



**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION**

Since 1881

**MISSION, VISION, VALUES**

**OBA MISSION STATEMENT**

We work to ensure a thriving and sustainable beekeeping industry in Ontario. To this end we: advocate for beekeepers' interests, support honey bee health research and deliver practical training and information.

**OBA VISION STATEMENT**

In our vision, Ontario leads with well-informed and skilled beekeepers, healthy and plentiful honeybees raised in Ontario, a prosperous beekeeping industry as well as a widespread appreciation for honey and for the critical role that honey bees play in agriculture.

**OBA VALUES**

**IN PURSUIT OF OUR VISION AND IN EXECUTION OF OUR MISSION WE VALUE:**

- **INCLUSIVENESS:** We recognize the interdependence of all beekeepers in Ontario and strive to include everyone whether they keep bees for commercial purposes or pure enjoyment.
- **RESPONSIVENESS:** We are committed to responding quickly and thoughtfully to urgent issues that could potentially affect beekeepers or the wellbeing of honey bees.
- **ENGAGEMENT:** We are committed to ongoing dialogue and engagement through a variety of means with our members and local associations to further the mission of the OBA.
- **COLLABORATION:** We work in partnership with a broad range of organizations and initiatives to strengthen our strategic impact.
- **SCIENCE-BASED RESEARCH AND INFORMATION:** The information and training we support is based on the most up-to-date research and analysis from Ontario and globally
- **ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** We are committed to strategies and policies that support and advance a sustainable environment.

**Ontario Beekeepers' Association**  
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**Board of Directors 2011-2012**

**President: John VanAlten**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Dan Davidson**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Tibor Szabo**  
**Treasurer: Brian Rowaan**

**Directors**

Steven Bryans	Mike Parker
Jim Coneybeare	Kelly Rogers
Ton Congdon	Hugh Simpson
Tim Greer (Past President)	Danny Walker
Doug McRory	Julie White

**OBA Business Administrator:** Maureen VanderMarel

**Promotions/Media Coordinator:** Nancy Comber

**OBA Technology Transfer Program Specialists:** Les Eccles, Lead Specialist  
Melanie Kempers  
Janet Tam  
Sarah Ayton  
Devan Rawn  
Jessica Morris

**OBA Technology Transfer Program Special Projects Administrator:** Pat Westlake

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## **Presidents Report**

### **John Van Alten: President**

2012 has been a very busy year for your OBA board. In addition to regular board meetings and committee work, there were quite a few issues that needed to be addressed.

A number of us went to Winnipeg early in the year to take part in the stock replacement symposium. We were able to represent Ontario's position on addressing our industries' need to be able to recover from high winter losses and to meet the pollination requirements of agriculture across the country. I think this discussion was the beginning of ongoing meetings to take place on a regular basis.

Your board also made a commitment to use any remaining small hive beetle funding to try to mitigate the spread of Small Hive Beetle. We were able to facilitate the eradication of several small isolated outbreaks around the province. This is important in order to keep our disease status from worsening, and I want to thank OMAFRA inspection staff and the beekeepers involved for their cooperation.

Our membership committee, led by Julie White, put together an online member survey that was very informative. As a result of the survey, several initiatives were undertaken.

1) A strategic planning committee was struck with the mandate to revamp the OBA's mission, vision and values. That committee, led by Hugh Simpson, has done a remarkable job, the results of which will go a long way in aiding future boards in leading the OBA.

2) The OBA logo was redesigned in order to better reflect our organization.

3) A Presidents round table was organized which saw the leaders of local beekeeping associations from across the province come together for a day of discussion around making the OBA more relevant for all beekeepers in the province.

4) The OBA website is undergoing a major overhaul, which will make it more applicable and accessible to both our members and the general public.

Several areas in Ontario were severely affected by dusting off pesticides from the planting of treated corn seed. We have been, and still are involved in the repercussions of that problem. This is a very sensitive subject, with opinions ranging from wanting to ban all neonicotinoid insecticides, to suggestions that they are far better than what was previously used. As beekeepers, we watch our livestock being collateral damage, as these new pesticides enter the market place. We understand the need to control pests as farmers produce the food that we eat, but it shouldn't be at the expense of honeybees or for that matter pollinators in general. This problem could be our greatest challenge as we move forward in the years to come.

