

OFAH Zone A Annual Report



OFAH Zone A Executive:

- Bruce Hamilton, Chair and Director
- Jeremy Funk, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Jan Loman, 2nd Vice Chair and 1st Alternate Director
- Roy DeCorte, Secretary-Treasurer and Director
- Erwin Burgstaler, Alternate Director

OFAH Zone A held three meetings throughout 2010. The annual was held in January, and was hosted by the Atikokan Sportsmen's Conservation Club. Daryl Gaudry, Chief Operating Engineer of Ontario Power Generation's Atikokan Generating Station, was on hand to inform delegates of the progress in the transformation of their Atikokan and Thunder Bay plants from coal fired to biomass energy.

Our second meeting was hosted by the Northwoods Fish and Game Club in May. Although we had no guest speaker at this meeting, the club's wild game dinner was held the night before the meeting, and most of the delegates enjoyed this event very much.

The summer meeting was held at the Dryden District Conservation Club's clubhouse. No guest speakers were available at this meeting, as we were unsuccessful in getting a presentation on black bear. (It is anticipated that a presentation will be given at the zone's annual meeting in January 2011.)

In May, the MNR released the Resource Report – Black Bear on a WMU basis. Reports for WMU's 5 through 12B within the zone showed density and population figures to be extremely low. Only WMU's 5 and 8 (Dryden area) reached the target density for their habitat (20-40 bear/100 km²). WMU 10 (the farming area from Fort Frances to Rainy River) showed a density of only six bears/100 km² in a habitat expected to host 40-60 bears/100 km².

The Provincial Elk Recovery and Management Plan has been the center of much discussion within the zone. The Northwest Ontario Elk Restoration Coalition (NOERC) was very disappointed that after their many requests for relocation of problem elk from other areas of the province, the government passed legislation which would allow habitual nuisance elk to be killed via a MNR Authorized Removal Permit. They would also prefer to see cows and calves relocated to other areas, rather than hunted in the upcoming hunt.

To address a safety concern of many municipalities in the Rainy River District, the MNR posted EBR 011-1053 which closed November 8, 2010. This proposal will prohibit the possession of a loaded firearm in, or discharge a firearm across a right-of-way of public vehicular traffic. This is commonly referred to as "no discharge from a right-of-way." The new regulation will include all of WMU 10 and parts of WMU 9B; a small area near Kenora in WMU 7B will also be affected. After clarification that the encasement of firearms will not be necessary and that this regulation only applies during seasons of maintenance, and only during the open rifle season for deer, no objection to the new

regulations was filed by the zone.

The Canadian Wildlife Service hosted a meeting in Dryden on March 23, 2010 regarding a National Recovery Strategy for Boreal Caribou. Dennis Kristjanson and Bruce Hamilton attended, along with two members of the Sioux Lookout Anglers and Hunters. Other delegates came from municipal government, forest industry, fur trappers, and the MNR.

The Canadian Wildlife Service is taking a second look at their caribou recovery before posting their policy. Dissatisfaction with the Province of Ontario's policy on caribou was voiced loudly and repetitively. Socio-economic consideration for communities, both aboriginal and nonaboriginal, within the area of caribou occurrence was strongly supported. Without this socio-economic factor, buy-in by the public will be poor and success unlikely.

The socio-economic disconnect within the Provincial Caribou Policy is evident in the Lac Seul FMP (2011-2021). The continuous caribou line has moved south 70 kms and is now within two kms of the town of Sioux Lookout. This has created major problems regarding road use strategy and the removal of moose habitat within that continuous caribou area.

Quetico Provincial Park Management Plan Review of Management Options was finally released in September 2010. Although hunting (especially for deer) had been discussed during the background review, it was not in the Management Options. Hunting is still present in the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park Management Plan, which was open for discussion in November.

Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) Councils for FMZ 4 continued meeting throughout 2010, and the FMZ 5 Council started meeting in late 2010. OFAH Zone A is represented by Dennis Kristjanson on FMZ 4, while Richard Boileau sits on FMZ 5. Roy DeCorte sits on both councils for the zone.

