

Buzzword **October 2025 Issue**

Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers' Association - 50 years!

SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com

Did you know....



Dissolving 2kg of sugar in 1L of water does not give 3L of total syrup. It is closer to 2.25L final volume. To look at this another way, 1L of 2:1 has about 0.89kg of sugar. This can be useful if you want to calculate how much sugar your bees have taken in based on volume fed.

Minutes of Oct 15, 2025 meeting

7:05 pm Welcome: Meghan Mitchell

Approval of Sept 2025 minutes:

- moved/seconded by Alasdair/Wayne approved

Approval of Oct 16, 2025 Agenda:

- moved/seconded by Eric/Denise approved

Honey Contest

Jars were handed out for this year's honey contest. The criteria for judging and instructions for filling jars were provided at the meeting. Samples to be judged should be submitted at our November meeting and the winners will be announced at our annual Christmas brunch. We are looking for volunteers to judge the honey, so please let us know.

Christmas Brunch – save the date!

December 14 Trevi Bar and Grill

1837 Lasalle Blvd, Sudbury 11am

Tickets will be approx \$25. Final details will be provided at the November meeting.

Denise Zappel – Women in Beekeeping camp

Denise attended a "Women in Beekeeping Camp" in the Muskoka region along with about 100 other participants and found it highly beneficial (on Facebook search Ontario Women's Beekeeping Network). Topics and workshops covered a variety of subjects including soap making, mead, propolis tinctures, queen marking and rearing and a honey contest judged by a "Honey Sommelier".



honey Sommelier

Denise placed second for best lit smoker and 2nd for suiting up!

From this workshop please find attached to this email instructions to make Candy boards, gummy bears, soaps and lotion bars

Medications – open discussion led by Meghan

Treating for Varroa mites

Oxalic acid

Oxalic acid used to reduce varroa mites. It is typically used as a last treatment for mites in the fall. Oxalic acid is not effective on brood as it relies on direct contact with mites to work.

Using a vapourizer is quick and convenient but care must be taken not to inhale the vapours.

Appropriate PPE should be worn or at the very least the beekeeper should stand well away from the hives during the vapourization process. The consensus in the room was that most seal up the hive entrance with a rag while using this method. It's important not to overheat as Oxalic acid can decompose, not to mention being a fire risk. If using a screened bottom board the vapourizer can be placed directly under the hive. It's also best done with the bees are loosely clustered and not out foraging. Many treat when temp is about 15 C. Some members do 3 or 4 treatments, 5 days apart.

Oxalic acid can be obtained from bee keeping suppliers but you must have a beekeeper ID.

Drip method - this involves mixing a 3.2% solution Oxalic acid in 1:1 sugar syrup and applying it straight to your clustered bees using a syringe. Dribble at a time when little to no capped brood is present. A 6 mL of solution is sufficient per occupied frame slot.

Formic Acid/ Formic Pro

Formic acid is useful because can reach mites that are feeding inside capped brood. While commercial products such as Formic Pro (42.25%) are quite effective they are expensive. Formic acid is quite inexpensive and can be purchased at 65% concentration (See Oct 2024 Buzzword for details).

Oxytetracycline – is used to treat or prevent European foul brood and to prevent American foul brood. The use of any antibiotic prophylactically is discouraged and controversial because its use it can lead to antibiotic resistance. It can only be obtained from a veterinarian. Lasalle Animal clinic may be able to assist but most in the association find Springer Animal hospital in Sturgeon to be accomodating.

Some members suggest supplementing with a probiotic after use as the honeybee gut is affected. Julien reported some losses after treatment.

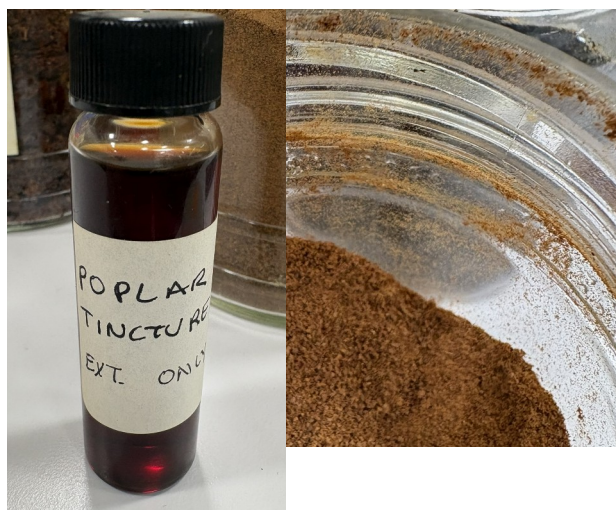
Coffee Break

Otto – propolis tincture

Propolis is a resinous mixture that honey bees produce by mixing saliva and beeswax with sap from tree buds or other botanical sources. It is used by bees to seal gaps in the hive. It is thought to have antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Otto discussed how propolis can be dissolved in ethanol to make a tincture. Most of the beekeepers in the room recognized the wonderful aroma that propolis gives off. Otto also displayed some propolis in powdered form. The raw collection was first frozen, then ground. The propolis turns to powder but not the wax; a sieve can be used to separate the powder.

Poplar bud also makes a good tincture for pain and inflammation.

Such tinctures should not be used internally. Please do your own research before applying anything externally. The association does not advocate using any products but presents this for information purposes.



Winter prep

Some discussion was had regarding preparing candy boards for supplemental feeding. Others in the room place dry sugar on newspaper on top of frames. Moisture in the hive gets absorbed by the sugar.

There was also discussion about winter wrapping. Some options discussed were

- bee cozy
- 2 inch styrofoam wraps
- Wellington wraps
- Rocksol

Insulation on the top is particularly important. Some members cut a circle in stacked styrofoam sheets in order to place a feeding jar over the top inner cover hole.

What ever method you use it's important to protect the hives from wind and water ingress. Some of our members use Tuc Tape to seal gaps prior to wrapping.

Swag draw!

Each meeting signed in attendees are entered to select some SDBA swag. This meeting's winner was **Julien Montpetit**.



Upcoming Meeting

Our next public meeting is **Nov 19, 2025** at LoEllen School.

Memberships

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

Keep in touch with us!

On Facebook

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