

YEG Honeycomb

Owner and Founder – Enessa Habib

The Project

The YEG Honeycomb pilot project is scheduled to go for three years with the aim to increase the number of urban beekeepers in the city and across the country.

“I’ve heard in many years past that our bee population... has been on the decline and we needed to do something about it, so this is a way that we can give back to the community by helping the bee population.”

“I thought well, bees on rooftops would be pretty neat but we don’t actually have guidelines for urban beekeeping, even though there are currently bees on the rooftops of some buildings that we have.”

“To draw attention to these locations and speak to different themes as they would be relevant.”

“To speak not only to sustainability and preservation of these historical buildings within the city, but even more than that, form meaningful connections with the people in these buildings, the story of the people in these buildings.” - Enessa Habib



<https://omny.fm/shows/ched-afternoon-news/yeg-honeycomb-on-the-three-year-pilot-project-supp>

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/six-historic-edmonton-sites-to-be-new-home-for-bees-for-three-year-pilot-project>



The Locations

“Honey is an expression of our terroir, the story of our urban landscape, from the flora and fauna, the buildings they sit on down to their connection to their environment and people” says Project Manager, Enessa Habib. “Installing bees at these historic sites brings new life to these buildings often overlooked and inspire meaningful dialogue speaking to sustainability, preservation and connection.”

Each location was carefully chosen to reflect Edmonton's local plant diversity and for honey bee health ensuring the bees have exactly what they need. This way you can enjoy the complexity of our honeycomb to its fullest and the bees do too! In addition to the aviation museum, hives are also at the Mercer Warehouse, Old Man Nursery, Chancery Hall, The Grierson Centre and the Alberta Hospital Edmonton. The hives will be lovingly managed by a professional beekeeper while providing opportunities to learn new skills, build confidence, foster community, trust, connection and healing

<https://albertaaviationmuseum.com/2021/05/21/bees-in-blatchford-field/>



The BEES

- I purchased a whole new set of 12 beehives from Edmonton's Beecentric where the beehives are designed to match the natural environment of the bees as closely as possible. This is part of YEG Honeycomb's hive management strategy to keep the bees treatment free as much as possible.
- Some of the unique features of these hives include:
 - 8-frame medium supers (in comparison to a traditional 10-frame deep super) as shown here: <https://beecentrichive.com/>
 - Managing small colonies 3 medium supers in height (compared to a traditional beehive with 4+ deep supers with 10 frames each). Managing smaller colonies means keeping the bees healthy and the mite count down with no chemical intervention. This also translates to much smaller yield of honeycomb. But it is SO worth it when it comes to premium quality honeycomb and keeping our bees happy and healthy.
 - A bottom screenboard with removable tray facilitates easy mite level checks. Traditionally, checking varroa mite levels means shaking a sample of 300 bees in windshield washer fluid to count for mites. Having an easy to remove tray allows us to check for varroa mites frequently without resorting to this where possible.
 - An all season quilt box regulates the hive temperature and absorbs moisture in the hive. Moisture is a breeding ground for pests and disease. This is part of our integrated pest management strategy; to manage our bees naturally as much as possible keeping our bees happy and stress-free
 - Throughout the season, there will be opportunities to learn more about the bees, this initiative, our hive management practices and more about the concept behind the careful consideration and selection of these hive locations.

The Opportunities

Thanks to your support from the sales of last season's honeycomb, 3 new beehives and bee colonies were funded!

We are also working on sponsorship opportunities to support this project. Honeycomb sales makes up a small portion of revenue. However, making Edmonton honeycomb available to our talented local chefs is an important part of our storytelling and education to Edmonton.

In supporting YEG Honeycomb, you are also supporting locally bred and raised honeybees from Sweetacre Apiaries in BC and ABC Bees in Calgary who fulfills the orders of nucleus colonies to Edmonton, and Edmonton made Beecentric Hives.

This project is also supported by the City of Edmonton to help develop guidelines for rooftop and non-residential beekeeping thanks to Urban Planning with the City of Edmonton.

For opportunities to support this project. Visit www.yeghoneycomb.ca