Notice of inspection of the Environmental Report for the Namakan River Hydro Development Project ran from December 23, 2009 until February 26, 2010. The Rainy Lake Conservancy obtained the MNR's and MOE's response to the project through the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and shared these with the OFAH. These documents, and that of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, were all very critical of the science produced by the proponent, the Ojibway Power and Energy Group. All three branches of government were just as critical of how concerns of stakeholders were addressed. There has been no advertised action on the project since the closing of the Environmental Report.

OFAH Zone B Annual Report



OFAH Zone B Executive:

- Glenn Rivard, Chair and Director
- Debbie Rivard, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Gilles Dumais, 2nd Vice Chair and Alternate Director
- Alice Villa, Secretary/Treasurer and Director
- Rick Tomiak, 2nd Alternate Director

CFWIP Project

Again in 2010, OFAH Zone B applied for two clover seeding projects. We found out in July that our application had been accepted, but did not receive written confirmation from the MNR until September 2010. The seeding projects for 2010 have been completed. We would again like to thank Barry Tabor for volunteering to take charge of this project, as well as Rob Batson and Rory Manula for assisting him with the seeding. We intend to continue with this important wildlife enhancement project in 2011.

Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 6 and 9 Councils

The FMZ 9 Council has been meeting for almost two years with the sole issue being Walleye rehabilitation in Black Bay and the Black Sturgeon River dam. At this point in time, the council has a recommendation to move forward, which is:

“The FMZ 9 Advisory Council recommends that both Option #3 (Camp 1) and Option #4 (Trap and Sort) be put forward for public consultation under a formal Environmental Assessment process, with Camp 1 presented as the preferred option, and Trap and Sort presented as an alternate option, with the inclusion of the caveats and considerations as summarized in the Rationale Document.”

A Recommendation and Rationale Document has been produced, which covers all of the steps taken by the council, along with a summary of stakeholder involvement prior to May 2008, to show how the council arrived at this recommendation.

There has been no date set for another meeting, but it has been indicated that a meeting should take place toward the end of March 2011. The next topic of discussion will be Coaster Brook Trout. In 2004, a Coaster Brook Trout committee was formed to deal with the regulation. The end result saw a 2-inch increase from 20 inches to 22 inches, in the size of a Coaster Brook Trout the angler is allowed to keep. The MNR was to use the next five years to collect and analyze scientific data, and come back to the committee with the findings. As a result of this, the former members of that committee will also be invited to attend the next FMZ 9 Council meeting for a presentation on the MNR findings.

We would like to thank OFAH head office staff for their support on this complex issue.

The FMZ 6 Council met twice in 2010. At the meeting held in early March 2010, the FMZ 6 Council was updated on the progress to date by the MNR on the Black Sturgeon River dam. Management issues identified in the FMZ 6 management plan were also reviewed.

In August, the MNR made a presentation to the FMZ 6 Council regarding the recommendation from the FMZ 9 Council, who was also looking for support for the recommendation regarding

the Black Sturgeon River dam. After a lengthy discussion, FMZ 6 Council agreed to support the recommendation from FMZ 9.

The FMZ 6 Council has not had a meeting since August 2010. During the winter Lake Trout season, an aerial survey will take place, and the results of the winter monitoring will be presented to the FMZ 6 Council at a meeting in the spring, but no date has been set for this meeting.

Central Canada Outdoor Show

At the end of February 2010, the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce held the 6th Annual Central Canada Outdoor Show. In conjunction with the show, a Wild Turkey Hunter Education Course was held with 41 attending. Glenn Rivard is now certified to instruct the wild turkey course, which will simplify having the seminar in northwestern Ontario. Again in 2010, the OFAH was a supporter of this Thunder Bay Show.

We again saw an increase in the number of new and renewing members at the OFAH booth. The kids' moose calling contest is always a lot of fun, and every child walked away with some sort of a prize. In 2010, we also saw an OFAH Invasive Species Booth at the show, which generated much interest from people attending.

OFAH Zone B would like to thank OFAH head office for all of their help and support at the show.

