

Ackroyd's Honey

Glen Ackroyd has been keeping bees since he was 16. Inspired by his great-uncle who kept bees during the depression and taught him the basics, Glen started with just one hive and was managing 75 colonies by the time he was in his late teens. Beekeeping was a sideline until 2003 when he left his career as an electronic technologist, moved to Tara with his wife Nancy and their two children, and became a full-time apiarist. The Ackroyds' main business is honey sales but some secondary activities stem from the honey production. Each spring they lease hives to orchards in the Meaford, Clarksburg and Brampton areas for pollination. They also sell pollen and raise colonies for other beekeepers in Ontario and Alberta.



In a venture that combines his old career with his new one, Glen is working with a software company to develop honey traceability programs that track all hive inputs, the movement of the hives, and the outputs up to the moment that the honey is delivered to the retailer. Traceability has become a concern due to several well-publicized recalls of food in the last decade. Apiarists today need to be able to track every jar of honey back to the bee yard of origin.

Glen is conscientious about using ecological hive management methods when possible. As an alternative to chemicals for controlling mites he makes use of a special bottom board with a built-in screen. The mites drop through the screen and can't get back into the hive. He also participates in the Ontario Bee Breeding Program, a group that breeds honeybees for mite resistance. Glen is an active member and attends regular meetings

of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association and the Canadian Honey Council.

Ackroyd's honey is sold at...

The Farm Gate → 7 days a week, dawn until dusk
(honey and pollen)

Hi Berry Farm in Port Elgin
Southampton Meat Market
Mildmay Cheese Haus (Mildmay and Port Elgin)
Back Eddie's in Paisley (honey and pollen)
Warton Farmers Market - Friday afternoons

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