

2023 OBA Board of Directors - Nominations

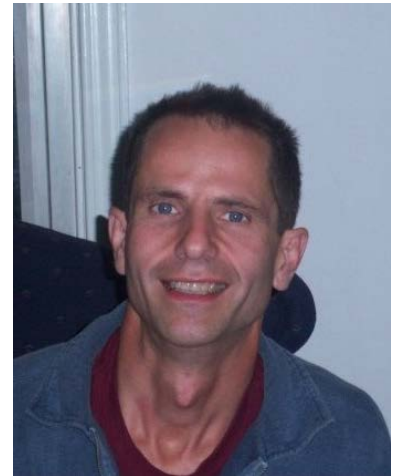
Current directors, letting their name stand for re-election:

Jim Coneybeare, Coneybeare Honey:

Jim is a third-generation beekeeper and, with his family, operates 750 – 900 honey bee hives in Wellington & Grey counties and beyond. The majority of hives are run for honey production; Coneybeare Honey packs and locally sells all the honey produced. Coneybeare Honey also provides pollination services for both hybrid canola and farm garden – fruit/vegetable producers.

Jim is an active participant of:

- Ontario Beekeepers' Association (having served on the Board for more than 15 years)
- Wellington County Beekeepers' Association (including having served as President)
- OBA's representative to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Christian Farmers' Federation of Ontario, Ontario Animal Health Network



Mike Parker, Charlie-Bee Honey, Parker Apiaries:

Mike grew up working with his father in the beeyards and extracting/packing honey. He's been beekeeping full time since finishing school (a few years now).

Mike runs 7500-8000 hives in Niagara and other regions of Ontario, producing honey, and providing pollination both locally and in other provinces for blueberries and cranberries.

Mike currently serves on the OBA Board of Directors working to combat struggles like hive health, stock replacement, sustainability, mite controls and resistance to treatments, higher winter losses and more.

Dave Stotesbury, Backed by Bees:

(Current Vice President of the OBA)

Dave is a beekeeper at Backed By Bees with over 13 years of experience in the small scale & commercial world. He started beekeeping at the University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre under Dr. Ernesto Guzman and Paul Kelly, and went on to start his own beekeeping operation. In 2019 he co-founded Backed By Bees, a beekeeping operation and meadery in Burlington. Dave currently operates 400 hives in the Halton Region and is focused on honey bee health and education. Dave is inspired daily by his wife and kids and enjoys woodworking, soccer and catching up over a cold glass of mead!



New Nominations:



Michael Barber, Tri-City Bee Rescue:

Michael Barber is a small commercial beekeeper operating 100+ hives in and around Guelph and also runs Tri-city bee rescue. He hopes to grow his operation and continuing bridging the commercial and hobbyist gap. He also runs workshops and opens dialog with his Facebook page "Southern Ontario Beekeepers".

Patrick Cummins, Agápe Farms & The Howe Corp:

Patrick Cummins is a lawyer and member of the Law Society of Ontario. With 20 plus years of experience at Blaney McMurtry LLP, he has dealt with various legal compliance and farm related issues. He also served on the Board of Directors of The DAM (Develop Assist Mentor) for 19 years.

Patrick currently works on a vegetable farm in Milton, Ontario which is supported by 28 beehives. He also works part-time as an adjudicator with Tribunals Ontario and during the winter Patrick supplements his farm income as a part-time instructor at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law teaching Administrative and Regulatory Law.



Andie Langemeyer, The Evergreen Beekeeping Co:



Andie Langemeyer is a self-employed professional Beekeeper based just outside of Ottawa. Her interest in bees started quietly alongside her years studying International Development and Political Science in Toronto. Despite her success in this challenging academic space, as a hands-on Jane-of-all-Trades, Andie craved working in a more dynamic and practical environment. She pivoted and began working in the urban beekeeping industry in 2018 and was hooked... so much so that outside of her 50 to 60hr work weeks, she maintained her own small yard where she enjoyed playing by her own rules, participated in associations, and studied bees voraciously. For the last year, she has been building her own service-based business, The Evergreen Beekeeping Company, which operates on a simple principle: to be a place Where The Bees Come First. Through Evergreen, Andie offers turn-key services for businesses/farm clients, an educational Hive Share program for the public, and group courses and 1-on-1 mentorship for hobbyists. Overall, Andie strives to be the thorough teacher she needed when she started for beekeepers, and a passionate advocate who speaks English for the bees to all others. This past summer Andie became one of the first Canadian women to complete the Cornell Master Beekeeping Certificate. Despite this, Andie considers herself a lifelong student and the Bees her biggest teacher. She's so grateful to pursue this purpose driven work and wants nothing more than to be of service to beekeepers - and learn from those more experienced on how to have lasting success in the industry.

Tiffany Lauren, Agápe Farms & Trout Lily Organic Plant Nurseries:

Tiffany is a BIPOC female entrepreneur. She was born in the Caribbean and grew up on her grandparents' biodynamic farm. Tiffany's grandparents were great stewards of the land and taught her many valuable things about ecological farming.

In 2015, Tiffany started a small urban farm in downtown Toronto. She provided organically grown farm-to-table produce to economically vulnerable families and individuals facing food insecurity. Tiffany now operates a certified organic farm, Agápe Farms Inc (<https://agapefarmgates.ca>), and a certified organic nursery, Trout Lily Organic Plant Nurseries (<https://www.troutlily.ca>). Her focus is ethnocultural crops and native plants.

Tiffany is a CFFO (Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario) member under Agape Farms. She is also a member of the EFAO (Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario) and a new OBA (Ontario Beekeepers' Association) member. Her interest in apiaries stems from her grandparents' teaching that bees are essential in preserving and restoring our natural ecosystem. Tiffany aims to be a great land steward by promoting food diversity, ecological restoration, and circularity.





Dorothy Parkinson

Dorothy Parkinson is 19 years old and has been keeping bees since she was 14. Dorothy's been keeping various animals all her life on the family farm but has especially fallen in love with the art of beekeeping. Dorothy loves to learn from fellow beekeepers (she has taken almost every TTP workshop available) and this year got an incredible job working for Gees Bees Honey Company presenting their "See The Bees" demonstrations. Dorothy wants people to know that beekeeping is for all ages, and that paranoia can turn into passion like it did for her.