Boreal Caribou

In March 2010, Debbie Rivard, Glenn Rivard, and Gilles Dumais attended a meeting regarding the Boreal (Woodland) Caribou's status in regard to the Species at Risk Act (SARA), and the development of a federal plan to manage Boreal Caribou.

Ontario has already developed and approved a management plan under SARA for Boreal Caribou, and is moving into the implementation stage. This issue has potentially grave consequences regarding biodiversity and access in this province. The new Forest Management Plans being developed in the affected areas include approved management practices to enhance habitat for Boreal Caribou. These practices will be detrimental to other wildlife species, including moose. The area included in the discontinuous areas extends from the east side of the Nipigon River to Wawa, and to the shores of Lake Superior, including islands. This area is core moose range.

Zone Sponsored Events

OFAH Zone B again co-sponsored the Lakehead Archers Hunter Round 3D Shoot, held on the long weekend in September, with Taos's Archery Service.

The “Kam River Reel In” was held on September 11, which is held to give youth in the area the opportunity to try fishing. OFAH Zone B was again the major sponsor for the “Reel In,” and would like to thank Neil Wiens and Barry Tabor for volunteering to work at this event.

Northwestern Ontario Trappers Convention

The trappers' convention was held on the first weekend in March 2010, and we again had a booth at this show. Although it is a small show, it is still good exposure for the zone, and the OFAH, in general.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers who came out to help

at the booths, including Rick Tomiak, Neil Wiens, Gilles Dumais, Roger Pinkowski, Joe Coghlan and Melanie Schoffer.

Greenwich Wind Farm - No Hunting Area

RES is a company building 43 wind turbines in the Dorian area. In early September, members of OFAH Zone B, Northwestern Ontario Sportsmen's Alliance (NOSA), the MNR, and RES held a meeting to discuss the no hunting area where construction is currently taking place. Our concern is that the road going through the construction site provides access to traditional hunting areas outside the no hunting area. After expressing our concerns and listening to the concerns of RES employees, it was agreed that RES would allow a travel corridor through the construction site to access these areas. Everyone is required to stop at the gate and obtain a pass to travel through. A second check-in gate was set up on Escape Lake Road at the beginning of the hunting season, but was closed at the end of October because little traffic was using that route.

Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

In early June 2010, an open house was held for the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area Interim Management Plan.

Glenn and Deb Rivard attended the open house, and OFAH Zone B submitted a response with additional comments and questions.

We continue to be frustrated in our efforts to participate in this process. The OFAH was not offered a seat on the NMCA Interim Advisory Board, and was not informed of the open house; we found out about it from a third party. We are actively trying to obtain a seat on the more permanent advisory board being set up.

Other Projects

Again in 2010, OFAH Zone B partnered with the North Shore Steelhead Association (NSSA) on the Fisherman's Park Project at the mouth of Current River, inside the City of Thunder Bay. This is a three-year project, with the NSSA taking the lead. After its completion, the City of Thunder Bay will assume responsibility for the park and its maintenance. We also partnered with NSSA on a project to stabilize a bank on McIntyre River inside the city of Thunder Bay.

OFAH Zone C Annual Report



OFAH Zone C Executive:

- Peter Sword, Chair and Director
- David Allen, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Robert Bartlett, 2nd Vice Chair and Alternate Director
- Eugene O'Beirn, Secretary/Treasurer and 2nd Alternate Director
- Richard Mongeon, Director

OFAH Zone C meetings were held in April in New Liskeard, and in October in Kapuskasing. The guest speaker for the April meeting was MNR Regional Wildlife Biologist, Peter Davis, who spoke on moose and caribou; and the guest speaker for the October meeting was MNR Regional Fisheries Biologist, Greg Deyne, who spoke on Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) Councils and hydro projects. Additional Zone Executive meetings were held in Englehart and Cochrane.

OFAH Zone C has direct representation on the Northeast Regional Advisory Committee, the Temagami Local Citizens Committee, the Kirkland Lake Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee, and the FMZ 12 Council.

FMZ Councils have been formed in FMZ 11 and FMZ 12 this year;

however, Councils scheduled to be formed in FMZ's 7 and 8 have been delayed.

