

# Nearly 100,000 bees removed from Caledon home

*Swarm of aggressive bees had been in hive for five to 10 years*

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"I have done a lot of bee jobs in this line of work, but this, by far, was the biggest," said Kevin Smith, owner of ICE Humane Wildlife Removal & Pest Control.

Usually when a customer calls about having bees removed, they will mention that the hive has been there for anywhere from a few days to a few weeks, but when this particular Caledon customer told Smith that it had been anywhere from five to 10 years - he knew it was going to be a big job.

"So I went to do my assessment and when I put my ear to the wall, I could

feel the heat on my face and hear the buzzing," he said.

Once the assessment was completed, he figured out how many technicians and how much equipment he thought he would need and got his team prepped to work on the board and batten home in northwest Caledon.

He had figured the hive was about three feet tall, four feet wide, and typically they are about eight inches deep - but that was not the case.

"Bees will adjust to the wall space available to them and this was a summer home which meant there was no insulation, so when we started cutting and removed one row, there was another, and then another," he said. "It was very cool."

In the end, they figured it was about three-and-a-half feet deep.

"And the bees were aggressive," Smith continued.

"Normally, beekeeper bees are quite docile but these



An ICE Humane Wildlife Removal & Pest Control technician works to remove nearly 100,000 bees from a Caledon home last week.

ICE Humane Wildlife Removal/photo

ones had been re-queened about two or three times, so when we came knocking - they were not impressed." Aggressive bees will go for a person's face or hands

to stop them from doing what they're doing, Smith explained, and he could hear these one's bouncing off his technicians helmet from 40 feet away.

But, being a humane wildlife control service, his team quickly gathered the swarm using a system Smith developed where they can vacuum the bees

into a bucket without damaging them whatsoever - and this colony of nearly 100,000 are happily settling into a new home with a local beekeeper.

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