



Bee Breeders' Day

2016 Spring Meeting – Preliminary Program

Wednesday, March 30, 2016 - Milton, Ontario

Mohawk Inn & Conference Centre, Campbellville (#401 & Guelph Line)

7:45 – 9:15 **OPTIONAL Pre-meeting BeeOMICs Focus Group for OBBA members**, continental breakfast included.
Facilitated by Dr. Miriam Bixby, UBC; Dr. Amro Zayed, York U; Les Eccles and Dan Borges, TTP

8:30 **Registration**, Coffee & Exhibitor Room open

9:30 **Welcome**, Tibor Szabo, President, OBA and Brian Rowaan, Chair, 2016 Spring Meeting

9:35 **Ontario Bee Breeders' Association Update**, Devan Rawn, Shelter Valley Bee Company

9:45 **OBA Tech-Transfer Program Session TBD**, Les Eccles, TTP Lead Specialist & TTP team

10:30 **Dr. Amro Zayed**, York University

11:15 Morning Refreshment Break

11:35 **Getting Good Genes: The Design and Requirements of an Isolated Mating Yard for Disease- and Pest-resistant Honey Bees**, Kelsey Ducsharm
Requirements of a mating yard in terms of isolation, drone flooding and closed populations.

12:15 Lunch & networking; coffee & dessert in Exhibitor Room

1:30 **Ontario Update**, Leslie Woodcock, Director, Animal Health & Welfare & Office of the Chief Veterinarian for Ontario, and Paul Kozak, Provincial Apiarist, OMAFRA

1:45 **Pesticide Impacts on Bumblebees: From Individual Behaviour to Pollination Services**, Dr. Nigel Raine, University of Guelph

2:30 **Sustainable and Economic Queen Rearing**, Elizabeth Huxter
Rearing queens economically and efficiently using duplex transfer hives and 4-way mating nucs. (You gotta love the 1 to 20 ratio of transfer hives to nucs)!

3:15 Afternoon Refreshment Break

3:30 **[Project Dago, Beekeeping in Kenya](#)**, Tyler Baird
The presentation will focus on the adventures in 2012 & 2013 that Tyler's team experienced travelling to Kenya to implement a beekeeping startup in a the small village of Dago. The objective was to help support local villagers to see the opportunity of beekeeping and work collaboratively with each other to create a sustainable source of income for the village.

- 4:00 **Drones are What?... and Where is the Singles' Bar?**, Elizabeth Huxter
Find out more about drone polyandry and recent research revealing how successful drone and bee genetics are in thwarting Varroa mites; drone specializations, and DCAs.
- 4:35 Wrap Up and Closing Remarks, Brian Rowaan, Chair, 2016 Spring Meeting

Profiles of Selected Speakers

Tyler Baird is currently employed as a small business advisor at Scotiabank. He is a graduate of Ryerson University with a commerce degree in Business Management, Marketing with a Minor in Entrepreneurship. His experiences in beekeeping are mainly related to working with his family starting their own beekeeping venture, *Bairds and the Bees* with father David and brother Egan. Tyler won regional and national competitions for his beekeeping work in Dago, being given the opportunity to represent Canada in Cancun on [this project](#).

Kelsey Ducsharm is a student at the University of Guelph about to finish up her undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences with a major in Natural Resource Management. Her first experience with bees came in the form of a project she did for her fourth year capstone project: she examined the distribution of honey bees in the City of Toronto. This exposure to bees compelled her to apply to the Tech-Transfer Program last summer, and since then she's caught bee fever. She'll be joining the TTP team again this summer.

Elizabeth Huxter and her husband, Terry, of Kettle Valley Queens, have become something of a legend in British Columbia for their ability to produce locally-adapted queens of great fecundity, and for their prowess for overwintering small nucs with high survival rates in the Kootenays.