The University of Guelph has announced a new chair for pollinators. They are in the process of selecting the appropriate person to fill that position. We have had discussions with the folks at U.of G. and we are very interested in helping to ensure that this new position compliments the important work that the Honeybee Research Centre is doing.

We have been successful in securing another three year funding agreement with OMAFRA. This funding forms the foundation of our tech transfer program. I want to thank Pamela Young and Paul Kozak for their continued support and help in this regard.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maureen for all the work she does to keep the OBA President and executive on track. Without her support and guidance I wouldn't have been able to get anything done.

Finally, I want to thank the beekeepers of Ontario for allowing me to serve as your President for the past two years. It has been a very fulfilling experience. I pass the torch on to Dan Davidson and his executive with mixed emotions, but I know that Dan has a passion for beekeeping and a very acute sense of what needs to be done. I wish him all the best.



2011- 2012 OBA Board of Directors  
Camera shy: Kelly Rogers, Tibor Szabo, Steven Bryans



## Research Committee Report

**Les Eccles: OBA Tech Transfer Program –Lead Specialist**

**Committee: John Van Alten , Doug McRory**

The OBA has successfully supported four key research projects starting in 2011 and run to 2013. A letter of support was written for the Technology-Transfer Program proposal “BEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR HONEY BEE BREEDING AND COLONY HEALTH”; that was approved by the Agricultural Adaptation Council for a total project value of \$302,000. Another letter was written to support the Technology-Transfer Program, OMAFRA and University of Guelph Knowledge Translation Transfer proposal “ADVISORY AND OUTREACH FOR APICULTURE IN ONTARIO”, valued at \$67,780; which was also approved by the OMAFRA selection committee.

Following negotiations with the Minister of Agriculture Carol Mitchell in 2011, OMAFRA delivered funding to the OBA to deal with industry impacts of Small Hive Beetle in Ontario. From the funds acquired, \$100,000 was transferred to the Technology-Transfer Program to investigate and development IPM strategies for SHB in northern environments. A full report was submitted to OMAFRA from the TTP which describes their work and results from 2011-2012.

OBA-TTP supported Dr. Ernesto Guzman’s apiculture program at the University of Guelph by submitting a proposal to the Agricultural Adaptation Council for the project “Patterns of infection, economic damage, and potential novel control of *Nosema ceranae* in honeybee colonies”. This project valued at \$222,000 will encourage lab and field research projects from Ernesto’s UofG facilities in collaboration with the OBA-TTP.

The OBA is in a unique position to support various research proposals and programs. OBA support for these projects are key to receive funding, since the majority of resources available are conditional on industry support. This support allows the OBA to set priorities for research and influence the information that can be developed for the beekeeping industry. This year’s success to start new projects is a perfect example of the roll the OBA can have to support beekeeping research in Ontario.



## **Treasurers Report**

**Brian Rowaan: OBA Treasurer**

**OBA Finance Committee: John Van Alten, Dan Davidson, Tibor Szabo, Maureen VanderMarel, & Pat Westlake**

OBA membership passed a motion to appoint Warren Strutt, Certified Management Accountant of Milton, ON as the OBA auditor at the Nov 2011 AGM.

A motion passed at the November 16, 2011 OBA Board meeting brought action to dissolve the OBA Research Fund. This corporation was formed in June 1999. The OBA Research was created when OBA applied to become a registered charity with Revenue Canada. The application was denied by Rev Canada. No activity had been processed in this corporation. Fiscal year end corporation tax submittals were brought up to date and the corporation was dissolved effective Nov 2011. OBA remains not for profit incorporated as an agricultural association within the meaning of the Agricultural and Horticultural Organization Act of the Province of Ontario.

