

Thompson /Nicola

Regional Report -2020

I think we will all remember the year 2020. It has been a trying year for everyone including most beekeepers from new to seasoned beekeepers. Spring here started out kind of normal then we ended up getting more rain than we normally do which delayed beekeeping. Then covid-19 hit and there was word that there wouldn't be any queens. Thanks to Beemaid and Joe Lomond for going the extra mile to get us all queens.

Nuc sales were good for most that were able to make and sell them, one local beekeeper here made 2 splits per hive to help fill the demand and still managed to get a good honey crop. We encourage beekeepers here to buy "Local" but some still bring bees in from all over. It was a crazy year for swarms with reports of some new hives swarming 3 times. I got so many calls I got tired of catching them 😊

Kamloops Beekeepers Club has struggled this past year as we were not able to have our normal 5 field days or club meetings. I think everyone missed them and all we learn from our bank of knowledgeable beekeepers in the area. I did manage to have a couple Bee Talks that I hold at my shop that were very good with the help of Joe Lomond and Ed Zurawell.

I think overall most had a good year of beekeeping despite the weather and everything else we had to deal with. Most have said it was a very good year for honey while there are a few that said they had little to no honey. Covid has changed lots including the price of lumber for some reason, so my advice is to get stocked up on wood or hive parts or be prepared to pay more.

If there is just one thing to learn this past year it would be to learn to be self sustainable. Work at raising your own queens, don't depend on having early queens from another country. Get a small group together this winter and give it a try, it can be done.

With winter just around the corner and our bees all ready for winter we can plan for the year ahead, next year will be better. Happy Beekeeping everyone!