

Caspian Apiaries Inc reaches agreement at Community Justice Forum

Vancouver, BC: - Caspian Apiaries Inc. has confirmed that it participated in a successful community justice forum on May 25, 2017 that took place at 22470 Dewdney Trunk Rd. Maple Ridge, BC and was facilitated by Conservation Officers: Rayne McIntyre and Robin Sano.

The focus of the forum was to review sporadic shooting of bears during intrusion of these animals into their apiaries, causing damage and loss of property and as a result animals were killed, which occurred several times during the last few years. Caspian Apiaries deeply regrets the incidents occurred and takes full responsibility for the actions.

BC Conservation Officer Robin Sano performed a thorough review and investigation into the incident and subsequently recommended the community justice forum process as a method to resolve this incident and to prevent similar issues in the future.

The justice forum brought together all relevant parties, including trained facilitators from the Conservation Officers Service, and also: Wildsafe BC, the Provincial Apiculturist from the Ministry of Agriculture and two elders from the Katzie First Nation Band. As a result of the forum, all parties have reached an agreement and the following measures have been applied by Caspian Apiaries:

Prevention Measures:

1. Caspian Apiaries Inc. has invested and installed a US\$ 25,000 bear-proof mobile electrified fencing system, including equipment, supplies and training installation. The system was activated for this season and has experienced no bear intrusions to date in 2017. It has the following components:
 - a) 12V Battery/Solar powered (1-week advance pre-charged)
 - b) External electrified wiring, up to 12,000 voltage per shock
 - c) Grass and weeds surrounding every bee hive unit location will be trimmed to the ground to avoid false ground electric contact on the wiring.
 - d) Same day delivery and installation of hardware and equipment, thus eliminating chances for bear intrusion for tasting honey.
 - e) Location Information: Every set-up of this Mobile System will have accurate satellite location with proper coordinates (latitude and longitude). Details will be logged for each location ensuring traceability of occurrences for future relocation of Mobile units and set up.
2. Caspian Apiaries will provide constant, ongoing training with current apiary farm staff for a recommended quick installation and continuous monitoring of proper conditions of the location.
3. Caspian Apiaries will offer training to any beekeeper or anyone interested in the Apiary business to help promote proper preventive measures to mitigate occurrences of this kind. Caspian Apiaries is also prepared to offer seminars or orientation sessions.

In the event that bears gain access to bee hives in the future despite the prevention measures noted above, Caspian Apiaries has committed to the following:

4. A Conservation Officer will be contacted immediately by Caspian Apiaries to provide an appropriate, corrective action in a timely manner. An accurate location of the incident will be provided by Caspian Apiaries because of the new equipment noted above to help expedite the process.
5. Youth workshops for Katzie members on bee husbandry and apiaries coexisting with bears.
6. Fund a certified workshop on electric fencing provided by an industry leading expert at the cost of Caspian Apiaries. To be completed by early June 2017.

7. To provide Wildsafe BC with a portable electric fencing training kit.

Caspian Apiaries extends gratitude to Conservation Officers and the organization members for utilizing this forum process to resolve this incident; also they are sincerely thanked for attending the forum and providing valuable insights and recommendations to reach this resolution. Caspian Apiaries acknowledges and takes full responsibility for these incidents and would like to extend a sincere apology to the community.

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