As a result of the Provincial Green Energy Act, a number of hydro projects are being proposed in the zone. Zone Directors have attended hydro project open houses in Kapuskasing, Chapleau, Foleyet, and Kirkland Lake, with many more to come. It is very difficult to learn when these hydro project open houses will take place, as they are only advertised in the newspaper, and not listed on the EBR registry. The Kapuskasing River will have a total of nine hydro dams on it if all of the projects are approved and built. There is also a solar and wind project being proposed.

Aerial moose surveys are on hold again this winter in certain parts of the zone, due to lack of snow.

OFAH Zone C has donated funding toward Sandhill Crane research, FMZ Council representative training, a Walleye Transfer Program by the Hearst Angler and Hunter Association, a yearly sign permit for an Invasive Species sign, and the Conservation Officer Youth Mentor Hunt.

To our knowledge, there have been no new developments on the Wawa Crown Land Use Harmonization Project, or the 10-year review of the Temagami Land Use Plan.

OFAH Zone D Annual Report



OFAH Zone D Executive:

- Roy Polsky, Chair and Director
- Felix Delongchamp, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Roy Warriner, 2nd Vice Chair and 1st Alternate Director
- Debbie Halverson, Secretary/Treasurer and 2nd Alternate Director
- Dan Polsky, Director

2010 was a busy year for the OFAH Zone D Executive and its members. Many of the same issues never seem to go away, such as access restrictions, road closures and abandonment. New issues surface every year, such as the potential development of hydroelectric projects on the Vermilion River and the Wanapitei River, due to new provincial regulations for small projects.

We were fortunate again this year to have OFAH President Rob Hare attend our spring zone meeting, at which time we presented him with a cheque for \$2,500 to go toward the Enhancement of Recreational Fishing in the North Channel and Georgian Bay; we also had representation from head office at the meeting. The MNR North Bay Manager and personnel were invited to give us an update on the red deer that had escaped from captivity and were roaming the area.

The Sudbury Forest Management Plan for 2010 to 2020 was finally approved. Along with OFAH head office, we participated in issues resolutions at the district and regional levels, and were named a “party of interest” to any of the procedures. There have been five requests to the Ministry of the Environment for individual Environmental Assessments: one was for the Millerd-Burnt-Horseshoe Lake Road with respect to restricting access on the new road and calcium depletion in the lakes; and the other four were concerning the Spanish Arm Road with respect to removing the gate at Frog Creek to allow access. One of these EA’s was rejected outright, as it did not focus on a specific area or activity; the other three involved the Area of Concern (AOC) for Lake Trout lakes and tourism lakes, and the potential impact of increased access. The Director of the Ministry of the Environment rejected all EA requests; therefore, the decision of the Regional Director stands. The gate at Frog Creek was removed and signage will be erected indicating that the road can not be used to access the 12 lakes that are deemed sensitive Lake Trout lakes.

Again this year, we contributed \$2,000 toward the continuation of the Sandhill Crane study that is being carried out by Everett Hanna of the Long Point Waterfowl for the Algoma-North Shore-Manitoulin Island area. Research was carried out from July 2 to October 25; Sandhill Cranes were trapped, and some were equipped with GPS and leg bands, and then released.

In the spring, we had the MNR Project Manager for the

Manitoulin Island wild turkeys and pheasants Environmental Assessment explain to the zone the procedure involved. No notice of commencement has yet been issued by the Minister of Natural Resources. Zone members are starting to question the delays, so hopefully it will be forthcoming in the new year.

West Arm/French River wild turkeys are thriving and expanding, and the working group is collecting information in order to request a spring hunt in the near future.

The elk population in the Burwash area seems to be stable. Mortality and calf survival rate is still an ongoing factor to the herd increasing in size. An overpass is being built on the new four lanes to accommodate wildlife crossing the highway, and fencing is being erected along sections of the road to prevent collisions. The North Shore herd is doing well, and is on the increase.

The MNR has set up Advisory Councils for Fisheries Management Zones 11 and 14, which will advise the MNR on fishing limits and regulations for the area of concern.

Information sessions were held across the zone on Bill C-391, an act to repeal the long gun registry. Candice Hoepfner, M.P. Portage-Lisgar, author of the bill, attended meetings in North Bay, Cache Bay, Sudbury, Espanola, and Richard’s Landing on St. Joseph Island.

OFAH Zone D memberships have remained stable throughout the year, due in part to programs and promotions by head office.

We would like to congratulate area club, Manitoulin Streams Association, as they were presented with the Mary Pickford Award at the OFAH Annual Conference, and the Zone Conservation Club of the Year at the OFAH Zone D annual meeting.

The zone would like to take the opportunity to thank OFAH head office and staff for all of their assistance and direction that they provided during the course of the year.

OFAH Zone E Annual Report



OFAH Zone E Executive:

- Brian Sheppard, Chair and Director
- Eric Smith, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Ron Parker, 2nd Vice Chair and Alternate Director
- Alan Fennell, Secretary/Treasurer and 2nd Alternate Director
- Gordon Trylinski, Director

It has been a busy year with four OFAH Zone E meetings, the first being on March 28, 2010 at the Pembroke Outdoor Sportsmen’s Club:

- the guest speaker was John Yakabuski, MPP and Energy Critic, who spoke about solar and wind power;
- OFAH Zone E elected to have a minimum of three meetings per year, which was approved and written into our supplemental bylaws; and
- there was much discussion about the Ontario Endangered Species Act.
- The second meeting took place on May 30, and was hosted by the Bancroft Fish and Game Protective Association;
- there was much discussion on the issuing of group bear tags to hunt clubs where anyone in the camp could shoot a bear (party

hunting);

- the Bancroft club confirmed the purchase of archery equipment, as well as the Pembroke Outdoor Sportsmen’s Club; the programs are doing well with youth;
- there was discussion on FMZ 17 public input regarding ice fishing and limits with tourist lodges against this proposal;
- aboriginal land claims greatly affect OFAH Zone E and OFAH Zone F;
- memberships and attendance at meetings were discussed; and
- a stolen OFAH Zone E boat from Darlington needed to be replaced prior to the fall hunt.

On August 22, OFAH Zone E held their meeting at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Club at their Haliburton fish hatchery:

- twenty-six people were in attendance;
- there was some discussion on the Darlington Fishing Day event, and what a success it was with over 100 children and parents taking part. There were free hot dogs and drinks for the participants, as well as prizes for biggest fish and most caught and released;
- discussion also took place on FMZ 17; Brighton Provincial Wildlife Area; HST; Algonquin land claim; green energy; Kendal; Atlantic Salmon; Darlington waterfowl hunt; and

- Normandale fish culture station;
- a new boat was purchased, and the generator repair was completed;
- Director, Gordon Tylinski, reported on the Ottawa hatchery;
- there is new archery at the Pembroke Outdoor Sportsmen's Club; and
- the POSC Kids' Fishing Day was a great success with the MNR, Valley Bass Trail, Bass Masters-Petawawa Chapter, and the OFAH

Funding Requests:

- OFAH Zone E requested a donation of \$6,000 to the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association toward their hatchery and fish rearing project; and
- OFAH Zone E donated to the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council to go toward Wonders of Wetlands Field Day, which was a great success.

On November 28, OFAH Zone E held their Annual General Meeting and Elections at the OFAH/Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre.

- this was the first time for many members to visit the Heritage Centre, so time was allotted for a tour;
- many commented on how well it looked, and some even mentioned that perhaps all OFAH Zone E meetings could be held there;
- guests were President Rob Hare, who ran the elections, and Dr.

- Scott Petrie who gave a PowerPoint presentation on waterfowl migration and wind turbines, and the effect they have on resources and human life;
- there was much discussion on the Chair's report regarding what is happening with Kendal and Darlington Provincial Park management plan. It was explained that in the first part of the new year there will be a meeting between MNR Aurora District, Ontario Parks, an MNR Biologist from Kingston, and Brian Sheppard to finalize where wood duck boxes, hen nests, and two new blinds on the lake front of Lake Ontario are going, and finally park fees for hunters;
- there was discussion on a reduction of the deer tag allocation for 2011;
- handouts were given with information regarding the major site plan amendment (aggregate permit #603441) to voice any concerns that have resulted from public notification during moose and deer hunting seasons;
- we explained the importance of getting professional help, or at least learning how to get rid of giant hogweed and other invasive species;
- there could be possible night hunting with hounds to reduce coyote numbers; and
- the proposal for a mourning dove hunter harvest in Ontario was discussed.

