

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2018 Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



DECEMBER 22, 2017

## Pesticide Manufacturers Get an Early Christmas Present from Health Canada

**In announcing their Proposed Pollinator Decisions yesterday, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) opted against bees in favour of pesticide manufacturers.**

PMRA intends to continue registration of two widely-used neonicotinoids, stating that the current risk to bees from seed application of Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam on corn and soy is acceptable. PMRA's decision goes against overwhelming scientific evidence showing acute and chronic effects on bees, and the experience of Ontario beekeepers whose bees continue to suffer from a decade of overuse of neonicotinoids on soy, corn and winter wheat.

"Ontario beekeepers are suffering declining honey production, higher queen losses and continued unacceptable winter and spring losses," says OBA president, Jim Coneybeare. "In Ontario we are still seeing dead or dying, twitching bees in front of our hives. Allowing the loss of pollinators from pesticide exposure to continue is unacceptable." The Ontario Beekeepers' Association released today the results of its recent survey of Ontario beekeepers on honey production this year.

View the full Media Release [here](#).

See [PMRA's Consultations on the Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam: Proposed Pollinator Decisions](#)

## Ontario Beekeepers Unveil New Association for Mead Makers!

**The Ontario Beekeepers' Association is buzzing with the announcement of the formation of an Ontario mead makers' association.**

With increasing demand for mead, Ontario beekeepers have come together and identified the need for an industry association to promote Ontario honey-based fermented products, like mead, honey wine and honey beer, and address and advocate on industry-wide issues, such as quality, market

access, regulation, and taxation.

Mead is a lightly fermented beverage made primarily from honey. It's also believed to be the most ancient alcoholic beverage crafted by humans, predating both beer and traditional fruit and grape wines by thousands of years. According to the American Mead Makers Association, mead is one of the fastest-growing alcoholic beverages in the U.S.

"We're seeing the same kind of interest in making and drinking mead here in Ontario," says OBA Vice President André Flys, a 3rd generation beekeeper who operates Pioneer Brand Honey. "We hope that mead crafted from locally-sourced honey will give Ontario beekeepers a new, premium market for their honey while offering Ontarians another high quality beverage option to enjoy.

View full Meadia Release [here](#).

## Save the Dates for 2018

### OBA Spring Meeting

**Thursday, March 22 & Friday, March 23, 2018**

Watch for more information as program is finalised.  
There will likely be some pre-meeting options offered on Wednesday.

[Blue Mountain Resort](#), Collingwood, Ontario

### OBA AGM & Conference

**Friday, November 16 & Saturday, November 17**

A joint event with CAPA and CHC  
(Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists and Canadian Honey Council)

There will likely be some pre-meeting options offered on Thursday.

Best Western [Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre](#), London, Ontario

## 2018 OBA Membership Renewal Underway

Tis the season! Membership renewals are underway for 2018. Please take a moment over the holidays to renew online by signing in from the [OBA website](#).

New this year: the option of joining OBA's brand new mead makers association, and boosting your peace of mind with OBA's improved bee-focused Group Liability Insurance, which now offers \$5M coverage (up from \$2M).

Not a member? We can help you be a part of this vibrant association that has been working on behalf of beekeepers in Ontario since 1881. See more information [here](#).

## OBA Office Reopens January 3rd

Happy holidays to all.

After a busy fall and a very successful Annual General Meeting & Conference with New York beekeepers last month, the OBA team will hit the ground running on January 3rd.

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