OBA Board of Directors was presented financial update and review at the January 17, 2012 and the March 22/2012 OBA Board meeting. Comparative year to date balance sheet, year to date profit/loss statement year to date 2011-2012 OBA Admin operating budget were reviewed and discussed. OBA Treasurer, Brian Rowaan received report June 30, 2012 to provide ongoing financial performance.

OBA Finance Committee has met by conference to review attached Sept 30, 2012 OBA Financial Statements. Detailed discussion, review and accountant consultation has been approved for your review and acceptance.

OBA Finance Committee has met by conference to review the distributed OBA Admin 2013 Operating budget. OBA Board Committee budgets have been incorporated into this presented budget. Detailed discussion and review was approved by the OBA Board of Directors for your review and acceptance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Rowaan

## **OBA Business Administration Report**

### **Maureen VanderMarel: Business Admin**

OBA is recognized as a Provincial agricultural commodity that has great value to food production in Ontario. OBA partners with fruits and vegetable growers, field crop growers and horticultural industry. Local food initiatives programs seek beekeepers to participate at provider and educational levels. Consumers seek education about honey bees in part from the attention media has brought to the challenges honey bees are faced with.

OBA Admin office works diligently assisting the delivery of all enquiries, promoting the benefits of OBA membership, provide interesting meetings and assisting our members. Sourcing best business practices, OBA strives to be accountable and optimize new opportunities. OBA Board of Directors and key personnel embarked on a path of self - evaluation and review as OBA entered into strategic planning in March 2012. Much progress has been made as OBA identified areas that are effective and areas that require evaluation. OBA has created a Mission, Vision and Values statement that provide direction to move forward.

OBA reached out to the Local beekeeping associations for their input and participation. The Presidents' Summit was held in June 2012 providing a wonderful opportunity for sharing, implementing ideas, and networking. OBA Business Admin and OBA Tech Transfer Program work closely to expand and build on what has already been done and optimize new opportunities. OBA Admin extends personal thanks to the OBA membership for their generosity of spirit, passion for beekeeping in Ontario, their unfailing volunteerism, and their friendship.

Special thanks to Pamela Young, OMAFRA Manager Foods of Plant Origin, Paul Kozak, Ontario Provincial Apiarist and Helen Scutt, OMAFRA Agriculture Organization Specialists for their continued support and guidance throughout the year. Thank you to the OBA Board of Directors for their guidance, support and outstanding level of commitment to the beekeeping industry in Ontario. Emerging changes, challenging honey bee health concerns, require their commitment to resolve and problem solve. Their contribution of time and effort is selfless. It is my pleasure and honour to assist them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen VanderMarel



## **Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC)**

### **John Van Alten: OBA Representative**

The Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) is a non-profit, grass roots coalition of 66 agriculture, agri-business and rural organizations dedicated to providing financial resources to aid Ontario's agricultural and agri-food industry remain profitable, grow and maintain economic strength.

AAC continues to support Ontario beekeepers through their assistance with funding programs that become available through Provincial and Federal opportunities. OBA Tech Transfer Program works closely with many research projects. OBA is appointed to an "Other Industries/Commodities" sectorial group on the ACC Board of Directors. Kristin Ego MacPhail is the appointed Director. The untraditional partnering and networking within the Sectorial group benefit OBA for future assisted funding opportunities.

Changes imposed by the Federal Government Budget in 2012 have removed the CAAP funding program being administered at a regional council level by the end of 2013. This has raised concerns of a disconnect as applications will now be submitted through Ottawa at a national level. OBA has benefitted by the local council's familiarity with our industry challenges and objectives in research.

## **OBA Membership Committee**

**Chair: Julie White**

**Members: Liz Corbett**

**with *ad hoc* support from a number of members**

The Membership Committee wishes to thank all members who responded to the extensive member survey last winter. We had a fantastic response rate (nearly 500!) and used the results to guide our work this year. The Committee supported the Strategic Planning Committee to organize a President's Summit with local associations to further discuss some of the issues that emerged from the survey and to discuss ways to strengthen the relationship between the OBA and the associations.

