

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**OBA** 

ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
Since 1881



# THE OBA WISHES TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK OUR SPONSORS FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE OF THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS AND THE LOCAL ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS FOR THEIR TIME AND CONSIDERATION IN ADVANCING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF BEEKEEPING IN ONTARIO.

Algoma Beekeepers' Association  
Bee Natural Caretakers' Association  
Beekeepers' Association of Regional Niagara  
Brampton Beekeepers' Association  
Central Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
Cloverbelt Beekeepers' Association  
Dufferin County Beekeepers' Association  
Durham Region Beekeepers' Association  
Eastern Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
Golden Horseshoe Beekeepers' Association  
Grand River Beekeepers' Association  
Grey-Bruce Beekeepers' Association  
Halidmand Norfolk Beekeepers' Association  
Huronian Beekeepers' Association  
Lanark County Beekeepers' Association  
Limestone Beekeepers' Guild  
Middlesex, Oxford, Elgin Beekeepers' Association  
Muskoka-Parry Sound Beekeepers' Association  
Ottawa Community Beekeepers' Association  
Quinte Beekeepers' Association  
Rainy River Beekeepers' Association  
Southwestern Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
Sudbury & District Beekeepers' Association  
Thunder Bay Beekeepers' Association  
Toronto District Beekeepers' Association  
Upper Ottawa Valley Beekeepers' Association  
Urban Toronto Beekeepers' Association  
Wellington County Beekeepers' Association





# MISSION, VISION, VALUES

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## 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 well-being 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.

## 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 honey bees 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.

THIS AND COVER PHOTO: THANKS TO MEL KEMPERS, OBA TTP SPECIALIST, FOR CAPTURING TTP'S WORK IN ACTION.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GAPIC

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CARD 2016

### **THIS IS MY FINAL AGM AS PRESIDENT OF THE OBA, AND I WILL ADMIT**

that it's been an intense couple of years. When you're in the middle of it, though, you don't notice all that's being accomplished, but when I see it compiled in the Annual Report I feel a real pride in the OBA and all we achieve. It confirms my belief that it is an awesome organization.

We've made real progress against the three pillars of our strategic plan; knowledge transfer, advocacy, and honey promotion. The full report follows, but I'd like to mention a few highlights for each.

Thanks to an increase in our funding from the Government of Ontario through OMAFRA, we have been able to increase the number of courses we run across the province for commercial as well as small-scale beekeepers. We also developed and implemented a 'Train the trainer' program that produced six new TTP trainers who now instruct at the OBA/TTP workshops. This is an important part of our strategy to increase our reach and impact; and to that effect, we are also developing Online Learning Modules to be offered this winter for those who are unable to attend or who would prefer to learn at their own pace online. This commitment to finding new ways to promote excellence in beekeeping also impelled us to work with Niagara College to develop Canada's first post-graduate commercial beekeeper program, which is starting this winter.

# WE BELIEVE THAT IT BENEFITS THE INDUSTRY WHEN ALL BEEKEEPERS ARE 'INSIDE THE TENT' LEARNING ABOUT, AND ENCOURAGED TO USE BEST PRACTICES IN PROMOTING BEE HEALTH.

Other collaborations include "BeeOmics", a national project with UBC and York University; two projects with U of Guelph, one comparing colony health between hives on organic land and those on conventional agricultural land, and the other studying the effect of pre- and probiotics for the control of *Nosema ceranae*. We are also doing some interesting work on AFB with the Ontario Disease Surveillance Project.

In terms of advocacy, we continue to be concerned about and engaged with the issue of overuse and approval of systemic pesticides, which, based on overwhelming scientific evidence coupled with the direct experience of many Ontario beekeepers, is linked to high levels of bee mortality. We've submitted or presented to a number of government consultations this year. With regard to Ontario's new regulations that are intended to reduce neonicotinoid use by 80% by next year, we are in a waiting game at the moment. We don't know whether this first year, which was largely implemented on the honour system, resulted in the 50% reduction hoped for. We won't likely receive information on the extent of treated seed sales until early in the new year. But based on what we are hearing and the amount of push-back from those who support the prophylactic use of neonics, we are managing our expectations. I am committed to continuing to work on this issue as past president and as a member of Ontario's Pesticide Advisory Committee.

Another issue we have been addressing on your behalf is a plan to manage the bio-security threat of small hive beetle. We worked with the Ontario government, CAPA, and Quebec's beekeepers' federation to develop new protocols that avoided unmanageable travel restrictions for Ontario beekeepers providing pollination services to blueberry and

cranberry growers in the Maritimes. We have also been advocating against proposed changes in access to antibiotics that would have increased cost and reduced access to oxytetracycline. And we were instrumental in changing crop insurance guidelines so that beekeepers could get some relief in the wake of double-digit losses.

On the fun side, working with Foodies on Foot, we organized an innovative media event highlighting Ontario honey that got widespread social media coverage. You'll see more about that in the report, and that we have been ramping up our efforts to promote Ontario honey by participating in events where we can showcase our honey and generate 'buzz' on social media.

We use a number of metrics to measure our progress at the OBA, but one of them is membership. We think people indicate their approval by joining and by staying a member, and on both counts we are doing well. Our membership, which is nearing 1,200, is at an historic high for both commercial operators and small-scale producers. We are, by far, the largest provincial beekeepers' association in Canada. Like the British Beekeepers Association and the American Beekeeping Federation, we believe the industry benefits when all beekeepers are 'inside the tent' learning about best practices for bee health. Our new members bring a passion for bees and commitment to the OBA that is energizing and empowering. We are proud of the services we provide to the industry: research and training, services like the Ontario Resistance Honey Bee Selection program, the new beeyard management software, and our ongoing work with OBBA and PAACO, just to name a few initiatives. So thanks to all members, and to those who took the time to write to me with their ideas and encouragement.

