

Possible cougar sighting in Cramahe Township

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP -- A cougar or large cat was spotted in Cramahe Township Friday morning, according to Northumberland OPP.

A resident on County Rd. 21 near the intersection of Shiloh Road said she saw a large cat on her neighbour's front yard at about 9:30 a.m. on July 19 and watched it for several minutes with binoculars, say OPP.

The resident described the cat as reddish brown with a long tail with a black tip, police said. The cat then wandered off

into the nearby bush.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will be notified about the cat sighting for further investigation, police said.

The MNR offers the following advice for a cougar or lynx encounter:

- Never approach the animal, especially if it is near a kill or with young and never offer it food.
- Released or captive-reared cougars may be accustomed to humans and allow you to get close. Animals are unpredictable and you should always use caution.

• If you see a cougar or lynx, stop, pick up small children and do not run. Their instinct is to chase.

• Stay together and act as a group. Children and pets should be kept close.

• Face the animal. Talk to it firmly while backing away. Always leave the animal an escape route.

• Do not crouch or hide. Try to appear larger.

• Do not take your eyes off an animal or turn your back.

• If the animal does not flee, be more

assertive by shouting, waving your arms and throwing anything available.

• If the animal attacks, fight back with everything you have.

• Lethal action is the last resort.

• No person has been attacked by a wild cougar in more than a century.

OPP says residents should call police at 1-888-310-1122 or the Ministry of Natural Resources at 1-800-667-1940 if they see a cougar or large wild cat. For more information visit ontario.ca/wildlife or Hinterland Who's Who at www.hww.ca

Beekeepers sign petition to ban pesticides

EMC JULY 25/13

By Sue Dickens

EMC News - Trent Hills - The buzz about bees dying just got louder.

There's now a hive of activity happening to gather signatures on a petition being circulated by the Ontario Beekeeper's Association (OBA) to have the neonicotinoid pesticides, which it says is responsible for these losses, removed from use in Ontario.

Branko Markovic is a beekeeper in Trent Hills, albeit on a small scale at the moment.

He refers to himself as, "A small sideline with 30 hives, actually just got back to 30 after splitting and buying some bees."

He has bee yard locations at Silver Heights, Hastings, on the 8th line of Percy and Oak Heights, Warkworth.

"My home yard is on Silver Heights where I own a five-acre piece of land there. I plan on building a house there before becoming a full-time beekeeper."

"I sell honey in three stores here in Toronto, and Carol

[Consell], is going to start selling it at the farmers' market in Hastings.

"Last winter was very harsh on my bees; 20 out of 30 hives didn't survive. It was my third winter as a beekeeper, the biggest loss which I hope to never repeat again," he told the *Trent Hills Independent*.

"I may think of my yards as being secluded, in reality the farmland is within bee flying range," he added.

"And yes I believe that use of neonicotinoids has something to do with above the average bee losses we had province wide." He has signed the petition.

"I hope we get enough people signing, so a ban on use of neonicotinoids becomes reality, like in Europe," he said.

Commercial beekeeper Hugh Campbell, who has been in operation since 1983, said, "We lost 70 per cent of our bees last winter, that's about 600 bees. Two years ago we lost 50 per cent."

He and his son Peter operate Campbell's Honey House near Warkworth.

When interviewed last year he said, "We have 1,200 colonies and each colony has about 100,000 bees." The recent losses are starting to pile up and he is worried about his business.

"What business can lose 30 per cent one year and 50 per cent previous years and still remain in business. It's not going to last,"

Neonicotinoids are widely used on the corn crop.

Campbell said he realizes farmers don't want to give up the insecticide. "They are afraid it's going to hit their bottom line and they far outnumber beekeepers," but, he said, "other farmers don't want to lose the bees either."

Campbell noted, "There's only a few beekeepers in Canada, in Ontario there's



Wearing protective clothing Yan Skoda, from left, working for Hugh and Peter Campbell, helps to harvest the honeycombs in preparation for the extraction process. This was taken during last year's harvest. Photo: Sue Dickens

about 3,000."

"Everything needs pollination, accounting for about 30 per cent of the food we eat," he added.

According to the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, "Ontario's bees are dying in massive numbers due to the pervasive use of neonicotinoid pesticides on agricultural field crops. Fully a third of our food relies on pollinators: without bees, Ontario's food supply could be in serious trouble."

Canada's Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency has confirmed that last year's widespread bee deaths in Ontario were caused by neonicotinoid



Hugh Campbell smokes the honey bees to calm them down while preparing to remove the honeycombs from the hives. Photo: Sue Dickens

pesticides, it states on its something about it. Time that everybody got behind this."

Campbell has also signed the For more information about the petition go to: <http://chn.ge/11J53Jc>.

"It's time that we all did

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Vanessa Croft
Ethan Cross-Darrah
Johnathan Douglas
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Devon Griffin
Taylor Jenkins
Myles Materi
Patricia Prest-Thomas

Tristan Robinson-Mumford
Damion Taylor
Dylan Vermeiren
James Wallace

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Dylan Vermeiren
Legion Literacy Award
Dylan Vermeiren
Madison Awender

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Patricia Prest-Thomas

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Dylan Vermeiren

Legion/Parent Council Most Improved Student Award
Damion Taylor

Lizzy Corbiel Memorial Award for Citizenship
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Kids Who Care
Bryce Bailey
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Early Act ~ Rotary Award
Ethan Cross-Darrah

Fawcett Family Sports Award
James Wallace

Dingsdale Family Creative Arts Award
Taylor Jenkins
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William F. Isaac Award
Elijah Askew

Mitchell A. Ferguson Memorial Music Award
Patricia Prest-Thomas
Ethan Cross-Darrah

Principal's Award
Julieanna Baldwin

Valedictorian
Madison Awender
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