OFAH Zone F Annual Report



OFAH Zone F Executive:

- Ed Giffin, Chair and Director
- Kerry Coleman, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Michael MacDonald, 2nd Vice Chair and Alternate Director
- Len Dickinson, Secretary/Treasurer and Director
- George Perrin, 2nd Alternate Director

OFAH Zone F held four meetings in 2010 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Perth. The winter meeting was held on March 14, and guest speakers included Rick Watchorn, Area Supervisor, and Scott Smithers, Area Biologist, Kemptville District, Ministry of Natural Resources, who provided updates on deer, turkey, and moose harvests in eastern Ontario. They also provided information on coyote concerns in eastern Ontario.

The spring meeting was held on May 16. OFAH Zone F Secretary/Treasurer, Len Dickinson, provided an excellent presentation on the "Economic, Social, and Ecological Benefits of Hunting." As well, copies of the OFAH Annual Report were also provided, and time was devoted to reviewing it, followed by questions and answers.

The summer meeting was held on August 21. OFAH Zone F Chair, Ed Giffin, gave a comprehensive report on "Walleye Stocking in Ontario."

The OFAH Zone F Annual Meeting and elections were held on November 21, and OFAH Zone F Chair, Ed Giffin, provided a report on "The Algonquin Hunt Management Plan for 2010-2011."

OFAH Zone F is represented on the following committees:

- OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee (Michael MacDonald and Len Dickinson)

- OFAH Bowhunting Advisory Committee (Len Dickinson)
- OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee (Ed Giffin)
- OFAH Firearms/Recreational Shooting/Hunter Education Advisory Committee (Len Dickinson)
- OFAH Land Use/Access/Trails Advisory Committee (Kerry Coleman)
- OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee (Ed and Shirley Giffin)
- Bancroft District Elk Advisory Committee (Len Dickinson)
- Eastern Ontario Deer Management Council (Kerry Coleman and Len Dickinson)
- Fisheries Management Zone 12 Council (Pierre Boucher)
- Fisheries Management Zone 18 Council (Ed Giffin and Len Dickinson)
- Fisheries Management Zone 20 (East Basin) Mike Howe
- Lanark Stewardship Council (Wendell Crosbie)
- Local Citizens Committee – Lanark/Mazinaw Forest (Hans von Rosen)
- Mazinaw Area Fish & Wildlife Advisory Committee (Ed Giffin)
- Raisin River Advisory Committee (Glen Runions)
- South Nation River Advisory Council (Cyril Holmes)
- Standing Advisory Committee – Madawaska Land Use Plan (Doug Huddle)
- Standing Advisory Committee – Mississippi River Watershed Management Plan (Len Dickinson)

OFAH Zone F has six plot mules available to zone members, which are located in Brockville (Jack McNamee); Cloyne (Bob Yearwood); Cornwall (Glen Runions); Lanark (Len Dickinson); Osgoode (Gord Atkinson); and Sydenham (Darrel Campbell).

OFAH Zone F contributed \$11,450 in support of conservation

in 2010. The following received support for their respective conservation projects:

- Freshwater Research Centre, Queen's University;
- OFAH Annual General Meeting and Fish & Wildlife Conference;
- OFAH Fisheries Management Zone Workshops;
- Young Hunter Education Scholarship Fund;
- Mississippi/Tay Crimestoppers;
- Kingston & District Rod and Gun Club Annual Kids Perch Derby;
- NDHQ Annual Military Kids Fishing Derby;
- Lanark & District Fish & Game Club;
- Napanee & District Rod & Gun Club Annual Kids Fishing Derby;
- Grenville Fish & Game Club Trailer and Walking Trail;
- Ottawa Region Walleye League Kids Ice Fishing Derby;
- Osgoode Township Fish, Game, and Conservation Club Kids Fishing Derby;
- Westport and Area Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery Building Project;
- Eastern Ontario Deer Advisory Committee; and
- Greg Brown Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction.

