

Highlights of the Thursday, 20 November, 2025 Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed everyone including our Guest Speaker, Amanda Henderson, to the Kiwanis Club of Brantford's meeting for Thursday, 13-November, 2025.



President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw with President Maureen and Paul Simon holding potential winning tickets, neither were able to find the "Joker".



President Maureen called Funmaster Dave Lewis to the podium.

Dave had set up an interactive video challenge using a number of picture-puzzles that required our members to figure out the related common phrase. (Rebus) Each member was to count the number of correct answers they got, and a prize was given to the member with the highest number of correct answers.

Sample Question:



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Kirby Brown had the most correct answers and won a cash prize in a sealed envelope.

Dave helped us celebrate this month's Birthdays and Anniversaries of joining the Club.

Birthdays in November:

Eardly Judah, Graham Schram, Maureen Henry and Nelson McClinchey.

Recognizing Years of Service in November

David Neumann	35 Years
Heather Wyatt	23 Years
Judy Lillico	23 Years
Pallo Sahota	13 Years
Roxanne Bond	6 Years

Happy Stories were given by Kerby Brown, Paul Simon and Leo Vos

Dave Lewis passed the Mic over to Randy MacKenzie who introduced our Guest speaker Amanda Henderson, “The Bee Lady”.

LG Randy introduced our Guest speaker, Amanda Henderson, master beekeeper from St. George, to share her wealth of knowledge. Amanda has St. George as her base beekeeper location, selling honey and beeswax candles. Retail, wholesale and custom options available.



Amanda Henderson, came to the podium and thanked our Club for an invitation to give her presentation to us.



She told us that as Golden Horseshoe Beekeeper’s Association Director-at-Large, she had no idea that her dad’s suggestion in 2010 to begin beekeeping together would eventually lead her to both a full-time career and also a flourishing sideline business. Empowered by the ‘Introduction to Apiculture’ course from the University of Guelph and advice from a beekeeping uncle, she has grown her initiative into a, 100 hive apiary where, boxes stored in and around St. George yield liquid and creamed honey, beeswax candles, queens and other related specialty items for sale.

When asked about the concerns larger operations have about small start-ups, treatment and careful oversight seemed to be the antidote to those concerns: “Any bees that are not regularly managed, checked and treated will be a major threat to the colonies nearby. This has nothing to do with how many colonies somebody owns. What is important to keep in mind is that honeybees are a managed livestock that will require ongoing maintenance, management and financial investments. If you are not in a position to learn how to properly care for your bees, and put the time and resources into looking after them, then you risk putting other beekeepers in your area at undue risk.



Capped honey frames.

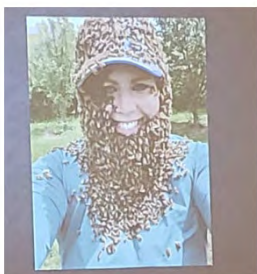


Although Amanda sighted multiple stressors which have contributed to major industry losses over the past few years, she sights the parasitic Varroa Mite as the largest threat to the bee population. “If we were to put it into human perspective- it would be like having a tick the size of a small plate feeding on an adult human.” She goes on to say that Varroa Mites are, unfortunately, present in most colonies in all but one province in Canada.

“We are fortunate in Southern Ontario to have a diverse landscape with a wide variety of blooms for the bees to work. The season starts with Maples, Willows, Coltsfoot and Dandelions in March/April, and continues through until September/October ending with Asters and Goldenrod. In between some of the major blooms are Black

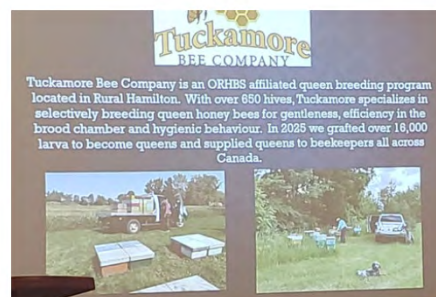


Locust, Clover, Alfalfa and Basswood. Honeybees are great generalist pollinators- so there are so many ornamentals and other shorter blooms throughout the season.”



In addition to her thriving sideline business, Amanda was able to use her degree from the University of Guelph coupled with her newfound passion for bees as a full-time career working at a queen breeding operation out of rural Hamilton, at which she has spent the past decade seeking breeding stock that are particularly gentle, hygienic, and efficient in the brood chamber, to be sold to beekeepers across the nation.

Amanda also thinks the taste coupled with the health benefits of honey is “the bee’s knees”, noting honey’s well-known benefits of wound treatment, cough suppression and aid with allergy symptoms as reason alone to switch to the natural sweetener. She suggests checking out the Ontario Beekeepers’ Association “All About Honey” page, on their website for great honey recipes (<https://www.ontariohoney.ca/all-about-honey/recipes>), and also sights that website as a resource to a provincial directory to find the beekeepers closest to the consumer: “Beekeepers are such a passionate and diverse group of people it doesn’t matter where you live you will find someone near you producing honey, and helping to maintain a healthy pollinator population!”



Lastly, Amanda, like so many beekeepers, is happy to pass along her wealth of information: If anyone wants more info- they can find her at “Henderson Apiaries” on Facebook.

Amanda also stayed on a bit for a short Q&A session with our members.

Leo Vos thanked Amanda for her interesting and engaging presentation and, in recognition of Her presentation, that we have made a donation to a Charity we like to support. That charity is the Lansdowne Children’s Centre Foundation.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Bob Saunders informed us that the Christmas Campaign is going very well and that you should contact him by Email as soon as possible, if you want Christmas Products because they are going very fast this year. We have already sold enough to cover our costs for this year, and now have a slight profit. All Sales from here on are profit.
- Leo Vos, reminded people to be at the Legion by 7:00 next week, 6:40 or so if they want to help set up. We currently have 22 Tables playing, which is a bit lower than last spring but is still a very good level and we will have a lot of Fun. Leo also mentioned that the next Trivia Challenge will be held on Thursday 13 April-2026. Please Mark your Calendars.

- Faye Prince mention that the “**Christmas Sock Box**”, for those in need, will be at the back of our meeting room weekly for collection of warm winter socks until Christmas
- Phil Hoekstra advised that the Kiwanis Club of Brantford’s, Annual Christmas Party is on Thursday 18-December and sign up sheets will be on the Weekly Meeting tables and Emailed shortly.

Closing Thought for the Day: “The lovely flowers embarrass me. They make me regret I am not a bee...”
Emily Dickinson

President Maureen, thanked all members and Guest Amanda Henderson and wished everyone well.

President Maureen asked If there was anything else for the good of Kiwanis, seeing none, she adjourned the meeting with the ringing of the Bell.

Candid picture of this meeting:

