



Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 11TH CELEBRATES BEE KEEPING

Words are like bees – some create honey and others leave a sting (Author Unknown)



Bee keeping is an interesting hobby or business with many advantages for both. For the hobbyist, there is enjoyment in learning about and caring for the hives, and the benefit of having your flowers pollinated.

For those whose hobby has progressed into a business, there is the satisfaction of producing your own honey, and using the bees wax to make candles, and bees wax wraps. There are other products which are not as well-known but also marketable: pollen, and propolis which is a resin-like material made by bees from the buds of poplar and cone-

bearing trees. There is also royal jelly which is a milk-like substance produced by worker bees as nourishment for queen bees and their young. It is a popular ingredient in skin creams and helps to protect skin against the effects of ultraviolet radiation. Honey is used in traditional medicine for its antibacterial, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties.

To begin bee keeping the following supplies are required for the bees: hives, including frames, a water source, and a pollen source. For a bee to support itself from egg to adulthood, it needs to gather pollen and nectar from about 5 flowers. The following supplies are required for the bee keeper: bee suits, gloves, smokers, a hive tool and a bee brush.

A hive will typically contain 60,000 to 80,000 bees: workers, drones and a single queen. The workers gather nectar, guard the hive and honey, care for the queen and larvae, keep the hive clean, and produce honey. The drones are the male bees whose sole purpose is to mate with the queen. The queen bee produces chemical scents that help regulate the unity of the colony and lay lots of eggs.

The expression “busy as a bee” becomes a reality when you realize that it takes a bee 10,000,000 trips to collect enough nectar to make 1 pound of honey.



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Submitted by Councillor Penny Renken, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable