

A HISTORIC JOURNEY

During the 2017 Trinity Village Spring Fair, one of the vendors was a beekeeper. She inquired about the possibility of hosting a couple of her hives at Trinity Village for the next summer. The hives would be open for viewing on a couple of occasions, and Trinity Village would receive a portion of the honey produced.

A committee named "Bee Friendly" was struck, comprised of like-minded residents, staff and volunteers who were interested in learning how to care for and protect the honeybees. As we gained an understanding of ethical beekeeping, we began to see the connection between bees and the Eden Philosophy of care. Our bees reflect our Elder Care. The older bees mentor the younger. Similarly, our Elders, by virtue of experience, teach us how to live.

At the end of 2019, the bees, hives and the extraction equipment were generously left with Trinity Village. A few beekeeping textbooks in hand, a new, exciting beekeeping initiative was started at Trinity Village. We have never looked back.

Our committee's name has changed to the Beeden Honey Team, and we continue to seek new participants to engage with us on our journey of discovery. We harvest, extract, bottle and annually sell our honey under the label "Beeden Honey" every November.

Each summer, we seek to open the hives for residents and staff to enjoy. Through our large blue pollinator pots, we educate about the importance of our native and non-native pollinators.

Together with our honeybees on site, we promote a nurturing and symbiotic relationship where residents, staff and friends can engage in a respectful relationship with the bees. It is with this unique opportunity that we connect with nature and each other to foster a sense of purpose and experience the joy and fulfillment that comes with being good stewards of our natural world.

In 2024 we added a new partnership with the Doon Heritage Village at the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum to maintain a couple of hives on their site. We look forward to what this partnership will bring in the years to come.

