

# SUDBURY AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

## BUZZWORD OCTOBER 2020

### HAPPY HALLOWE'EN

#### WORDS FROM YOUR BUZZWORD LADY.

I always try to have a word from our President. But this time around, he was busy so I figured, why not, words from your Buzzword person – me.

2020 so far has been very interesting. Paul and I started the year in Montreal and came back at the beginning of January, jumped into the motor home and took off to Texas. Weather was beautiful most of the time, no snow, no frost. By the first week of March, after hearing that Canada was closing its border and we had already started to isolate and wear masks when we went to the stores. Boredom and anxiety set in... We came home early. We had no difficulty crossing the border but we know some others did.

So it's the beginning of April what to do? The bees look good: they still had loads of food. Since I'm not into cooking or baking, we started seeds – tomato, cucumber, squash, pepper, dill, basil, flowers. Lots and lots. Too many. Paul and I are seed savers. We only save seeds from the vegetables we really like. That is why we have 50 different kinds of tomato seeds that say: very good – red – round, very very good, yellow golf ball size, juicy pear shape, sandwich size. We even planted seeds that my mother had saved, in a pill box labelled “baseball size, early”. My mother has been gone for 18 years – and these seeds grew.

Cutting this long story short, we ate, we cooked, we froze, we dehydrated, made pies from three different apples trees, made pickles, pasta sauces, and ate plums from our two different plum trees (a first time crop), harvested 10 different kinds of squashes) unfortunately the birds got to the grapes first and ate all our main crop. Birds ... it might have been the wild turkeys that are now running around the farm. Either way, we know they were good. We tasted the only two left and they were good. That's it. Swing into “Bee Season”.

#### UPDATE

Well September has come and gone and Hallowe'en is very near. So this must mean October is nearly over. I asked for any snippets you might have that I could add to the Buzzword. I really don't have a clue what to write about. So let me know how you did. \*How new beekeepers survived your first year? \*Did you find someone to mentor you or help you? \*Did you get swarms? \*Did your bees swarm? \*When did they swarm? \*How many want to become beekeepers in 2021?

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership drive is usually done in September. I did mention the memberships in September but did not include the forms and the “how to renew” or become a new member.

We know we are not meeting but the Sudbury and District Beekeepers' Association still exists. We will try to keep things going via the Buzzword. Your paid membership will allow us to start over with a few dollars in the bank. No one knows what awaits us at the end of this pandemic.

Attached please find the membership form for anyone wishing to either renew or join our association. Payment can be made via e-transfer to Rose Aniol at [mishkarose.65@gmail.com](mailto:mishkarose.65@gmail.com).

Fill out the membership form, scan it and send it back to her. Hallowe'en is near. It must be the end of bee season. Or is it? Some things just keep on going....

Now is the time to make sure that the colonies are ready to survive our winter no matter how long it is.

## POLLEN PATTIES

### Why Pollen Patties?

I looked through old Buzzwords and found **Pollen Patties** recipes from members of the SDBA and from OBA's Tech Transfer Team. (attached)

You can insert your pollen patties now or wait till early spring, before the maple trees bloom. If you put them in now, you don't have to worry about it in the spring. Pollen patties furnish the protein necessary for brood production.

If you are making your own pollen patties make sure you make them flat enough so you don't need a spacer. Remember, like people, bees cannot live on just carbohydrates, they also need protein: ergo pollen patties.

## FONDANT

Fondant is dry and adds no humidity in the hive. Wind, humidity, mites and lack of food are the hive killers.

There are many recipes on the internet.

[www.honeybeesuite.com](http://www.honeybeesuite.com)

How to make fondant for bees from table sugar -

## ***FALL FEEDING***

If you managed your hives, medicated, fumigated for varroa, left enough honey, gave them sugar water to make it through 4-5-6 months of winter you should have the same number of bee hives in the spring. Some luck is always appreciated.

At this time of the year, the queen has slowed or stopped laying and the foragers are trying to fill the empty cells left behind. They will try to fill these up with whatever nectar or pollen left but mostly with sugar water.

Remember if it is a **new** hive and they are drawing out comb, they need to have extra food. It is much easier for them to make wax with sugar water than with nectar. You should have to provide feed for all winter.

If it is a weak hive you might have to feed or even join it with another weak hive.

## ***WINTER FEEDING***

In Northern Ontario we do need to provide feed the bees. If it is a warm winter, the bees will go out and forage. There is nothing out there. They will come back, hungry and they will eat more. Otherwise they are inside not using much energy and not eating that much.

Winter feeding such as sugar board and pollen patties (protein) will help for rearing brood in the spring time. It is plausible to check on your bees in the wintertime by verifying the weight of your hive (lifting a corner) and /or checking where the cluster is with a heat gun.

For the last few years, Paul & I fed them sugar cakes and pollen patties in the fall. This way, when we were away for the winter, we did not have to worry if they had enough food or protein for the queen to start laying before our return.

## ***FOR YOUR INFORMATION***

For those who understand French: **La semaine verte – Reines du Québec émission dimanche dernier**

Beaucoup de cultures qui dépendent de la pollinisation par l'abeille domestique sont en expansion. Pour assurer cette pollinisation, les abeilles doivent être disponibles tôt au printemps, mais survivre à nos hivers n'est pas chose facile. Des scientifiques ont trouvé un moyen original d'abriter les reines pendant la saison froide afin qu'elles soient prêtes à renouveler les colonies. Aussi à l'émission, l'ail du Québec en plein essor grâce à de jeunes producteurs, les citrouilles géantes et des lichens qui commencent à peine à révéler leurs secrets.

<https://ici.tou.tv/la-semaine-verte/S50E06?fbclid=IwAR0cota75eUPbY9bk9bcNpXebp->

[DDnhYQp7b3m\\_dmGhc9sidU5YuslB6Gk4](#)

This is the translated version of what the program was about. Time 43 minute, 2020 10 20

Many crops that depend on honeybee pollination are expanding. To ensure this pollination, bees must be available early in the spring, but surviving our winters is not easy. Scientists have found an original way to shelter the queens during the cold season so that they are ready to renew the colonies. Also on the show, Quebec garlic is booming thanks to young producers, giant pumpkins and lichens who are just beginning to reveal their secrets.

Site to visit or read:

- OBA  
Guelph  
Do you know what kind of bee this is/  
[https://efotg.sc.egov.uda.gov/references/public/SC/Bee\\_Basics\\_North\\_American\\_Bee\\_ID.pdf](https://efotg.sc.egov.uda.gov/references/public/SC/Bee_Basics_North_American_Bee_ID.pdf)

\*Everything You Need to Know About Raising Queens  
<https://www.kellybees.com/blog/kelly-beekeeping/raising-queens>

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