

# All the Buzz from the Hive

October 2002

I can't believe this will "bee" my last newsletter. My life as a summer bee is almost over! Our hive is quite crowded right now – but soon all of us summer bees will be gone, the drones kicked out (you don't work, you don't get to stay around here!), and the bees born through the fall season will live all winter and look after the Queen. Our beekeeper – a huge giant all in white! – has given each hive approximately 45 pounds of heavy sugar syrup to make sure that we have enough food.

I know, you're all wondering if we freeze to death during the winter. We don't, though we can starve to death! As the cold days of winter come, we will cluster around the Queen and by vibrating we will generate heat. On warm days we'll break cluster, move within the hive to where there is food and if it is warm enough, we will go out and use the bathroom. If possible, we will not "go potty" within our home but ... that is a *long* time to squeeze your legs together!! In early spring, as the days warm up some, our Queen will begin to lay a few eggs again and the cycle starts all over again.

Now let's see what news I can tell you. We've had two very different visitors to our bee yard (the technical term is 'apiary') this month. The first visitor was a big bear (remember that giant I was telling you about? She said that it was approximately 350 pounds!!). He tore into five of our homes and many guard bees died trying to protect their homes. It was truly a sad day for us, though luckily all of the Queens survived.

Our next visitors were, according to the giant, a group of 36 grade 4 school children. They were very interested in our homes and even got to see our Queen, the worker bees and some drones. They also got to taste some of our honey and through it all we behaved ourselves. We didn't sting anyone, though one guard was really tempted to – we had to hold him back! You see, there was one little kid who threw this white object at our home – I think that you would call it a spoon.

On behalf of all my family, thank you. It was *Sweet of you to try our Products*. We hope that everyone has a good, safe winter and if you need any more of our products, call our beekeeper – she did take all of our honey on us. Almost anyway... we did hide some on her – but don't tell her!

Some last facts for you...

| What's Growing on Nova Scotia Farms    |
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| 176 million pounds of fresh vegetables |
| 41 million kilograms of poultry        |
| 41 million pounds of blueberries       |
| 16 million dozen eggs                  |
| 27 million bushels of apples           |
| 173 thousand kilolitres of milk        |
| 67 thousand beef cattle                |
| 32 thousand gallons maple syrup        |
| 1 million pounds of honey              |

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