All of this is a result of a true group effort, so I would like to thank the board of directors, as well as the contractors and staff who bring their best to work every day. And finally, being OBA president is very, very demanding and I couldn't have done it without the support of my parents and partner, Amanda, who all had to step up to enable me to balance my family life, my business, and my commitment to the industry.

I'm looking forward to being your past president and continuing to support progress at the OBA.

Yours,



Tibor Szabo  
President

# HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015-2016 TOWARDS OUR STRATEGIC PLAN



TIBOR SZABO ON TVO'S THE  
AGENDA AS EXPERT PANELIST  
ON BEE HEALTH.

## GOAL ONE: ADVOCACY / ISSUES MANAGEMENT

AMPLIFY OUR VOICE FOR BEEKEEPING  
THROUGH STRONGER INFLUENCE WITH  
GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY.

- The OBA presented to the House of Common's Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food on Bee Health Monitoring in Canada. In our submission we called for the Government of Canada to take a leadership position on systemic pesticides; for an independent panel of bee health experts to provide oversight for the review of all systemic pesticides; to maintain the policy of a Canadian border closed to imports of US bees into Canada; and to reassess the mandate and mission of the Bee Health Roundtable that reflects the full range of societal interests and expertise.
- Working with government, and based on overwhelming evidence supporting the linkage of neonicotinoids to high levels of bee mortality, the OBA has convinced the Ontario government to stop the overuse of neonics and adopt the target of 80% reduction of treated corn and soy seeds by 2017.
- The OBA worked to change crop insurance guidelines so that beekeepers could get some relief in the wake of double digit losses.
- The OBA is co-leading a new network of apiary specialists, The Ontario Animal Health Network/Bee Expert Network to monitor and discuss bee disease trends and health issues in Ontario.
- OBA continues to comment on PMRA's conditional and full registrations of new systemic pesticides or uses of neonicotinoids. These submissions are communicated to media and to the beekeeping community through our newsletter and website news feed.
- Responding to the invasion of small hive beetle, an OBA/ OMAFRA SHB working group was established to balance the economic reality with the biosecurity threat of SHB. Working with OMAFRA and local beekeeping associations, the OBA created awareness about the issue, continued to track the spread of SHB, and promoted the Tech-Transfer Program's best practices for managing the impact and spread of this pest.
- Consequently, the OBA - working with CAPA, OMAFRA, and the Quebec beekeepers' federation - helped create SHB inspection and travel protocols. These new protocols successfully avoided unmanageable travel restrictions that would have prevented Ontario beekeepers from providing pollination services to Quebec's fruit and vegetable growers and to blueberry and cranberry growers in the Maritimes.



*In our submission to the House of Common's Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food on Bee Health Monitoring in Canada, we called for the Government of Canada to take a leadership position on systemic pesticides; for an independent panel of bee health experts to provide oversight for the review of all systemic pesticides; to maintain the policy of a Canadian border closed to imports of US bees into Canada; and to reassess the mandate and mission of the Bee Health Roundtable that reflects the full range of societal interests and expertise.*



READY FOR THE NEW POST -  
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN  
COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING.

- OBA participated in and supported the drafting of a Pollinator Health Action Plan. OBA members attended consultation sessions, and submitted a comprehensive list of recommendations for the protection of managed bees and all insect pollinators to OMAFRA. We commented on draft proposals and will review the final plan when it is released later this fall.
- Responding to proposed changes in access to antibiotics that would have increased cost and reduced access to oxytetracycline, the OBA provided the beekeeper's perspective to the federal health minister and OMAFRA. While recognizing concerns about residues from antibiotics of animals such as cows, pigs, and chickens destined for human consumption, we pointed to the critical differences in the use of antibiotics in beekeeping and recommended a program of surveillance, education, and training.
- With a downward pressure on the bulk price of honey, the OBA recognized that it is even more important to be vigilant in keeping adulterated or cheaper imported honey that unfairly competes with Ontario honey off our store shelves. We have noted and commented on this issue to the media and to retail food chains.
- OBA has researched legal and legislative options to permit more flexibility around the 30m setback regulations to allow for a more robust urban beekeeping community. We have encouraged action and debate on this issue by urban beekeeping associations and municipalities.
- Recognizing the need to support the new generation of commercial beekeepers, OBA partnered with Niagara College to initiate a Commercial Beekeeping program. This course - leading to an Ontario College Graduate Certificate in Commercial Beekeeping - provides any new beekeeper or apiary manager with a solid science-based foundation as a first step in a career as a professional beekeeper. The course commences in 2017 and represents the most robust curricula for commercial beekeeping in North America.
- The OBA board communications committee has kept up active surveillance of the issues and articles of interest to Ontario beekeepers. Our social media team has a big following on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, as well as two websites, [ontariobee.com](http://ontariobee.com) and [ontariohoney.ca](http://ontariohoney.ca).

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*The need for a skilled labour force when honey bees are under particular stress is significant.*

*We worked closely with the OBA to create a hands-on program that will produce beekeepers who are knowledgeable, highly skilled and experienced.”*

— Al Unwin, associate dean of Niagara College's School of Environmental and Horticultural Studies.

