



**Plenary Speaker – Fri Jul 21
11:00 AM
The Future of Urban Farming**

Akosua Asare is the head farmer & florist at re.Planted Farm & Floral Studio.

After a life-altering experience on CBC's Dragon's Den, Akosua closed her 6-figure e-commerce business to pursue urban farming.

She regeneratively cultivates cut flowers and vegetables on under 1500 sq ft of underutilized suburban land in Deep River, ON, alongside her husband and 5 volunteers.

Plenary Speaker – Sat Jul 22

11:00 AM

The Future of Bees

Marianne Gee is a seasoned beekeeper past president of the Eastern Ontario Beekeepers Association, and co-founder of **Gees Bees Honey Company** in Ottawa, which aims to connect people to the bees that make their honey. In addition to providing really great honey, Gees Bees works with organizations, community groups and the public to promote sustainable beekeeping practices and raise awareness about **the importance of honeybees and pollinators in our ecosystem.**

In this presentation she will share her story about how the discovery of honeybees living in the wall of her home led her into beekeeping and then gardening to support pollinators. She will explain the plight of honeybees and pollinators and things that everyone can do to support them





Plenary Speaker – Sun Jul 22

11:00 AM

The Future Looks Green

Growcer was founded in 2016 when its founders, Corey Ellis and Alida Burke, travelled to Iqaluit, Nunavut on a school trip. They experienced the common sticker shock of groceries up north, and participated in food security discussions that would become the catalyst for Growcer today. Growcer develops a plug-and-play hydroponic modular farms capable of yielding 8,500lbs of fresh produce in temperatures as cold as -40°C to unlock local growing for anyone year-round.

Fast forward to today, communities, businesses, and farmers have used 60+ Growcer farms to grow more than five million servings of local, nutritious greens across the country each year. Growcer is also being recognized for its ingenuity with several awards, like Fast Company's 2018 World Changing Idea Awards, United Way Community Builder Awards 2019 NextGen Award, and Clean50's 2020 Emerging Leaders award, including being featured on CBC's Dragons' Den. Growcer strives to be the premier tool for aspiring seasoned growers to feed their communities in a local and economically sustainable way.

This presentation will look at how the company came to be, lessons learned along the way, and the impact of local Growcer growers from coast to coast.