Investing in the Honey Bee Research Centre

Honeybees play a key role in agricultural productivity and ecosystem sustainability by providing pollination services to crops and wild plants. Recent colony losses have received much media attention, though no single cause exists; research demonstrates a number of stressors, including parasitic mites, climate change, agricultural practices and land use changes. Ongoing research and education is needed to support these critical members of the ecosystem. The Ontario Agricultural College is trying to raise $5 million in donations to renovate and improve the facilities at the Honeybee Research Centre.

**Impact Statement:**

U of G is a leader in beneficial insect health and sustainable pest management, as evidenced by three named research chairs: The Pinchin Family Chair in Honey Bee Health, the Rebanks Family Chair in Pollinator Conservation and the Bayer CropScience Chair in Sustainable Pest Management. We are also home to the oldest insect collection in Canada, which continues to play an international role in studies of changing insect populations, and the identification and management of invasive species.

The HBRC makes important contributions to research, teaching and outreach, but needs facilities suitable to move forward into the next 30 years. We have a strong investment in excellent people, now we need to give them the facilities and tools to excel.

**Goals:**

The HBRC is currently situated in a repurposed house and is in need of major renovations if it is to continue as a research facility. Ensuring physical accessibility of the centre will also enable an expansion of public outreach work and improve student opportunity and access.

By investing in this research and teaching facility, we will ensure that Ontario is addressing beneficial insect health with the best possible science.

By improving the HBRC, we can:

- Continue to be the key facility in Ontario for studying honey bee health
- Add space for undergraduate teaching and graduate student research
- Make it accessible, expand tours and services for the community

Learn more at alumni.uoguelph.ca/funding-priorities or contact alumni@uoguelph.ca