*Niagara College, in collaboration with the OBA and OMAFRA, this year launched a postgraduate program in commercial beekeeping – the first program of its kind in Eastern Canada. The one-year course begins in January 2017 with classroom study focusing on bee health and the business of beekeeping. As the seasons progress, more time will be dedicated to fieldwork at the college's 30-hive apiary in subjects such as honey production, managing a pollination service, queen breeding, and honey harvest.*







## GOAL TWO: KNOWLEDGE

BE THE AUTHORITATIVE  
SOURCE FOR KNOWLEDGE  
ABOUT THE PRACTICE  
AND PROFESSION OF  
BEEKEEPING.

### KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

- Introduced and enhanced the beekeeping skills of 350 individuals through 13 beekeeping courses across the province with increased attendance over 2015.
- Developed and implemented Train the Trainer sessions to increase capacity for OBA TTP workshops. Six new OBA TTP trainers were trained who now instruct OBA TTP workshops.
- Developing Online Learning Modules to be offered in winter of 2017 for those who are unable to attend or would prefer to learn at their own pace on-line.
- Provided Small Hive Beetle education and advisory sessions for 16 Local Beekeeper Associations.
- Provided technical and professional leadership toward the development of Niagara College's Commercial Beekeeper Program, the first of its kind in Canada.
- Key participant in the Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) and Disease Surveillance Plan (DSP).
- Facilitated Pollination and Apiculture Advisory Council of Ontario (PAACO).
- Organized and facilitated the Ontario Bee Breeders' Association annual business and planning meeting.
- Provided knowledge transfer presentations on program research findings to the 2015 OBA AGM, and 2016 Spring and Summer meetings.
- Provided 31 technical presentations to local Ontario beekeepers' associations.
- Provided articles and technical information and advice through the *Ontario Bee Journal* to over 2,000 people, and through the OBA newsletter and social media, reaching thousands more.
- Provided technical input to OBA's Issues Management committee on policy issues.



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 GAVIN NORTH OF HONEY PIE HIVES  
 TEACHES OBA SUMMER MEETING  
 PARTICIPANTS ABOUT MEAD MAKING.  
 PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIS ZIEGLER  
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FIELD SUPPORT AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Administered the Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selections (ORHBS) program, providing hygienic testing and pest analysis for 17 OBBA Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selection (ORHBS) members.
- Implemented the “Beeyard Manager” Traceability and Labour Productivity Software Tool to support beeyard efficiency and effectiveness.
- Provided Advanced Integrated Pest Management, Queen Breeding and Expansion of Pollination Services Workshops, funding by Growing Forward 2 through the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC).
- Managed “ORHBS Isolated Breeding Yard” focus on hygienic and low defensive stock.
- Implemented “ORHBS Varroa Grooming Behaviour Selection”, funded through Sustainable LUSH (SLUSH).
- “BeeOmics” National Collaboration project lead by Dr. Leonard Foster (UBC) and Dr. Amro Zayed (York University).
- “Culture, antimicrobial susceptibility and molecular typing of *Paenibacillus larvae*, a causative agent of American foulbrood (AFB)”. Ontario Disease Surveillance Program (DSP), survey of eight beekeepers in different Ontario geographic locations for AFB and status of antibiotic resistance.
- Provided collaboration and field support for Dr. Ernesto Guzman and Master’s student Dave MacKay at the UofG Honey Bee Research Centre comparing colony health between hives on organic and land and those on conventional agricultural land.
- Provided collaboration and field support with Dr. Ernesto Guzman at the UofG for project “Efficacy and effects on bee health and behaviour of prebiotics and probiotics for the control of the emergent parasitic fungus *Nosema ceranae*.”

# THE ONTARIO RESISTANT HONEY BEE SELECTION PROGRAM (ORHBS)

*Purchasing a hygienic queen from an ORHBS breeder means that hygienic behaviours and resistance to tracheal mites and other pests and diseases has been examined and selected for.*

*In Ontario, the hygienic queens and bee stock available for purchase have been rigorously selected and bred for optimal characteristics through the ORHBS program supported by OBA’s Tech-Transfer Program. Making use of local Ontario hygienic stock is one of the many ways that a beekeeper can implement an effective integrated pest management (IPM) strategy in their operation. Hygienic stock reduces the susceptibility of a colony to brood pests and diseases and consequently reduces the dependence on treatments administered by the beekeeper.*







## BEE YARD MANAGER TRACEABILITY AND LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE

*Now fully available to beekeepers, this bee yard management software allows beekeepers to track colony management and health conditions, identify symptoms of pests and diseases while in the field, and immediately access information on appropriate treatments. This program also tracks proper timing of treatment applications to ensure efficacy. To sign on: [beeyardmanager.com](http://beeyardmanager.com)*

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PHOTOS COURTESY MEL KEMPERS,  
OBA TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER  
PROGRAM SPECIALIST.  
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## GOAL THREE: SUSTAINABILITY

PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
A DIVERSE AND ECONOMICALLY  
SUSTAINABLE APICULTURE INDUSTRY.



(In addition to advocacy, research and training efforts)

- Provided hygienic testing and pest analysis for 17 OBA/Ontario Bee Breeders' Association (OBBA) members who are part of the Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selection program.
- Provided widespread availability of new Bee Yard Manager software.
- Contributed to the Ontario Animal Health Network and Disease Surveillance Plan.
- Supported the growth in pollination services through the Ontario Honey Bee Pollination Association and through the development of SHB inspection and travel protocols with Quebec to facilitate transit to eastern provinces.
- Worked to change crop insurance guidelines so that beekeepers could get some relief in the wake of double-digit colony losses.
- Provided business development advice through regular features in the *Ontario Bee Journal* such as recommended pricing, new product opportunities, ideas for honey marketing, agritourism, where to get financial support for growing your business, how to build a pollination business, and more.
- Provided low-cost group liability insurance to over 350 beekeepers.
- Editorial value of OBA/Foodland public relations effort was worth \$239,956 and reached nearly a million consumers.

