

Appendix B

: Recommendations from Bill Fosdick, president of the Capital Region Beekeepers Association

- Regulations that ensure a minimum distance between a honey bee hive and an occupied dwelling may be desirable. This could help ensure that both people and bees have enough space to safely cohabit.
- Limiting the number of honey beehives based on a lot area is not recommended. Bees travel to gather pollen, and a small lot can abut a larger lot that offers sufficient foraging space and plants.
- Requiring that a person who keeps bees must reside on the property where the bees are kept is not recommended. A number of Victoria beekeepers locate and care for their honey bee hives on properties where they do not reside. This is notably the case for the [James Bay New Horizons Community Garden](#) [Garden in Irving Park](#), the demonstration bee hives at the [Fairmont Empress](#) (corner of Government & Humboldt), the [Harbour Air rooftop](#), and the rooftop hives at [Chateau Victoria Hotel and Suites](#). Some enterprises, such as [Bees Please Farms](#), operate a “host a hive” program in Greater Victoria.
- Limiting honey bee hives to backyards with a continuous fence that is 1.8 metres in height is not recommended. This would exclude the possibility of keeping honey bees on rooftops (as is the case for some of the projects mentioned above), or other locations that may be suitable.
- Requiring that bee hives are enclosed by an electric fence is not recommended. Electric fences are usually used to prevent bears from damaging hives. Bears, and other predatory wildlife such as racoons, are not known to currently pose a significant threat to honey bee hives in the City of Victoria.
- Requiring that honey bee hives have a sign providing the contact information for the person or organization responsible for the bee hive may be desirable. This would help ensure that the person or organization responsible for the hive can be reached in case an issue should arise.