



**OBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**  
**November 15, 2019**  
**Holiday Inn Burlington Hotel & Conference Centre, Burlington, Ontario**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

*For acceptance by the OBA Board of Directors, February 6, 2020.*

**1. Call to Order**

André Flys, OBA President, called the Annual General Meeting of Members to order at 1:25 pm.

**2. Quorum**

With more than 90 voting Members in attendance, André confirmed there was a Quorum.

**3. Notice of Meeting**

Official notice of the Annual General Meeting of Members was provided to members on November 1, 2019.

**4. President's Report**

André introduced and thanked the current Board of Directors, acknowledging their dedicated volunteer work and countless hours committed to the beekeeping sector in Ontario:

Steve Bryans  
Jim Coneybear  
Tom Congdon (outgoing)  
Albert Devries (outgoing)  
Dennis Edell  
André Flys  
Dan Heffernan (outgoing)  
Paul Lacelle (outgoing)  
Emily Mills (outgoing)  
Jennifer Penney (outgoing)  
Andrew Pitek  
Adam Ritchie  
Tibor Szabo  
Bernie Wiehle (outgoing)  
and Jodi Roth, Board Youth Representative

André acknowledged Canadian Honey Council Executive Director, Rod Scarlett, and commended the success of Apimondia 2019, hosted by CHC in Montréal.

**5. Canadian Honey Council Report**

Board member and CHC Rep Albert Devries made a presentation highlighting the work of the Canadian Honey Council, noting the following:

Canadian Honey Bee Industry:

Colony Numbers	2004: 597,890	2018: 796,764
Beekeepers	2004: 7925	2018: 10,629
Honey Production	2004: 75,490,000lbs (126 lbs/colony)	2018: 93,217,000lbs (123 lbs/colony)
Honey Production (in \$CAN)	2004: \$121,105,000	2018: \$196,566,000

Industry News:

Re-introduction of Fumagillin-B to the Canadian Market

National Bee Health Roundtable has produced the following guides:

- Canadian Best Management Practices for Honey Bee Health
- Planting Forage for Honey Bees in Canada
- Consolidated Reference of Practices to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Agricultural Pesticides (NEW) (a guide to enhance the cooperation between growers and beekeepers)
- Currently working to develop a National Pollinator Strategy for Canada

Food safety/ biosecurity

Adulteration and Trans-shipping

Stock and Stock replacement

Labour

Expansion and diversification of honey markets

Apimondia:

- OVER 5000 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS
- 100 SPEAKERS FROM 25 COUNTRIES
- 9 WORKSHOPS WITH MORE THAN 1000 PARTICIPANTS
- 4500 APIEXPO SQM - 241 EXHIBITING COMPANIES
- 7 TECHNICAL TOURS WITH MORE THAN 500 PARTICIPANTS
- MORE THAN 400 WBA ENTRIES
- 940 SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS

**6. Treasurer's Report**

Tom Congdon reported, highlighting the following growth in membership:

	2019	2018	% Change
<b>Total Members</b>	1403	1284	9%
<b>Commercial</b>	136	129	5%
<b>Small-Scale</b>	573	532	8%
<b>Young &amp; New</b>	669	607	10%
<b>Local Beekeepers' Association</b>	8	-	n/a
<b>Industry / Supplier / Vendor</b>	18	16	13%

He referred to the Financial Statements, September 30, 2019, for presentation and approval of members, noting that copies for perusal were located on tables and publicly posted on OBA's website. He noted a significant deficit in 2019 of \$91,794, compared to a small profit of \$37,950 in the previous year, primarily due to delayed response from OMAFRA on OBA's 2019 grant funding application. This funding supports OBA's outreach, education and training to Ontario beekeepers and in the absence of a firm commitment on that grant, OBA proceeded in good faith on its regular program of workshops, presentations to Local Beekeeper Association members across the province, Spring and Fall conference presentations, and genetic training and testing.

**Motion to Accept the Financial Statements September 30, 2019 as presented.**

Moved by Albert Devries

Seconded by Paul Waenink

Carried

**Motion to Appoint Strutt Armstrong Chartered Professional Accountants to prepare and review OBA's Financial Statements in 2020.**

Moved by Emily Mills

Seconded by Jennifer Penney

Carried

**7. Issues Management & Stakeholder Relations Report**

Committee Chair, Dennis Edell, reported, noting that a key priority of the OBA is to stay on top of issues and address them on behalf of all Ontario beekeepers.

Current Issues Affecting Ontario Beekeepers:

Ontario

- The status of Ontario Class 12 legislation
- Small Hive Beetle
- Changes to the Bees Act and the Thirty Metre Rule
- Access to antibiotics

Federal

- PMRA decisions on Neonic De-registration
- Adulterated and mislabeled honey

He noted that Ontario beekeepers continue to experience unsustainable overwinter losses, widespread queen failures and historically lower honey production.

**Pesticides**

With the support of the OBA, the government of Ontario passed legislation in 2015 to reduce by 85% acreage planted with neonicotinoid treated corn and soy seed. After three planting seasons, Ontario has only reduced neonic usage by 25%.

A new insecticide seed treatment, Dupont's Lumivia (Chlorantraniliprole), has been substituted for neonics as a seed treatment on corn sold by Pioneer in Ontario this season (2019). New research points to possible problems for pollinators with Lumivia.

