ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
Since 1881

Honey Producers' Day

2016 Spring Meeting – Preliminary Program
Thursday, March 31, 2016 - Milton, Ontario
Mohawk Inn & Conference Centre, Campbellville L0P 1B0
(#401 & Guelph Line, Milton)

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

9:00 **"Honey House" Tour**
Terre Bleu Lavender Farm & Apiary
2501 25th Sideroad, Milton, Ontario | 905 593-1459

Hosted by OBA member: Ian M. Baird
(Make your way there and back on your own or arrange to car pool from the Mohawk Inn - see directions next page – travel time each way is about 15 minutes).

Terre Bleu is Ontario's largest lavender farm, open to the public during bloom season providing educational farm tours, lifestyle classes, a retail store and gallery. Created in 2011 and opened to the public in 2014, Terre Bleu has grown dramatically in its very short life with thousands of visitors each summer. Summer tours include a visit to the distillery and introduction to lavender growing, bees and equestrian activities. Terre Bleu has built its business almost exclusively through social media and in particular Facebook, where it now has over 19,000 followers.

10:30 Travel back to Mohawk Inn & Conference Centre

10:50 **Welcome**
Tibor Szabo, OBA President & Brian Rowaan, Chair, 2016 Spring Meeting

11:00 **Canadian Honey Council – Issues and Updates**
Jim Coneybeare, CHC Delegate; Dennis Edell, Chair, Issues Management Committee

11:20 **Ontario Update**
Paul Kozak, Provincial Apiarist, OMAFRA

11:45 **Small Hive Beetle Plan & Best Management Practices**
Tim Greer, Chair, SHB Working Group; Les Eccles, OBA Tech-Transfer Program Lead Specialist

12:30 **Lunch & networking; coffee & dessert in Exhibitor Room**

1:45 **Honey Bee Toxicology: An Overview of Pesticides and Poisons in the Hive, Dr. Reed Johnson, Ohio State**
A broad overview of the toxic compounds bees encounter. There are many natural toxins in the bees' environment that they have been dealing with for eons. Humans have introduced new toxic compounds that may or may not cause problems for bees. The central tenet of toxicology, that "The Dose Makes The Poison", will help us understand why some scenarios are riskier for bees than others.

2:30	**Do Neonics Influence Hygienic Behaviour?**, Liz Huxter, Queen Bee from BC's Kettle Valley Queens In 2015 a team consisting of Liz and researchers Dr. Marta Guarna and Dr. Jeff Pettis, as well as breeders David Thomas and Danielle Downey, investigated whether sub-lethal levels of imidacloprid impact hygienic behaviour.
3:20	**Afternoon Refreshment Break**
3:40	**Corn and Soybeans: Opportunities and Risks in the Agricultural Environment, Dr. Reed Johnson, Ohio State** Agricultural monocultures are often identified as a major factor in the ill-health of North America's honey bee populations. While agricultural landscapes do pose challenges for bees, are they any worse than other landscapes? Soybeans produce some nectar that bees may forage and many beekeepers in Ohio swear by soybeans as a valuable, if somewhat unreliable, nectar flow. Corn offers little for bees and the risks posed during planting, through bee exposure to seed dust drift, may reduce the productivity of bees in agricultural environments.
4:30	**Wrap Up & Closing Remarks**, Brian Rowaan, Chair, 2016 Spring Meeting
4:45	**Adjournment**

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

Profiles of Selected Speakers

Ian M. Baird is CEO & founder of Terre Bleu Lavender Farm, Ontario's largest lavender farm. Prior to starting Terre Bleu, Ian held numerous senior executive roles in the technology and media industries, including Group Chief Executive of Arise Virtual Solutions; Global GM for EMC's Data Management & Analytics business; CTO of EMC's Grid and Utility Computing Group; SVP Marketing and Business Strategy at Platform Computing (an IBM company); SVP BCE Emergis and a publisher with Thompson Newspapers.

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.

Reed Johnson, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Entomology at The Ohio State University – Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster, Ohio. His research focuses on determining how bees are exposed to pesticides and what effect that exposure has on the bee health. Dr. Johnson is also interested in how detoxification enzymes enable bees and other insects to tolerate exposure to natural toxins in their diet as well as synthetic compounds encountered in the environment. He teaches courses in pesticide science and beekeeping at Ohio State.

Program subject to change.

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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 Cabin: $129 (reg. $179)

Columbia Cabin: $199 (reg. $249)

Chilliwack Cabin: $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.

Directions to Terre Bleu "Honey House" Tour

(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).