

"The keeping of bees is like the direction of sunbeams." — [Henry David Thoreau](#)



FEBRUARY 23, 2018

**Sure feels like Spring!**

## **OBA Spring Meeting 2018**

Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood

**Honey & Mead Producers Day:** Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Bee Breeders Day,** Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

The OBA's Spring Meeting is set to bring you the best, most timely learning and networking just as the 2018 beekeeping season begins.

Call now for reservations [877 445-0231](tel:877-445-0231) and quote Ontario Beekeepers' Group Reservation: Number GRP128027. Village Rooms (Studio, Bachelor, Suites) are starting at \$139.

**Honey Producers Day** takes place on Thursday. This year there is no Honey House Tour. Instead, we're offering simultaneous presentations that focus on honey bee health and on mead, timed to allow you to flow easily between sessions, depending on your interest.

We've also added more content, including two keynote (and top-of-mind) presentations by Dr. Pierre Giovenazzo from Université Laval. His first is on ***Selection of Varroa Sensitive Hygiene Behaviour in Honey Bees***; his second on ***Sustaining Honey Bee Health with Probiotics***.

You'll also learn about:

- Ontario's Healing Honey
- The opportunities and challenges of Making & Marketing Mead
- How to get ready this year for new Antibiotic requirements
- Infrared Imaging for Winter Inspections
- Essential practices for beekeepers

- Best practices for transporting your bees
- U of G's ambitious new plans for the Honey Bee Research Centre
- Honey labelling – always a sticky issue!

Friday's program is aimed at anyone interested in **bee breeding**. Learn more about **constructing Queen cell incubators**, **overwintering Queen banks**, and **infrared monitoring**. You'll also find out the latest on **bee breeding from the ORHBS program** – Ontario's own breeding program – and **BeeOmics**, the national honey bee genome project.

Bring your shopping list and meet with vendors right onsite. And plan to connect or reconnect with old friends and colleagues, while building your industry network.

We're back at Blue Mountain due to popular demand, based on an exceptional experience in 2016. We can't promise snow, alas. But we can promise you a memorable and content-rich experience at one of Ontario's best-known winter resorts.

- [Attendance Registration form](#)
- [Vendor & Sponsor Registration form](#)

Boost your learning. Register for TTP's **Queen Breeding Workshop**, a pre-conference event, on Wednesday. Space is limited.

## **Bee informed - news you can use.**

### [Québec Introduces Restrictions on Agricultural Use of Bee Killing Pesticides:](#)

CTV News Montréal announced this week that Québec is putting new restrictions on pesticides aimed at protecting pollinators.

The changes mean farmers will need permission from a certified agronomist to use certain pesticides on their crops.

The tighter rules target five pesticides, including three that are nicotine-based, known by their shortened name 'neonics.'

### [Alarming Link Between Fungicides & Bee Declines Revealed:](#)

Fungicides are found to be the strongest factor linked to steep bumblebee declines, surprising scientists and adding to the threats to vital pollinators. Common fungicides are the strongest factor linked to steep declines in bumblebees across the US, according to the first landscape-scale analysis.

## [Martineau v Bayer Class Action Lawsuit Against Pesticide Manufacturers](#) [Now Authorized in Québec:](#)

As part of the ongoing campaign on behalf of Canadian beekeepers whose bees and beekeeping operations have been harmed by the use of pollinator-killing neonicotinoid pesticides, [Siskinds LLP](#) has been successful in achieving [authorization this week](#) of a Class Action lawsuit in Québec on behalf of beekeepers. Named as defendants in the lawsuit are Bayer, Bayer CropScience and Syngenta.

## [Organic Council of Ontario Survey:](#)

The Ontario legislature is currently considering adopting Bill 153, The Organic Products Act. The Bill is currently open-ended, but the intention is to adopt the Canadian Organic Standards in Ontario and require that all products labelled as organic be certified. At the same time, we hope to develop a made-in-Ontario solution to ensure that certification is inclusive and appropriate for organic businesses of all scales.

The Organic Council of Ontario is seeking your input on how to do this, particularly with respect to small-scale producers and businesses. With funding from the Trillium Foundation, we will be discussing the issues with producers and businesses from across the province over the winter season. You have until March 22<sup>nd</sup> to provide your feedback. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes.

## And get the buzz on...

- [Bumblebee video](#): Click on this Short Video on Bumblebee Ecology & Help U of G Student Hayley Tompkins Win an NSERC Competition
- **Must be Spring!** [Seedy Saturdays underway around Ontario](#) in the coming weeks and months, with many venues hosting local honey producers talking about pollinator health.
- [Pollination Guelph Symposium](#): Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
- [Peterborough Pollination Summit features Governor General Literary Award Winner Mark Winston](#): May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

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