

YOUR GUIDE TO
TRENDY, ECO-FRIENDLY,
URBAN LIVING

MAKE IT

SPRING 2015 ISSUE

BEES, BEER & BRUSHES OH MY!

Winnipeggers
taking matters
into their own
hands

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& easy!

MELISSA DUPUIS

What's all the
buzz about?

HOME GROWN HARVEST

Urban
gardening
101





Meet
Melissa
Dupuis

All about that

BUZZ

By Kanisha Szekely

Bees help contribute more than one third of the world's food and are a vital pollinator to the ecosystem. Given this, Winnipeg beekeepers question why the city continues to have a bylaw prohibiting them from taking care of these buzzing workers in the city. With the possibility of a \$400 fine, most urban beekeepers keep their hobby on the down low. Luckily for Melissa Dupuis, she can maintain her hives in peace.

Atop the roof of the University of Winnipeg sit seven wooden beehives. With more than 50,000 honeybees buzzing about, this is one of many hives taken care of by local urban beekeepers. This particular collection of hives belongs to Dupuis and is one of the few legal beekeeping zones in Winnipeg. According to the bylaw, bees can be housed on areas zoned for agriculture including some rooftop hospitals and the University of Manitoba (U of M) research field.

"There's a certain amount of responsibility that comes with beekeeping," says Dupuis.

"I do think there should be more people beekeeping, but I don't think everyone should do it. I understand the purpose of the bylaw, but I think the city should register more beehives."

While cleaning out a barn during a visit to New Brunswick, Dupuis discovered some old beekeeping equipment that piqued her interest. After she moved back to Manitoba, she took a "Beekeeping for the Hobbyist" course at the U of M and has cared for bees since 2012.

“**Beekeeping gets me outside, it allows me to get my hands dirty... well, sticky too**”

"I have an office job," says the 30-year-old. "Beekeeping gets me outside, it allows me to get my hands dirty... well, sticky too."

Stacey Cedergren of Apiaries and Bees for Communities says although beekeeping is

a wonderful hobby, increasing the number of beekeepers and beehives doesn't mean that bees are at less of a risk for other health issues.

"Simply 'saving the bees' should not be a motivation for keeping honeybees." Says Cedergren.

Dupuis says a better solution is to issue beekeeping licenses; insuring whoever is beekeeping is doing it safely and properly.

"Anything that relates to the health of bees directly affects our own well-being," says Dupuis. "A lot of the fruits and vegetables we eat come from a direct result of the work of bees."

Cedergren says a simple solution is to create pollinator friendly habitats for bees. This could include planting native plants and creating nesting sites such as a Mason Bee-house. These small steps can help bees thrive in urban areas without the harm of pesticides and the possible \$400 fine.