Bayer's Movento (Spirotetramat), a systemic, water soluble pesticide highly toxic to bees, was prescribed by OMAFRA for mealybug control (leaf curl virus) in Niagara vineyards without regard for its extreme toxicity. OBA has worked with grape growers and OMAFRA to create awareness for the impact of Movento on honey bees and successfully piloted an alternative mealybug treatment.

While Class 12 legislation has fallen far short of its 85% reduction target, Ontario, with pressure from pesticide manufacturers and grain growers, proposes to ease regulatory requirements and discontinue tracking of sales of neonics.

The OBA will respond to Ontario's proposed amendments to neonic legislation. The OBA has submitted responses to PMRA proposed actions and has strongly objected to the protracted three year phase out period of these chemicals.

#### **Small Hive Beetle**

Small Hive Beetle continues to expand into new areas Ontario and in established habitats such as Niagara Region. While the spread of SHB is likely inevitable, it is worrisome for many beekeepers. With almost 10 years of experience with SHB in Ontario, the OBA believes that SHB is manageable and causes far less damage than wax moth.

#### **The Bees Act**

The current set back requirement of 30 metres does not provide adequate guidelines for Ontario's growing population of urban beekeepers. The OBA will publish suggested changes to the 30-metre rule for comment. Dennis noted that the rule cannot be changed until the Government of Ontario and the OBA resolve the future of the Bees Act.

#### **Honey Labelling and Inspection**

The Canada No 1 mislabelling issue has been resolved and new rules are published and are being phased in. The Canadian Honey Council has been lobbying CFIA to do more inspections of honey imported from suspect countries, to prevent dumping inferior or cheap honey.

### **8. Nominations & Election of Board Directors**

OBA president, André Flys, acknowledged outgoing Board members, Emily Mills and Jennifer Penney. He thanked the Board's Youth Representative, Jodi Roth, for her contributions over the past year. He then invited all candidates for Board election to introduce themselves:

- Tom Congdon (Commercial)
- Albert Devries (Commercial)
- Paul Lacelle (Small Scale)
- Joanna Paul (Young or New)

André presented biographies of two candidates not present:

- Ian Grant (Young or New)
- James Murray (Commercial)

With six candidates and six vacant positions, André announced that all six candidates were elected by acclamation. He invited all new and current Board members to the first meeting of the new Board to elect Officers at 5:15 pm at the conclusion of the Conference program.

## 9. Resolutions

Resolutions Committee Chair, Adam Ritchie, presided. He noted that three Resolutions had been proposed and submitted by the deadline of November 8th, by OBA past president, Jim Coneybeare, who was not in attendance.

### Resolution #1

Ontario has experienced changes regarding the use of antibiotic treatments for hive health in the past year. Also, recognizing that AFB and varroa mites are serious health and financial threats to hives within a 3km infection radius, therefore, be it resolved that OBA recommend/advise OMAFRA to increase surveillance inspections for AFB and varroa mite levels.

**Proposed by Jim Coneybeare**  
**Carried**

**Seconded by Karin Tomosky-Chambers**

### Resolution #2

Research has shown, and we recognize varroa mite and AFB as serious threats to honey bee health. Therefore, be it resolved that OBA recommend OMAFRA to utilize their authority to issue treatment and burn orders to hives that are positive for AFB or varroa above treatment thresholds. In the case of varroa a destruction or burn order may be issued prior to colony collapse and when treatment recommendations are ignored.

**Proposed by Jim Coneybeare**  
**Defeated after lively discussion**

**Seconded by Paul Waenink**

### Resolution #3

Ontario has over 3000 hobby and commercial beekeepers to track and register. Hive registration, traceability and inspections are important for monitoring hive health and disease outbreaks. Yearly there have been challenges and hurdles for OMAFRA with hive registration. Therefore, be it resolved that OBA work with OMAFRA, based on disease risk and hive numbers, to find solutions and improve hive registration.

**Proposed by Jim Coneybeare**  
**Carried after lively discussion**

**Seconded by Tom Congdon**

## 10. Proposed Changes to OBA Constitution and By-laws

André acknowledged the contributions of outgoing Board members Emily Mills and Jennifer Penney, who, in their capacity as Governance Committee members, spearheaded significant changes to the Constitution and By-laws, first at Committee, and subsequently at the Board, which he noted were long overdue. He also acknowledged the substantial contributions of former Board member Jannet Leggett, who initiated this work several years ago with a comprehensive first draft.

André asked for a motion from the floor for approval of the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-laws.

### **Motion to Approve the proposed changes to the OBA Constitution and By-laws, as presented.**

Moved by Jennifer Penney

Seconded by Bernie Wiehle

Carried Unanimously

## 11. Adjournment

The Annual General Meeting of the OBA was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

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Subsequently, and at a meeting of the new Board held later that day, chaired by outgoing Board member, Emily Mills, the following Board members were elected as Officers:

André Flys, President

Bernie Wiehle, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Adam Ritchie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Tom Congdon, Treasurer

Dennis Edell, Chair, Issues Management & Stakeholder Relations Committee

Albert Devries, Secretary (and appointed OBA's delegate to the Canadian Honey Council)

By virtue of his previous position, Jim Coneybeare, remains as Past President.

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