
- Individuals \$20
- Family \$25

## Keep in touch with us!

### On Facebook

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

### On the Web

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

You can also email us at

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

*Alasdair MacLeod Secretary/Editor*

*SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com*