OBA WORKED TO  
CHANGE CROP  
INSURANCE  
GUIDELINES SO  
THAT BEEKEEPERS  
COULD GET  
SOME RELIEF IN  
THE WAKE OF  
DOUBLE-DIGIT  
LOSSES.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN BORGES

THIS YEAR OBA LAUNCHED A NEW SEARCHABLE DATABASE FOR OBA MEMBERS ON THE 'WHERE TO BUY HONEY PRODUCTS' PAGE OF THE OBA WEBSITE, NOW RECEIVING NEARLY 10,000 VISITS A MONTH, A 66% INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR.

- Launched a new searchable database for OBA members on the Where to Buy Honey Products section of the OBA website which now receives nearly 10,000 visits a month.
- Organized an innovative media event involving freelance journalists, food writers, bloggers, and chefs promoting an awareness of beekeeping and 100% Ontario Honey which resulted in 3.2 million impressions on social media.
- Participated in the Ontario Public Service spring and fall food drives in support of the Daily Bread Food Bank.
- Participated in the annual Queen's Park Farmers' Market, showcasing local food and educating MPs, QP staff, and consumers about bees, beekeeping, and honey. We handed out homemade honey blueberry granola squares and provided an observation hive, attracting over 600 people.
- Provided marketing materials and advice to beekeepers selling honey or providing education at local farmers' markets, fall fairs, and community events.
- Met with product development staff at Loblaw's who are exploring possibilities for a high-end Black Label branded Ontario honey.
- Sponsored a performance of *The Birds and The Bees*, a world premier presentation at the Blyth Festival, highlighting the plight of bees in Ontario and promoting our brand.
- Participated in Local Food Week by celebrating 100% Ontario Honey.
- Developed new 'bee-focused' temporary tattoos that are popular with both children and adults, highlighting honey bees.





# UNIQUE MEDIA EVENT HIGHLIGHTS 100% ONTARIO HONEY



*Ontario honey was the focus of an interactive media event hosted by the OBA with funding from Foodland Ontario. Freelance journalists, food writers, bloggers, and chefs experienced an intense and engaging day of learning about bees, wild pollinators, beekeeping, and Ontario honey. The event kicked off with an introduction to the bees and apiary on the rooftop of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel and a honey taffy-making demonstration hosted by Chef Tom Phuong. At the next stop, Chef Owen Steinberg of Harvest Kitchen showcased honey and pollination in a selection of small tasting plates and cups. And on the final leg of the tour, OBA's Honey Promotion Chair, Dennis Edell provided a briefing on the diversity and quality of Ontario's honey; Natalie Comeau offered a guided honey tasting; Chef Tom Phuong provided a final offering of sweet honey treats; and local mead and beer were tasted and toasted.*



## GOAL FOUR: REACH

INCREASE OBA MEMBERSHIP THROUGH OUTREACH, COMMUNICATIONS, AND MEMBER SERVICES.

- OBA membership is at an all time high, likely to be over 1,200 by year-end.
- Commercial membership also at highest level (as far as our records show). Renewal rate for commercial beekeepers is 98%.
- Renewal rate for small-scale beekeepers is 81.5%.
- Electronic newsletter distribution is up to 3,000.
- Social media reaching average 4,000/week on Facebook, 3,000 followers on Twitter.
- The *Ontario Bee Journal* print run is now 1,200 with an estimated readership of at least 2,500.
- Produced a special report “Best of Tech-Transfer” OBJ articles.
- OBA website ontariobee.com annual usage was 214,000 sessions up 7% over last year.
- The new, searchable “Where to buy honey products” map launched this year is up to 119,560 sessions per year or 9,963 per month, up 66% since 2015.
- Ontariohoney.ca website sessions are up 38% this year to 59,000.
- Distributed more than 13,000 brochures for honey, pollination, and pesticides.



## GOAL FIVE: CAPACITY

OPTIMIZE ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE THROUGH EFFECTIVE STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS, POLICIES, AND FUNDING.

- Renewed OMAFRA program funding with a 15% increase.
- Installed new member management software to improve efficiency and service to members.
- Instituted board member terms to provide more continuity and consistency.
- Updated financial management policies and procedures manual to provide more accountability and longer term sustainability.

OBA MEMBERSHIP IS AT A RECORD HIGH AT NEARLY 1,200 MEMBERS. COMMERCIAL MEMBERSHIP ALSO HIGHEST IN MEMORY.

RENEWAL RATE FOR COMMERCIAL MEMBERS: 98%, FOR SMALL-SCALE BEEKEEPERS: 81.5%.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015 HOLIDAY INN PETERBOROUGH WATERFRONT



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## OBA PRESIDENT, TIBOR SZABO, CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:05 AM.

With approximately 125 OBA members in attendance, a quorum was confirmed. He noted that, for the first time, OBA members participating online would be permitted to vote in elections and on resolutions.