Subsequent to the meeting the Membership Committee recommended changes to the fee and member structure to the Board that were enthusiastically endorsed and are going forward for resolution at the AGM. These include ideas that were suggested at the Summit such as a subsidized rate for young and new beekeepers and a more inclusive voting structure. The committee is currently working on a new membership brochure and a plan for outreach and on-going communications with members and the local associations.

## Ontario Bee Journal – Report

**Chair: Kelly Rogers**

**Committee: Andi McKillop, Maureen VanderMarel, Nancy Comber, Les Eccles**

The resignation of editor Karen Danard was accepted in January due to health reasons. After interviewing a short list of three qualified candidates, Andi McKillop was offered a six-issue contract as editor of the OBJ. The committee is very happy with the enthusiasm and efficiency with which Andi has tackled her first issues of the OBJ. All issues arrived in mailboxes in advance of the target, with much positive feedback. The 2012 OBJ production cost of \$24,458 came within budget. The OBJ committee met in November to review and plan the upcoming year. Don't forget: The OBJ is your journal; we welcome your feedback and submissions.





## OBA Website Committee

Chair: Julie White

Members: Brett Gillette, Melanie Kempers, Doug McRory, Nancy Comber, Maureen VanderMarel

The Website Committee had a very busy year rethinking and redesigning the OBA websites. The committee started by reviewing the member survey undertaken early in the year about what members want and need from the website, and also reviewed data provided from Google Analytics about visitor activity to the current websites. Using this data, the committee made an important early decision to more clearly differentiate between the beekeeper site ([www.ontariobee.com](http://www.ontariobee.com)) and the site for the general public promoting honey ([www.ontariohoney.com](http://www.ontariohoney.com)).

The committee also decided to respond to the different stakeholder populations with content specific to their needs, particularly the commercial producer, and the beginning beekeeper. Other features responding to member needs are a news feed that will provide up to date news relevant to beekeepers, a calendar of important dates and the ability to join/renew membership or sign up for meetings or courses on-line. Look for a late November launch and prepare to be delighted!

Visit our NEW refreshed website!

[www.ontariobee.com](http://www.ontariobee.com)





## **Ontario Bee Breeders Association**

**Chair: Kelly Rogers**

In February, 2012, the Tech Transfer Team hosted the second annual meeting for queen breeders, with focus on those involved in the Ontario The Ontario Mite and Disease Resistant Honey Bee Breeding Program. Testing protocols, fees, and new initiatives were reviewed. Breeders were involved in virus testing and queen fertility testing as part of the Tech Transfer Team's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) projects.

Also discussed was the initiation of a formal breeding program, and the challenges and opportunities for queen breeders. There continues to be a high demand for domestic stock across the country. New breeders are always welcome to join the program.

In March 2012, the OBBA hosted the annual Bee Breeders' day at the Spring Meeting.



## **2011 OBA AGM/Convention**

**Chair: Tom Congdon**

OBA Agm/Convention was a great success held at Niagara Falls Fallsview Hilton, Nov 17 & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Frank Eischen, is a researcher with the USDA out of Weslaco, Texas spoke on the effects of Nosema on hives that were used for early pollination. Dr. Eischen also presented studies in feeding and nutrition of honey bees.

Keynote speaker Gary Reuter, University of Minnesota Honey Bee Research Facility providing a very entertaining presentation about the importance of proper scientific methods even small beekeepers can employ. Gary Reuter also spoke about breeding honey bees. Queen and drone selection was discussed. OBA-TTP provided a live webcast of the meeting and also recorded the conference so that the meeting and presentations can be viewed at a later date on DVD.

OBA Gala banquet was a sold out event of 80 tickets. Kristine Jackson of Burt's Bee Products was the feature speaker at the Gala and provided the interesting historical story of Burt's Bees products.