A bee breeder who has been instrumental in the advancement of selective breeding programs in Canada, Liz is now working on a simple program for how small-scale beekeepers in BC can raise queens for production and sale. It is a natural extension of the decades of work she had done in developing sustainable honey bee populations. She has collaborated with academic and government researchers and with other bee breeders. She is the managing partner of Kettle Valley Queens in Grand Forks, British Columbia, where she breeds honey bees for resistance to pests and pathogens. In 1992 she worked with researchers to find tracheal mite-resistant bees. She has led investigations with the BC Bee Breeders Queen Testing Program searching for the most varroa mite-resistant queen stock in Canada and was the main breeder for two projects in collaboration with the University of British Columbia, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and University of Manitoba. Recent research, 2015, investigated the impact sub-lethal levels of neonics have on hygienic behavior. She is the past president of the BC Honey Producers and BC Bee Breeders and currently president of the BC Bee Breeders Association. Her current focus is to monitor KVQ survivor hives and feral colonies to breed bees to optimize but not necessarily maximize apiculture.

Nigel Raine, PhD, is the Rebanks Family Chair in Pollinator Conservation at the University of Guelph. His research examines the behaviour, ecology and conservation of pollinators, and has focused recently on the impacts of environmental stressors (such as pesticide exposure) on bumblebees. Nigel has been lucky enough to spend almost two decades investigating bees and their intimate relationships with flowers on three continents. Before coming to Guelph in 2014, he studied at the University of Oxford, worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Sheffield and Queen Mary University of London, and held his first faculty position at Royal Holloway University of London. In addition to excellent and high impact research, Nigel is actively engaged with a wide range of stakeholders (including policy makers, farming & grower's association, grocery chains and beekeepers), on issues related to pollinator health and conservation."

Amro Zayed, PhD is an Associate Professor in Biology at York University. He received his PhD in Biology from York University and then held a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's Postdoctoral Fellowship

at the University of Illinois' Department of Entomology. Afterwards, Amro served as a Fellow for the Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois before accepting a faculty position at York University. Amro has received the Governor General's prestigious Gold Medal for his research on bee conservation genetics as well as the Ontario Government of Research and Innovation's Early Researcher Award in 2010.

OPTIONAL BeeOMICs Focus Group will provide information to Ontario Bee Breeders' Association members about the national research project underway, part of a project of Dr. Leonard Foster, UBC and Dr. Amro Zayed, York University.

This project involves collecting samples of bees from across the country and analysing them to look for genes related to different beekeeping and health traits - with the overall goals being to develop breeding tools, map and model the queen breeding industry in Canada and to breed healthier, more disease-resistant bees that can over-winter better in Canada.

This Focus Group (and the survey that was sent out earlier) is one of the preliminary information-gathering steps of the project.

Note: this Focus Group is limited to OBBA members only, is free but requires pre-registration. OBA members can choose to add OBBA membership (only \$20 per year) to the Spring Meeting registration, should you wish to participate.



The Ontario Beekeepers' Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support
the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.



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Getting There...



905 854.2277 | 9230 Guelph Line, Campbellville (Milton), ON L0P 1B0

Just northwest of highway 401 and Guelph Line, south of the PetroCan gas station and Mohawk Raceway.

Staying There...

The [Mohawk Inn](#) is offering a special group rate of \$89 per night in the [Main Inn rooms](#). This is a small hotel – reserve your room early to stay onsite.

For families or larger groups, the adjoining Toronto West KOA Campground (managed by the Mohawk Inn) offers [deluxe cabins](#) at the following discounted rates (\$50 off each night):

Cabana Cabins: \$129 (reg. \$179)

Columbia Cabins: \$199 (reg. \$249)

Chilliwack Cabins: \$249 (reg. \$299)

KOA's deluxe cabins can accommodate 4 - 6 people who are coming in groups or families and are open to sharing. Deluxe cabins have bathrooms and kitchen facilities, separate bedrooms and bunk rooms, living room area with satellite TV & blueray player, gas bbq, patio. Gather at the outdoor firepit.

Directions to [Terre Bleu](#) "Honey House" Tour (on Thursday morning)

(about 15 minute drive each way from the Mohawk Inn)



905 593-1459

2501 25th Side Road, Campbellville (Milton), ON

From the Mohawk Inn & Conference Centre, head north on Guelph Line (also called Halton Regional Road 1) about 12 minutes to 25th Side Road. Turn west (left). Proceed less than 1 km to Terre Bleu, on the north side. Please park on the road and walk in (about 50 metres).