2015 AGM & Conference Committee was confirmed as follows:

Nomination Chair: Bill Ferguson

Resolutions Chair: Paul Kelly

Scrutineers: Egan Baird (online voting), Ken Coyle (onsite voting)

Current Board members whose terms end November 2016 are:

- Steve Bryans
- Albert Devries
- Tim Greer
- Brian Rowaan
- Jim Wilson

Current Board members whose terms end November 2017 are:

- Jim Coneybeare
- Dennis Edell
- André Flys
- Tibor Szabo
- Julie White

## NOMINATIONS TO THE 2015—2016 OBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(choose 4 plus an alternate)

- Glen Ackroyd
- Dan Davidson
- Jack Eva
- Peter Istvan
- Paul Lacelle
- Jannet Ann Leggett
- Julie Paré
- Mark Thompson
- John Van Alten

## ELECTION OF 2015 - 2016 OBA BOARD MEMBERS FOR A 3-YEAR TERM TO NOVEMBER 2018:

- Glen Ackroyd
- Dan Davidson
- Jannet Ann Leggett
- John Van Alten
- Alternate: Paul Lacelle

## MOTION:

To destroy ballots from election of 2015 - 2016 OBA Board of Directors.

*Carried*

## 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 – JULIE WHITE, TREASURER

Financial Statements for fiscal year October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015, prepared by Warren Strutt, CMA, were presented and reviewed by OBA Treasurer, Julie White.

### MOTION:

To accept the 2014 – 2015 OBA Financial Statements as presented.

*Carried*

### MOTION:

To appoint Warren Strutt, CMA, of Milton, Ontario to again act in the capacity of accountant for 2015 – 2016 to conduct the financial review and statement preparation for the OBA.

*Carried*

## RESOLUTIONS

### RESOLUTION 1

Whereas the OBA's silent auction held at the AGM and queen auction held at the summer meeting have been fundraisers for TTP research and,

Whereas all the proceeds from these events have been designated to TTP's research work in the past and,

Whereas these proceeds from these fundraisers are seen as industry money and used to obtain matching grants for projects;

Therefore be it resolved that the OBA ensure that all funds from silent auction and queen auction be for TTP research exclusively, or until the general membership designates the funds for other purposes.

*Carried Unanimously*

### RESOLUTION 2

Whereas the honey bee inspection program has been recently moved into the animal health program at OMAFRA and,

Whereas honey bees and their designated pests, and management of colonies are unique and far different from other animal husbandry and,

Whereas beekeepers in Ontario have a very good piece of legislation in the Bees Act;

Therefore be it resolved that the OBA engage in dialogue with OMAFRA expressing our broad industry support for maintaining the Bees Act legislation.

*Carried Unanimously*

### RESOLUTION 3

Whereas SHB has been identified in several areas in Niagara and also Essex County and,

Whereas the spread of SHB will continue and,

Whereas the depopulation of colonies is no longer appropriate;

Therefore be it resolved that the OBA request that OMAFRA assist beekeepers with training, management tools and financial assistance to purchase equipment and to protect their colonies and equipment.

*Carried Unanimously*

### RESOLUTION 4

OMAFRA is currently working on honey bee health initiatives and,

Whereas the OBA is uncertain about the involvement of bee researchers, beekeepers and subject matter experts and,

Whereas beekeepers, bee researchers, and subject matter experts could provide valuable insight and technical information into colony health;

Therefore be it resolved that the OBA request that OMAFRA strike a committee to work on colony health issues going forward that includes subject matter experts, beekeepers and bee researchers.

*Carried*

## ELECTIONS OF 2015 – 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### MOTION:

Nominate President – Tibor Szabo

*Carried*

### MOTION:

Nominate 1st Vice President – Jim Coneybeare

*Carried*

### MOTION:

Nominate 2nd Vice President – André Flys

*Carried*

### MOTION:

Nominate Treasurer – Julie White

*Carried*

### MOTION:

Nominate OBA Canadian Honey Council Delegate – Jim Coneybeare

*Carried*



# 2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES & STAFF

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Tibor Szabo  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT Jim Coneybeare  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT André Flys  
TREASURER Julie White  
PAST PRESIDENT Dan Davidson

### DIRECTORS

Glen Ackroyd  
Steve Bryans  
Albert Devries  
Dennis Edell  
Tim Greer  
Jannet Ann Leggett  
Brian Rowaan  
John Van Alten  
Jim Wilson

## STAFF

OBA GENERAL MANAGER  
& BOARD SECRETARY  
Lorna Irwin

OBA EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
Sylvie Sharpe

OBA TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER  
PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
Les Eccles (Lead specialist)  
Melanie Kempers (Specialist)  
Daniel Thurston (Specialist)  
Daniel Borges (Specialist)

OBA TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER  
PROGRAM SPECIAL PROJECTS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
Pat Westlake

## COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Chair: Tibor Szabo

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
Chair: Jannet Ann Leggett

HONEY PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE  
Chair: Dennis Edell

ISSUES MANAGEMENT & EXTERNAL  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
Chair: Dennis Edell

ONTARIO BEE JOURNAL  
Chair: Julie White

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
& COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE  
Chair: Julie White

THE RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE  
TRANSFER COMMITTEE  
Chair: Tibor Szabo

CONFERENCE PRESIDENT  
André Flys

CHC DELEGATES  
Jim Coneybeare  
André Flys

## SUB-ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONTARIO HONEY BEE  
POLLINATION ASSOCIATION (OHBPA)  
Chair: Jim Coneybeare