OBA Agm/convention is a wonderful networking and learning opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Congdon

## OBA Spring Meeting - 2012

Chair: Dan Davidson

The topic of conversation at the 2012 OBA Spring meeting was the unusual warm weather throughout Ontario. Lindsay, Ontario provided a great venue for the well-attended event. Ontario Bee Breeders Association meeting held on Fri., March 23 attracted a larger than normal group of 65 persons. OBA Tech

Transfer Program provided an update of the future and further development of the Ontario Queen production Industry. Buckfast breeding program were discussed by feature guest speaker Pierre Giovenazzo and Paul Kelly from University of Guelph.

Tibor Szabo, OBA Board Director presented an interesting photo journal describing the year production at Szabo Queens.

Special thanks to Jerry and Teresa Jerrard, Kawartha Lakes Honey for hosting the honey house tour on Sat am. It was great to visit their facility and understand the unique operation that they continue to grow.

Approx. 115 participants joined the meeting after the honey house tour at Admiral Inn with excellent presentations from Pierre Gionvenazzo- Laval University, Tim Greer- Canadian Honey Council Delegate, OBA Tech Transfer Program and Paul Kozak, Provincial Apiarist. Doug McRory retired Provincial Apiarist entertained with his topic of "life in the beeyard after retirement".

Thank you to Dominion & Grimm, NOD Apiaries, Propolis...etc, Miel Villeneuve, Paul Kelly- U of Guelph, OBA –Tech Transfer Program, and OBA promotions for providing a trade exhibit area.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Davidson



*Photos taken at Kawartha Lakes Honey House hosted by Jerry Jerrard on the Saturday Producers day.*



*Photo of Gord Slemin receiving Paul Montaux Memorial Award for Outstanding Beekeeper at 2012 OBA Spring meeting. Al Sinton and John VanAlten make presentation.*

## **2012 OBA Summer Meeting**

**Chair: John Van Alten**

OBA 2012 Summer Meeting was held in Kingsville, On –July 7.  
Tropical weather made for hot humid day!

Dr. Barry Brown, Professor Emeritus and former head of the Dept. of Curriculum, University of Saskatchewan presented an interesting and informative presentation on beekeeping in Saskatchewan. Dr. Brown presented entraining anecdotal oversight of beekeeping seasons including wintering, feeding, harvesting and extracting in an area of high production with short seasons. Historical and practical aspects of candle and mead making processes were discussed. Photographic techniques were shared when photographing bees, floral sources and apiary operations.

The meeting was held in Essex County which is currently under quarantine to the movement of honey bees due to the find of small hive beetle. Paul Kozak, Provincial Apiarist led a field demonstration to identify and observe small hive beetle in hives that had been brought on site.

The OBA Queen Bee Auction raised \$2,225 to support OBA Tech Transfer Research Program. OBA Queen producers generously donated 55 queens for the auction. Special thanks to Tom Congdon, Sun Parlor Honey for bring hives to the meeting site.



Andi McKillop

*Viewing Small Hive Beetle at summer meeting*

## **Royal Agricultural Winter Fair-Honey Competition**

**Chair: Tibor Szabo**

Toronto District Beekeepers' Association was once again out in full force at the RAWF. Their educational display is always a hit with thousands of school kids who come by. Honey was also featured on the Royals' cooking stage. Chef and author Lynn Ogryzlo demonstrated a honeyed apple crisp recipe to rave reviews.

Congratulations to OBA Junior Member- Steven Coyle who won Canadian Honey Council Trophy –Best Exhibit of Liquid Honey-Class 8 and the Lorna Robinson Memorial Trophy. OBA continues to support the RAWF Honey Competition as corporate sponsor and providing advisors to the Honey & Beeswax Competition Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tibor Szabo

## **Promotion/Media Report – Dan Walker: OBA Promotion/Media Chair**

**Committee: Dennis Edell, Alison VanAlten, Mike Dodok, Hugh Simpson, Ken Coyle, Joanne Henderson**

I would like to start this report with expressing my appreciation to the Promotion/Media committee for their time and participation. We are fortunate to have a committee from a number of areas of the province and from a varied background. Your input has been invaluable.

2011/2012 OBA Promotion/media has focused on the continued growth of relationships within the beekeeping community and with our industry partners, as well as working towards the sustainability of the promotion/media program.

