

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

### Mike 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" and is a current board member.



### Stephen Moore

Steve has been keeping bees for 15 years. In 2019 his family moved back to the farm he grew up on near Peterborough. Fleetwood Hills Farm is focused on maple syrup, garlic, and honey production. He intends to grow the beekeeping portion of the farm business to between 100 and 200 hives. Before taking over the family farm Steve worked in vaccine research at the University of Oxford, spent several years doing humanitarian work in South Sudan, managed the team at Public Health Ontario that was responsible for enteric, zoonotic, and vector borne diseases, and worked for an Indigenous governed health information partnership in Northern Ontario. These past experiences have provided Steve with several skills that have been useful to the OBA Board including research, data management, governance, and strategic planning. He particularly enjoys the Ontario Bee Journal, the annual meetings, and the research and teaching work that the Tech Transfer Program does. Steve is currently on the board.



## New Nominations:

### Whitney Lake

Lake Reflections Apiary

A science-minded beekeeper with a passion for bees, the environment and education. I promote sustainable practices where the well-being of the honeybee is at the center of every decision made. Beekeeping for 15 years I successfully manage 100 colonies in Northumberland County. I am a proud member of Alderville First Nation and I believe that working with honeybees has given me a deeper understanding of the complexities of nature and the relationships that exist between all living things. Like us, honeybees can be extremely resilient when faced with challenges and also quite vulnerable.



### Les Eccles

Eccles Apiaries/Chatsworth Honey

Les Eccles farms Eccles Apiaries and Chatsworth Honey with his wife Raquel Mijares González. They specialize in ORHBS queen and nuc production, apple pollination in the Georgian Bay region, and honey production. Les is a former lead for the TTP.





ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
Since 1881

# 2024 OBA Board of Directors Nominations

My journey in beekeeping is deeply generational, rooted in my family's rich history with bees that began in South America. Growing up, I watched my grandparents and father manage hives, instilling in me a profound appreciation for these remarkable creatures.

After moving to Canada and establishing B-Y's Honey Farm, I spent over 35 years honing my beekeeping skills, blending family traditions with modern practices. As a proud member of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) for decades, I have actively engaged with fellow beekeepers and participated in initiatives aimed at advancing the craft. Through my experiences, I have become acutely aware of the challenges facing bee populations today and the urgent need for more beekeepers to support their conservation.

Recognizing the significant gap in beekeeping knowledge within his community, I have dedicated myself to training approximately 300 aspiring beekeepers. A few years ago, I completed a dream of developing the first Canadian standalone Apitherapy Wellness Centre and started treating patients with the power of the Bee in a clinical setting.

I thank you in advance for taking me into consideration.

## Ed Unger



## Brian Rowaan

Brian began working in the Ontario bee industry for Charlie Parker in 1995 at the age of 12. Brian worked for the Parker family all throughout highschool and several years afterwards. He then worked a season in New Zealand before buying his first bees in 2005. Together with his wife Erin, he grew B&E Honey Fields to be the largest honey producer in Ontario. Brian and Erin manage over 10,000 migratory colonies in Niagara, Grey, Bruce and all over Northern Ontario. Their honey house is located in Noelville, and all colonies are wintered in Niagara on the Lake. In the spring they move all of their hives for wild blueberry pollination primarily in New Brunswick. Over the years, Brian has served as a director on the OBA board, as the treasurer, and also as the Canadian Honey Council representative. Their honey is primarily sold wholesale, however in 2023 Erin opened a store on their property in NOTL and the growth in retail honey sales has been rapid. Brian and Erin have 3 boys who are 9, 12, and 14 years old.





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My name is Luc, and I'm committed to strengthening Ontario's beekeeping community. As the current president of the Golden Horseshoe Beekeepers Association, I have the privilege of engaging with both hobbyists and commercial beekeepers, keeping a pulse on their concerns and working to address them.

I started my beekeeping journey working in industry with a 2,000-hive operation. This experience eventually led me to start Humble Bee, a beekeeping farm and supply store that now supports hundreds of beekeepers across Ontario. We are proud to be a part of the Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selection Program (ORHBS). This will be our 11th year in operation.

In addition to beekeeping, I have partnered with FoodShare Toronto to teach beekeeping and contribute to food access and justice initiatives. I also serve on the executive of the National Farmers Union (NFU) and was previously the chair of the City of Hamilton's Food Advisory Committee, where I presented the city's food strategy to the city council.

If elected to the OBA Board, I would bring my passion for bees, food systems, and the beekeeping community, along with my experience in both advocacy and business, to help guide the OBA's work and support beekeepers across the province.

## Luc Peters



## Jonathan Cucksey

Maitland Heights Apiary

Jon is a commercial beekeeper based in Clinton. He has been keeping bees since 2017 and manages 100 colonies. Currently serving as president of the Ausable Bee Club, Jon is dedicated to supporting Ontario's beekeeping community. With 13 years of experience working in a veterinary practice, he brings a strong background in animal health to his work in beekeeping.