ONTARIO BEE BREEDERS'  
ASSOCIATION (OBBA)  
Chair: Devan Rawn



# DONATIONS OCTOBER 1, 2015- SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

## INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Jennifer Abramson  
Glen Ackroyd  
Len & Linda Acres  
Marcy P. Adzich  
Patricia Anderson  
Anonymous  
Ritchie Argue  
Gunter Asche  
Sheilagh Ashworth  
Nisha Barake-Craighead  
Michael J. Barber  
Ken Bassindale  
David Bastedo  
Abner Bauman  
Thomas Benian  
Gregory Bertrand  
Robert Bird  
Andrea Bird  
Irina Birfer  
Ann, Stefan & Jaimie Board  
Rolf Bodendorfer  
Murray Borer  
Andre Bos  
Joe Braini  
Garry Brisco  
Catherine Buckham  
Stephen Burgess  
David Burns  
Christopher Campbell  
Peterson & Carlene Charles  
Victor Chmilenko  
Susan Ciocci  
Arminda Cipriano  
Stacey Cline  
Melanie Coates  
Sandra Cobb  
Natalie Ann Comeau  
Tom Congdon  
Bruce A. Cooper  
Tim Coté  
William Roy Cowan  
Joseph & Velma Craffigan  
Seth Crawford  
Ralph Creighton  
Don & Chris Crocker  
Bob Crowhurst  
Tibor Csincsa  
James Darlington  
Dan & Sarah Davidson  
June Davies  
Gerald Del Col  
Joe & Bonnie Devillers  
Bob Dewar  
Tenzin Dhadon

Peter and Sandi Dickey  
Peter Dicks  
Jerry Dietrich  
Michael and Denise Dodman  
Michael & Licia Dodok  
Robin Dostaler  
Mykhaylo Dovbenyuk  
Peter Dunnett  
Valerie Eassone  
Mary Eaton  
Lyle Edmonstone  
Okun Edward  
Jack Eva  
Brian Findlay  
Fran Freeman  
David Gale  
Samer Ghadban  
Darren & Erin Gilmore  
Richard Goetze  
William Golding  
Robert I. Gordon  
Debbie Gray and Jeffrey Chalmers  
Tim Greer  
Blair Griffiths  
Franziska Gut  
Brent Halsall  
Kenneth Haskins  
Terry & Carol Hawirko  
Dan Heffernan  
Etienne Heid  
Jim Henderson  
John Hiemstra  
Marie & James Hill  
Steve & Dianne Hills  
Len & Helen Hordyk  
Dr. Larry Hurd  
Valerie Hussey  
Tom Hutchinson  
Mike Intven  
Collen Ireland  
Lorna Irwin  
Josip Ispanovic  
Heinz Walter Jennen  
Geoff & Gabriela Jennen  
Nancy Jenner  
David E Jones  
Lea Jorgensen  
Tom Kaemmer  
Todd & Mike Kalisz  
Paula Keffer  
Melanie Kempers  
Robert Kitchener  
October Knight  
Zenon Kohut  
Ronald Kwaitkowski  
Anne Ladouceur  
Yves LaFrenière  
Philip Lago  
Bill Lake  
Whitney Lake  
Gail Lanktree & Jacques Duquette  
Chantelle B. Leslie-Leach  
Barb Lindberg  
Jason Lindsay  
Eric Lothrop  
Erin & Jeremy Macdonald  
Karla MacDonald & Joel Wiens

Robin MacKay  
Paul G. Martin  
Ian McGillivray  
Karen McKenna  
Max McLaughlin  
Carolee Melvanin  
Peter Mewett  
Angela Monette  
Mario Mongeon  
Stephen Moore  
Tom Morrisey  
Milson Morwood  
Peter Mougeot  
Gary & Penny Murphy  
Patrica Carol Cecil Mussar  
National Farmers Union Ontario  
Ani Nazaretian  
Tracy Oelschlagel  
Marnie Oystriick  
Mike Parker  
Ronald L Peterson  
JoAnn Poirier  
Arnold Polk  
Brian Pratt  
Kyle Pritchard  
David Radford  
Mark Remmer  
Kenneth Ripley  
Dr. Evan WD Roberts  
John Robertson  
Nadine Rochette  
Kelly Rogers  
Paul Roussy  
Natalie Rowe  
Carol Crill Russell  
Saugeen Country Honey Inc.  
Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society  
Oliver Scherer  
Petra Schwirtz  
Duncan Scott  
Greg Scott  
Steve Shane  
David K. Siberry  
Les Simonffy  
Sally Simpson  
R Allan Sinton  
Lisa Skog  
Gord Sleming  
Irving Sloss  
Martha Smith  
Jim Smith  
Bernard Smith  
Gwenever Smith  
Andre Soetemans  
Sandra Soullière  
Michael Sounak  
Square Inc.  
John Staite  
Nicole & Jason Stark  
Keith Steele  
Douglas Stevenson  
Robert Stickan  
Barry Tabor  
Jeremy Thorn  
Daniel Thurston  
Karin Tomosky  
John Van Alten

*The OBA would  
like to thank the many  
donors who contributed to  
our collective success this year  
through their donations to  
the Tech-Transfer Program  
and BeeCause*

Alison Van Alten  
John Van Blyderveen  
Mark Van Trig  
Joan VanDuzer  
Paul Waenink  
Anik Watson  
Julie White  
Karen Whiteman  
John Wilcox  
Marion Willemsen  
Andrew & Wanda Williams  
York Professional Care & Education Inc.  
Elis Ziegler

## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
Dufferin Beekeepers' Association  
Durham Region Beekeepers' Association  
Eastern Apicultural Society  
Eastern Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
Golden Horseshoe Beekeepers' Association  
Grand River Beekeepers' Association  
Haldimand Norfolk District Beekeepers' Association  
Huron Beekeepers' Association  
Lanark County Beekeepers' Association  
Limestone Beekeepers Guild  
Middlesex, Oxford, Elgin Beekeepers' Association  
Muskoka Parry Sound Beekeepers' Association  
Quinte Beekeepers' Association  
Southwestern Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
Sudbury District Beekeepers' Association  
Toronto District Beekeepers' Association  
Upper Ottawa Valley Beekeepers' Association  
Wellington County Beekeepers' Association

# TREASURER'S REPORT JULIE WHITE, OBA TREASURER

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**PRESENTED TO THE OBA MEMBERSHIP AT THE  
2015/16 AGM IN OTTAWA, NOVEMBER 18, 2016**

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present my Treasurer's report on the 2015/16 Financial Statements prepared by our accountant, Warren Strutt, Certified Management Consultant.

OBA is a not-for-profit association incorporated under the Ontario Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act (1990). Our mission is to ensure a thriving and sustainable beekeeping industry in Ontario, and all monies have been expended in support of that end.

I am pleased to report that the 2016 surplus for OBA was \$57,587 this year. This result was achieved partly due to a bequest received late in the year, which will be carried forward toward initiatives planned in the coming year. I will also note that our accounts receivables line is high due primarily to the flow of grant monies to the Tech-Transfer Program, which is not unusual in grant receiving organizations such as ours. I would also like to highlight that this year the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) committed to a three-year funding agreement to deliver knowledge transfer through the OBA's Tech Transfer Program and other means. We are grateful for their continuing support.

In addition to the Government of Ontario, funding comes from Government of Canada research programs, monetary donations from individuals and groups, incentive agreements with Dominion & Grimm, the sale of promotional and beekeeping materials, advertising and member fees.

I will also note that we are complying with enhanced reporting requirements for organizations receiving Ontario government funding which now require an audit, with independent examination as well as CPA

oversight. In addition, we provide OMAFRA with an annual report on deliverables and other activities. This year we updated many of our financial policies to ensure transparency and accountability and will continue to review and revise other policies as appropriate.

In the financials attached you will find schedules of revenue and expenditures. However, financial statements, intended to reflect the financial health of an organization, do not always tell the whole story. It is OBA's commitment to ensure not just that its financial resources are used efficiently and appropriately, but they are effective as well. This year we are providing a rough breakdown as to how our net expenditures relate to our approved Strategic Planning Goals (highlighted elsewhere in the Annual Report) that you will find attached to my report. One thing that became evident in compiling this information is the degree to which the success of our efforts to meet our goals relies on enormous volunteer support, particularly from board members, which isn't reflected in the financial statement. Given the OBA's limited resources, it is certain that we would not be achieving our goals without this support: as Treasurer I pose the caution that such dependence may not be sustainable in the long run. I encourage everyone to read the full Annual Report that provides the full extent of achievements towards priorities and to keep this in mind.

Despite its slim resources, OBA, with its numerous and varied sources of funding, increasing membership, multiple initiatives and cost centres is a financially complex organization. Thanks go to general manager, Lorna Irwin who oversees all financial reporting, to Pat Westlake, administrator for the

Tech-Transfer Program, and to Sylvie Sharpe, OBA's executive assistant. As Treasurer, I receive regular reports including income/profit statements and balance statements.

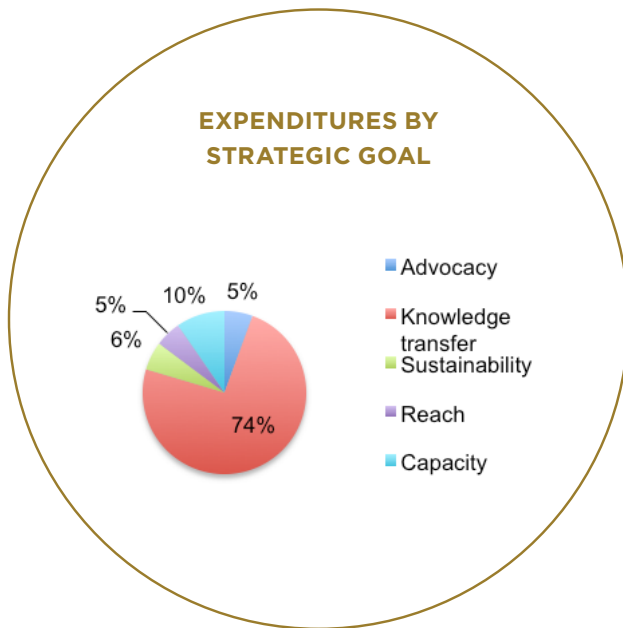
It is my pleasure to close my report with the following motions:

MOTION: Move to accept the 2015/16 Financial Statements as presented.

