



Winter Wrap Up

Ottawa Update

Hot on the heels of OBA's own AGM & Conference, brand new president, André Flys, along with board members Jim Coneybeare and Paul Lacelle, travelled to Ottawa earlier this month, and with Julie Fontaine and Joël Laberge from the Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec, met with federal politicians and bureaucrats at the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Health Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, to make a concerted plea for sustainable honey bee health and agricultural practices.

The good news is that PMRA is proposing to phase-out pollinator-killing neonicotinoids, used primarily on corn, soy and winter wheat.

The bad news is the proposed three to five year phase out period, allowing these pesticides to continue until at least 2022 - 2023, maybe longer, prolonging the ecological risks that PMRA itself has determined are not acceptable.

Ontario and Québec beekeepers brought the strong message that the slow-motion phase-out PMRA is proposing is out of sync with the EU's decisive action earlier this year. In February 2018, an updated scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority confirmed that all outdoor agricultural uses of the three main neonics (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) represent a risk to bees. EU member countries then acted quickly to approve regulations ending all outdoor uses of these neonics **by the end of this year**.

The OBA will continue to work with Québec beekeepers and others to pressure the Canadian government to do the right thing. PMRA needs to implement the neonic ban immediately AND avoid registering replacement chemicals, like other systemic insecticides, that may be equally harmful to bees and wild pollinators.

Following those meetings, *The Hill Times* published an Op-Ed piece, **Beekeepers Need Immediate Action on Pesticides**, authored by Stéphane Leclerc, président of the Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec and André Flys, which you can read [here](#).



L-R: Lisa Gue, Joël Laberge, John Oliver, MP - Oakville, André Flys, Julie Fontaine, Paul Lacelle, Jim Coneybeare.

Tis the Season...

Watch your Inbox for your 2019 OBA Membership Renewal

All members will be receiving membership renewal notices this week. Sign in to renew and pay securely online. Changing your hive count or adding membership benefits, like OBA's low-cost group liability insurance, online Directories or other memberships; or making donations, is easy to do.

Note the OBA office will be closed Dec. 24th - January 1st.

We're looking forward to serving you in the new year!



Register your Bees with OMAFRA

With 2019 just around the corner, it is time to renew your honey bee registration with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). It is a requirement under the Ontario *Bees Act* that beekeepers register their honey bees with the Provincial Apiarist, and registration ensures that you will have access to inspections for your honey bee health needs or required permits. Beekeepers who have registered in 2018 should have already received their registration renewal notice from OMAFRA.

If you have any questions regarding your honey bee registration, contact the

Some new faces at the OBA

At a very busy (and snowy!) conference last month in London, members elected new board members: Adam Ritchie, Andrew Pitek, Dan Heffernan and re-elected Bernie Wiehle and Steve Bryans.

Very sincere thanks to those hard-working volunteers stepping off the Board: Glen Ackroyd, Jim Wilson and Lynn Philp!



L-R: Tom Congdon, André Flys, Albert Devries, Steve Bryans, Bernie Wiehle, Jim Coneybeare, Adam Ritchie, Emily Mills, Andrew Pitek, Dennis Edell, Tibor Szabo, Jennifer Penney.
(Missing: Dan Heffernan, Paul Lacelle).

Veils off to OBA's newest **Honoured Life Members!**

Alison (Skinner) Van Alten
John Flys
Medhat Nasr

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