

Town of Gibbons

Urban Bee Keeping Program Guidelines



The Town of Gibbons is a community that is striving to understand the diversity of needs and wishes of its individual residents and how to best balance such wishes with those of the community as a whole. In order for the municipality to move forward with new initiatives, there must be at times, specific guidelines that are necessary to provide a baseline of control and/or protection for the greater good of the Town. It is important to note that these guidelines are subject to change with little or no notice however; every opportunity will be taken to minimize the impact on the project.

GENERAL GUIDELINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. All persons wishing to keep Bees in the Town of Gibbons must hold a valid Development Permit.
 - a. Development Permit applications must include;
 - Beekeepers name, address and contact information;
 - When the Beekeeper is not the legal owner of the property; name, address and contact information for the legal owner of the property in addition to proof, in writing, of the land owner's knowledge and approval of the renters beekeeping operation;
 - Confirmation of location of the hive in relation to the property (site drawing or photo evidence of compliance with setbacks and other requirements of this bylaw.);
 - Proof that adjacent neighbors have been informed of the plan;
 - Proof of successful completion of an accepted beekeeping course;
 - A Swarm and disease control plan; and
 - A copy of Certificate of Registration from the Provincial Apiculturist. (Owners of unregistered hives are subject to fines or imprisonment under the Alberta Bee Act. Registration information is available from the Provincial Apiculturist for Alberta at bee@gov.ab.ca).
2. Each approved property shall house no more than one (1) active hive consisting of a bottom board and hive cover with a recommended number of four supers. Each Site may keep a nucleus (Nuc) hive to provide options for good animal husbandry and hive management.
3. Hives must be located in the rear yard of the property or in the case of a corner or double fronting lot, a side yard with the approval of the Development Officer.
4. Hives must be situated a minimum of three metres from any property line, unless the property is separated from the adjacent lot by a solid fence or vegetative hedge measuring at least 1.5 metres high.
5. Hives must be located at least 25 metres away from any place where the public gathers, including but not limited to playgrounds, sports fields, churches or schools.

6. The entrances to hives should be directed away from adjacent residential properties at all times.
7. Beekeepers must take all reasonable efforts to prevent swarming or aggressive behavior by their bees, and ensure that if a hive shows signs of swarming or aggressive behavior, the hive is re-queened without delay.
8. All beekeepers must provide the town with proof that they carry liability insurance with a minimum of \$2 million dollars per incident and a copy of their Certificate of Registration from the Provincial Apiculturist on a yearly basis.
9. Beekeeping site owners shall make themselves and their hive(s) available for inspection on reasonable request by the Provincial Apiculturist or his delegate, a Bylaw Officer, Town of Gibbons Development Officer, or his designate or any other official appointed by Council. Said officials may also, enter upon any property that is harboring bees in order to ascertain whether or not the provisions of this Bylaw are being observed.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

1. Any hive or beekeeper found to be in contravention of the above stated guidelines or deemed to be any other way unsuitable at any time, may have their Development Permit withdrawn and may be required to immediately relocate the hive and/or bees to a location outside the Town of Gibbons boundaries.
2. All costs and associated expenditures related to any removal, relocation and/or rehousing of bees, under this program, will be the sole responsibility of the beekeeper and/or property owner.