

Buzzword March 2026 Issue

Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers' Association - 50 years!

SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com



Yes it is officially spring. The green in the photo is grass. Remember green things?

Minutes of March, 2026 meeting

7:05 pm Welcome: Meghan and Justin

Approval of Nov 2025 minutes:

- moved/2nded by Otto/Rose - approved

Approval of Agenda:

- moved/2nded by Otto/Rose - approved

Discussion about a BBQ this year

Since last summer's BBQ was cancelled due to lack of interest, we would like to solicit ideas from our members.

Some options to consider would be a pizza night combined with our June election meeting? A BBQ without potluck component later in the summer? Please email your thoughts to

SudburyBeekeepers@gmail.com

New Business - Ideas for meetings going forward

Members expressed an interest in having a regular segment at our meetings inviting members to bring in **Show and Tell** items or **bring tips**.

Mentors – mentoring someone is a big commitment and not every one is an expert in all areas of beekeeping. An idea was proposed where specific members could be contacted as experts in specific areas such as catching swarms or winter hive preparation. If anyone is interested in being

contacted for specific areas of expertise, please let us know!

Winter species adaptations – Otto

Otto presented strategies that different species use to adapt to winter conditions. Snow is actually a good insulator and moderator of temperature. Otto discussed squirrels, Blanding Turtles and Wood Frogs and the strategies they use to over-winter. Some species go into a low metabolism and torpor (sleep-like) state. Who knew that Blanding turtles burrow headfirst into lake bottoms and can “butt-breathe”?

Wood Frogs actually freeze solid but have ‘*cryoprotectants*’ to stop ice crystals from rupturing cells. Yellow Jackets move underground to avoid freezing.

Honey bees are actually unique in the insect world in that they cluster (below 15C) to keep warm, while relying on food sources for energy. This segued into a discussion of late winter-early spring feeding of honeybees. Otto uses a 2:1 sugar syrup solution. Adding 1 tsp of white vinegar per litre of syrup reduces the chance of spoiling. This is placed in an inverted mason jar with a few holes punched in the lid – the jar at this time of year needs to be insulated.

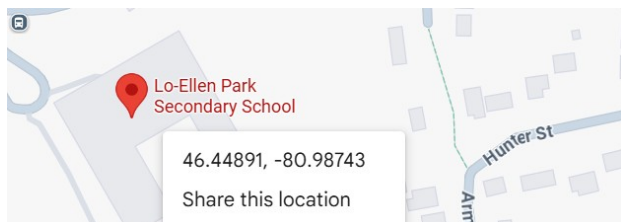
Coffee break

Registering your bees - Alasdair

Under the Ontario *bees act*, anyone owning honeybees or in possession of used honeybee equipment must register with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) to get a Beekeeper ID. Registering is free and can be done [online](#). The Initial registration requires filling in PDF which can be done online or filled in and emailed. Subsequent renewals (every 3 years) or updates (new bee yards or changes to numbers of colonies) are done through the [beekeeper portal](#). Access to resources such as the provincial bee

inspectors is free. Many vendors will no longer sell Varroa mite treatments to you unless you have a beekeeper ID.

A separate [Provincial Premises ID](#) is required and is needed if you want to take advantage of compensation to damage in your apiary caused by bears. Registering requires you to have property tax information (roll number) and latitude/longitude. Latitude and longitude values can be obtained from Google maps. - right click map location to get this info.



Beekeeping Resources.

Meghan presented a couple of useful and fun books to the group: *Beekeeping for Dummies* and *Queenspotting*.

We have updated our website to include educational YouTube videos (navigate to beekeeping resources). If you have any you would like us to add, let us know!

Getting ready for Spring

Ordering nucs usually has to be done ahead. Some local suppliers to consider are the following:

True North Honey Company (Dawne Lalonde - Lively)

- nucs and queens

Hilly Grove Honey (Dwayne Elliot – Manitoulin)

- nucs and queens
- clothing and equipment

Ferriers Maplebee Farm (Scott Ferrier -Rutherglen)

- nucs and queens

Other trusted suppliers further afield will ship such as **Innisfil Creek** and **Dancing Bee**.

Swag draw!

This meeting's winner was **Alasdair**.

Upcoming Meeting

Our next public meeting is scheduled for April 15th.

Have an idea for a speaker? Let us know!

Memberships

Thanks to those who renewed their memberships.

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

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

On the Web

SudburyBeekeepers.com

You can also email us at

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