MOTION: To appoint Warren Strutt, CMA, of Milton, Ontario to again act in the capacity of accountant for 2016/17 to conduct the financial review and statement preparation for the OBA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie White, OBA Treasurer





**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**ADVOCACY (5%)**

- Canadian Honey Council Fees (note: without CHC fees, proportion of advocacy budget goes down to 1.5% of the whole)
- Travel
- Communications
- Staff time

**KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER (74%)**

- TTP Research
- TTP Workshops
- OBA conferences, meetings
- Partnership projects (BeeOmics, LUSH, etc)
- Communications

**SUSTAINABILITY (6%)**

- OBBA
- OHBPA
- Staff time
- Communications
- Group insurance plan
- Honey promotion

**REACH (5%)**

- Website
- Newsletter
- Memberships in partner organizations
- Communications
- Membership incentives
- Staff time

**CAPACITY (10%)**

- Overhead (rent, equipment, insurance, bank fees etc)
- Directors' expenses
- New membership management software
- Professional fees
- Staff time

**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

**UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER**

**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
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# STRUTT ARMSTRONG

Chartered Professional Accountants

## NOTICE TO READER

To the Members of  
Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
8560 Tremaine Road  
Box 476  
Milton, Ontario L9T 4Z1

On the basis of information provided by the organization, I have compiled the statement of financial position of Ontario Beekeepers' Association as at September 30, 2016 and the statement of operations for the year then ended.

I have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, I express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Milton, Ontario  
November 8, 2016

Strutt Armstrong  
Chartered Professional Accountants  
Professional Corporation

**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

Statement of Financial Position

As at September 30

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash (note 2)	\$ 157,193	\$ 84,989
Accounts receivable (note 3)	101,587	61,852
Inventory	10,344	5,844
Prepaid expenses	<u>7,273</u>	<u>3,086</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 276,397</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 155,771</u></b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 30,085	\$ 17,217
Unearned revenue	<u>113,495</u>	<u>63,324</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>143,580</b>	<b>80,541</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b><u>132,817</u></b>	<b><u>75,230</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b><u>\$ 276,397</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 155,771</u></b>

On behalf of the board

\_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

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**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

Statement of Operations

For the year ended September 30

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>REVENUES, Schedule 1</b>	<b>\$ 729,284</b>	<b>\$ 562,568</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES, Schedule 2</b>	<u>671,697</u>	<u>596,568</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<u><u>\$ 57,587</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (34,000)</u></u>

**Unaudited - See Notice to Reader**





# ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Notes to Financial Statements

As at September 30, 2016

## 1. Significant accounting policy

The organization applies the Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.

### Inventory

Inventory, consisting of promotional items, is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method.

## 2. Cash

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
OBA operations cash	\$ 87,844	\$ 51,122
OBA Tech-Transfer program cash	<u>69,349</u>	<u>33,867</u>
	<u>\$ 157,193</u>	<u>\$ 84,989</u>

## 3. Accounts receivable

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
OBA operations accounts receivable	\$ 18,113	\$ 15,823
OBA Tech-Transfer accounts receivable	<u>83,474</u>	<u>46,029</u>
	<u>\$ 101,587</u>	<u>\$ 61,852</u>

## 4. Nature of operations

Ontario Beekeepers' Association was incorporated without share capital under the laws of the Province of Ontario. The association operates as a non-profit organization in Ontario and is exempt from income taxes.

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**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

Schedules to Financial Statements

For the year ended September 30

**Schedule of revenues****Schedule 1**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
OMAFRA knowledge transfer grant	\$ 132,412	\$ 118,654
Memberships	106,049	89,266
GF2 Grants	105,746	37,889
Conference and meetings	49,085	38,341
Tech transfer program workshops	48,095	37,138
Group liability insurance program	38,148	32,892
Donations to tech transfer program	35,421	49,268
BeeOmics Grant	29,422	-
Beecause Donations	29,123	5,696
LUSH Project	28,800	10,000
Dominion and Grimm container rebate program	28,252	27,212
OBJ and website advertising	19,466	19,297
SEP funding	19,070	11,288
Magazine and book sales	17,721	30,103
Niagara College project	15,324	-
AHL American Foulbrood	10,000	-
ORHBS program	6,970	4,747
University of Guelph project	2,750	5,500
Promotional item sales	2,295	2,568
General donations	2,152	2,305
Sundry	1,407	21,606
Ontario Bee Breeders Association dues	1,400	1,000
Interest income	176	356
EAS Ontario	-	6,944
OFIP Decontamination of Equipment grant	-	5,729
ABvarBio Project	-	4,769
	<u>\$ 729,284</u>	<u>\$ 562,568</u>

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**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

Schedules to Financial Statements

For the year ended September 30

**Schedule of expenditures****Schedule 2**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Tech Transfer Program Contractors	\$ 233,482	\$ 200,103
Administration wages and contractors	95,805	81,979
GF2 0128 Beecareful expenses	67,377	4,573
Ontario Bee Journal	41,886	35,395
Group insurance program	34,333	25,099
Conferences and meetings	33,681	35,179
Canadian Honey Council membership fees	23,292	21,150
Office	21,363	34,073
Tech transfer travel expenses	19,927	27,613
Combined operations expenses	15,539	21,248
Tech transfer program offices rent	13,070	11,070
Milton office rent	9,782	9,428
Interest and merchant charges	9,591	6,583
BeeOmics	8,951	-
Tech transfer program workshops	8,463	6,768
Directors Expenses	6,654	6,309
Membership management program software	4,960	-
Promotional items	3,761	1,892
Insurance	3,739	2,930
LUSH project	3,683	2,394
Professional fees	3,450	5,155
External memberships and partnerships	2,818	2,339
Pollination and OBBA association	2,392	1,000
Website maintenance	1,325	1,430
Magazines and books expenses	1,187	12,857
Membership campaign	686	996
Royal Winter Fair	500	125
OMAFRA Neonicotinoids research	-	38,780
ORHBSP expense	-	100
	<u>\$ 671,697</u>	<u>\$ 596,568</u>

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**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION**  
Since 1881

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