

# Buzzword April 2026 Issue

## Beekeepers helping Beekeepers!

Sudbury and District Beekeepers' Association - 50 years!

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



*Spring? Is it really you?*

### Minutes of April 15, 2026 meeting

7:05 pm Welcome: Meghan and Justin

Approval of March 2026 minutes:

- moved/2nded by Alasdair/Rose

Approval of Agenda:

- moved/2nded by Otto/Rose

### June meeting – pizza night!

In order to add a bit of pizzazz to our June meeting, we will combine it with a pizza night! We will also combine this with a trivia contest and maybe some honey tasting. On a more official note June is when we **re-elect our executive**. As of this date our current treasurer Denise will be stepping down as she is moving east. Consider putting your name forward as all executive and director positions are open for nominations. We meet once a month via Zoom, outside of our regular public meeting.

### Update social media (Facebook) – Laura

Laura would like to profile some of our beekeepers and their apiaries! If you were at the meeting please answer a few of the questions that were passed out and return via email to [Sudburybeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:Sudburybeekeepers@gmail.com) with a photo or

two. I have also included the questionnaire in the email with this buzzword.

### Winter losses – informal poll

There can be little doubt that the past winter was unusually cold and long. An informal poll at the meeting revealed 5 individuals reporting 22 hives going into winter of which 10 were lost. Although this was a small sample size, the **losses at 45%** appear higher than normal.

*According to the OBA, the median winter losses in Ontario for 2024-25 was 36%. Watch for the OBA winter loss survey conducted typically in early May.*

### Bears !

Although there is still snow on the ground, be aware that **bears have already been sighted** by some of our members. (Meghan and Justin reported their apiary destroyed on April 17). This means it's time to get electric fences up. For some good tips, refer to the Buzzword from April 2025 regarding electric fence setup.

### pH, TDS, honey and sugar syrup – Otto

Stored honey should have a moisture content of 17% or lower. This is one of the ways microbial growth is inhibited, but the other reason is because it is quite acidic (pH between about 3 to 6 but averages 3.9). (*pH is a log scale such that pH 4 is 10x as acidic as pH 5.*) The actual pH of honey depends on the floral sources used by the bees to make it.

When preparing sugar syrup for feeding, it's beneficial to add white vinegar (about 1 tsp per litre) to bring the pH down closer to that of honey.

### Total dissolved solids (TDS)

TDS is almost the inverse of water content. A honey with low moisture content will have a higher TDS. The number is affected by the concentration of minerals, salts and organic compounds. **High-quality honey generally has high TDS.** Some may

have read about the recent maple syrup scandal in Quebec whereby one distributor was cutting the Syrup with 50% cane sugar (this would lower the TDS).

The pH meter did not make the trip to the meeting this week so the demo will be moved to our May meeting. **For those wishing to have their honey measured for pH and TDS**, please bring 24g of honey to the next meeting in a jar that will hold at least 100 mL. The honey will be diluted with a standard source of water at the meeting so that measurements can be taken and comparisons made.

### ***Coffee break***

### ***Show and tell segment***

Terry McIndoo discussed using an **inspection log book** that his daughter gifted him. This book, fully dog-eared, was invaluable for keeping records of bee inspections. Terry frequently goes back to his notes to see the history of his hives in order to help determine what's been going. The association will try to create a spreadsheet or checklist that others can use. Another idea is to record voice memos into a smartphone and then move your findings to spreadsheets or paper later.

Terry also brought in an **insulated inner cover** that he built. It had embedded styrofoam with screened circular feeding ports to accommodate up to 3 syrup jars. Terry uses a Wellington winter hive wraps and had good survivability this winter.



### ***Swag draw!***

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

## **Upcoming Meeting**

Our next public meeting is scheduled for **May 20<sup>th</sup>**.  
**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](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)