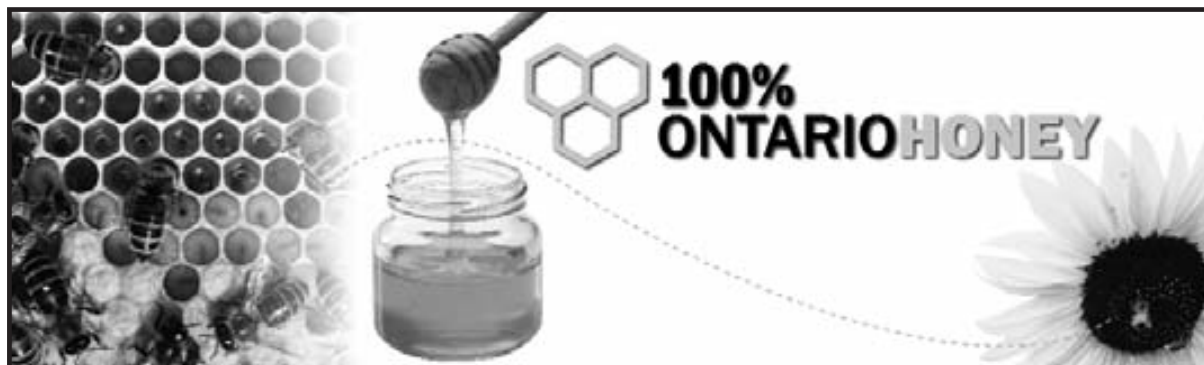
We were successful in receiving funding from the Agricultural Management Institute to provide a series of workshops in Northern Ontario. Workshops were provided in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Muskoka-Parry Sound and Ottawa area. This gave promotion/media and the OBA Tech Transfer Program the opportunity to work with and build our relationships with our northern beekeepers.

We were also successful in receiving funding from the Broader Public Sector Fund for the development of a packaging machine for a “honey stick” with Tuckamore Bee Company and for marketing research into providing honey to the medical industry. Tuckamore Bee Company will be providing a percentage of all honey sticks sold back into the promotion media endeavours of the OBA. Thank you.

Dominion and Grimm has kindly offered a percentage of the labels and security stickers towards the sustainability of the OBA Promotion Media program. Thank you.

We continue our efforts to become the source for information on honey bees to the Canadian media. To this end, we have provided press releases and interviews to media. Major magazines and industry partners have been approached as well. This is an ongoing effort. This is just a sampling of the initiatives undertaken this past year and planning has already begun for the year ahead!

Respectfully submitted, Dan Walker - OBA Promotion/Media Chair



## Strategic Planning Committee -2012 Report

Chair: Hugh Simpson

### Committee

- John VanAlten
- Kelly Rogers
- Dan Davidson
- Doug McRory
- Julie White
- Maureen VanderMarel
- Les Eccles

At OBA Spring Meeting 2012 the OBA Board determined that it should set a committee to develop a strategy with a plan for implementation.

Hugh Simpson appointed Chair and members as above met in person and by teleconference a number of times with the result:

- drafted statement of mission vision and values - meant to guide and focus the direction and the work of the OBA for foreseeable future
- listing description and analysis of OBA stakeholder universe
- created an analysis of all OBA strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in context of the revised mission vision and values

The work was presented and vetted by the local beekeeping associations during their presidents' forum- new ideas and insights gathered.

A culmination of the work was presented to full OBA Board at its October 2012 meeting. A working session was facilitated to review and confirm the mission vision and values statement as well as review and prioritize the top opportunities and the top threats as well as categorize the stakeholders as top, medium or less priority.

The next steps are to;

Review and confirm the work done by OBA Board in October.

Convene the committee to begin design of working plans to set actions in motion to re-focus energy toward the most strategic OBA objectives.

The committee intends to deliver the outline for the plan which will include " what to stop and how and what to start and how" in the next quarter.

Submitted by Chair Hugh Simpson

