BEE-OLOGY

- Honeybees live in communities containing as many as 100,000 members.
- The Queen bee is the only female honeybee with reproductive capabilities – she can produce up to 1500 eggs in a single day at the height of the season.
- A male ‘drone’s’ sole purposes are to mate with the queen. Come autumn, once the season is over, they have no other purpose and are evicted from the hive.
- Female worker bees are infertile – instead, they perform several functions including running the hive, gathering pollen, nectar and water, and making beeswax.

OUR HIVES:

- U of T B.E.E.S. is a student-run club that manages 3 hives on the roof of Faculty Club, along with another 3 hives at Trinity College.
- During the summer season, we open our hive site for tours to educate the community about bees as a keystone species in our environment!
- Honey is the natural food reserve for bee colonies to survive the winter. If our bees are strong, healthy & have enough stored at the end of the season, then we can safely harvest!

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UofT B.E.E.S.
At The Faculty Club

University of Toronto Beekeeping Enthusiast Education Society
HONEY, HONEY

Honeybees are a keystone species; this means that their role in the ecosystem is crucial to the continued existence of other plants and organisms that depend on them to survive. Removing a keystone species is felt across all aspects of the ecosystem: to quote Albert Einstein, “No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.”

Pollinating an estimated 1/3 of our food supply, current dwindling numbers of honeybees endanger not only our food security, but the balance of our ecosystem. Honeybees currently face threats to their survival from the use of pesticides, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), and infestations of Varroa destructor mites.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME!

Step 1. Flex your green thumb!

Planting bee-friendly plants and flowers will provide sources of nectar for collection and hive use. Bees are attracted to flowers that are blue, purple, white, or yellow (they can’t see the colour red). Some plants that honey bees love are:

- Dandelions
- Lavender
- Snapdragons
- Fennel
- Rosemary
- Sunflower
- Purple flowering onions
- Golden crocus
- Winter aconite
- Grape hyacinth

Honey bees forage on a diverse selection of wildflowers – high nectar plants like lavenders, sages and mints are ideal for honey production.

Step 2. Support your local beekeepers!

Check out the Urban Toronto Beekeepers Association (UTBA) to learn more about local beekeepers and their projects, as well as urban beekeeping.

facebook.com/groups/urbantorontobeekeepers

Step 3. Join UofT B.E.E.S. and become a beekeeping enthusiast!