



## News Release

**Attachments photograph (caption below)**

### **Mother's Day Queen Bee Tea supports bees and people**

DELTA, BC (May 24, 2017) Hives for Humanity connects people to nature, community and themselves through bees. Bee populations are a constantly threatened population and so, in turn, is our food production, in Delta and beyond. Those living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside are a marginalized population living in hardship and also under constant threat. So the Rotary Club of Ladner's Queen Bee Tea on Mother's Day raised over \$1,500 to support the bees and the people through the Delta-based Hives for Humanity.

On Mother's Day, May 14, 100 people attended the Rotary Club of Ladner's Queen Bee Tea to have fun and raise funds for Hives for Humanity. Thanks to sponsorship by some Rotary Ladner members, 17 guests from both the Boys and Girls club and McKee Senior Recreation Centre were able to attend at no cost.

Flowers grow throughout downtown Vancouver and, thanks to Hives for Humanity, bee keeping and honey production provide a sense of fulfillment for people living in the Downtown Eastside. Building bee hives is an important part of the program which produces honey and other bee products in its local, sustainable economy of people and pollinators. Hives continue to be kept in the Delta area to support the various farm crops.

Hives for Humanity founder and Executive Director Julia Common and colleague, Andrew, brought to the Mother's Day event live bees and samples of their honey to taste and wax candles they had made. Julia spoke about the origins of Hives for Humanity which was founded as a project with her daughter who is a social worker. Also attending the Queen Bee Tea was BC Ministry of Agriculture's Provincial Apiarist Paul Van Westendorp, who gave a short talk at the beginning of the tea highlighting the plight of the bee population.

Proceeds are to come from revenue, after expenses, from event ticket sales to attend the afternoon event and a raffle which included sales of books on bees, Vancouver Whitecap tickets, donated Purdy's chocolate, donated Save On Foods Ladner gift certificate, a basket of tea, honey, teapot from Ray Moschuk and The Co-operators and a workshop with bees for 10 people donated by Hives for Humanity.

Event Chair Bridget Jacob and son Tristan, MC Irene Forcier, Joanne and Ray Moschuk and other Rotary Ladner club members joined people from the local community for this first annual, fun event.

As Julia Common says the Queen Bee Tea, "was a most wondrous event, with the attention to detail, ranging from a wee honey stick with bee to a fantastic tea, was truly impressive and well beyond what I imagined the day might be. Hives for Humanity is so very fortunate to have found support and validation from Ladner Rotary"

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PHOTOGRAPHS, BY CHRIS OFFER:



1. 100 people attended the Queen Bee Tea on Mother's Day



2. Hives for Humanity display



3. Family members of all ages participated



4. Honey treats were served to all