OFAH Zone F initiated a strategic planning exercise in 2010, facilitated by 1st Vice Chair, Kerry Coleman. The purpose of this initiative is to improve the operation of the zone with succession planning, and improve services provided to OFAH clubs and members in OFAH Zone F through better communications.

OFAH Zone F Secretary/Treasurer, Len Dickinson, has taken on added responsibilities in managing the OFAH Zone F website and working with OFAH head office to link the sites for easier access by OFAH Zone F members and clubs. To date, several OFAH Zone F clubs have linked their sites with the zone's site. OFAH Zone F members will also be able to subscribe to the site to receive updates, bulletins, and the latest news and information on what is happening that is important to the zone.

On April 9, 10, and 11, OFAH Zone F again participated in the Valley Fishing Show in Carp. Wendell Crosbie, Cyril Holmes, George Perrin, Michael MacDonald, and Ed Giffin represented the OFAH at this annual, well-attended fishing show, where a total of 44 OFAH memberships were sold.

OFAH Zone F welcomed the following newly affiliated clubs:

- Humphries Camp;
- Whitetail Farms;
- Togo's Rest Hunting and Fishing Club;
- Wensley Hunt Club;
- Vernon Hunt Club;
- Gunnar's Club; and
- Capital Muskies Ottawa.

In 2010, two more municipalities in the zone approved Sunday gun hunting: The City of Kingston passed a bylaw to allow Sunday gun hunting in the rural portion of the city on March 23; and the Township of South Frontenac approved Sunday gun hunting on September 21. This leaves only three municipalities in all of OFAH Zone F to approve Sunday gun hunting.

OFAH Zone G Annual Report



OFAH Zone G Executive:

- David Dixon, Chair and Director
- Mirko Manojlovic, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Stephen Huntley, 2nd Vice Chair and 1st Alternate Director
- Beverley Dixon, Secretary/Treasurer and Director
- Clark Boyd, 2nd Alternate Director

At the November 2010 OFAH Zone G Annual General Meeting, Jim Etherington and Peter Dickson announced that they would not be seeking reelection for 2011, so there were opportunities for some new blood to join the Zone Executive. Three zone members with past experience in zone affairs allowed their names to be put forward, and all were acclaimed into office. Jim and Peter were thanked for their years on the OFAH Zone G Executive, and hopefully, we will see them at zone meetings in 2011. When experienced members step down, it can be a challenge to find replacements. Fortunately, we did not encounter such a problem with the Zone Executive that has been elected for 2011.

As OFAH Zone G is a heavily urbanized zone with limited hunting and fishing opportunities in comparison to zones in the north, we do not deal with the same issues. Forestry plans and their impact on moose hunting, closing of public access roads to remote pristine lakes for fishing, construction of hydroelectric dams on coldwater streams used by spawning trout and salmon, are just a few examples of issues that our zones in the north are facing. With 80 clubs and almost 11,000 OFAH Zone G members, we use

our financial strength to focus on those projects and programs that support our fishing and hunting activities, and provide opportunities for our youth to participate in the same.

In 2010, we approved almost \$13,000 for such initiatives as:

\$4,300	OFAH Zone G Youth Camp
\$2,000	OFAH Zone G Wildlife Research Grant awarded to Everett Hanna for Sandhill Crane research
\$2,000	York Environmental Stewardship Ranger Program
\$2,000	Halton-Peel Woodlands & Wildlife Stewardship Council in support of the Butternut monitoring research program
\$1,200	Pefferlaw Winter and Summer Take-a-Kid-Fishing Days
\$ 745	Uxbridge Huck Finn Kids' Fishing Day
\$ 500	OFAH Zone G portion of OFAH Fish & Wildlife Fund for FMZ Workshop
\$ 200	Muskies Canada in support of the Dr. Ed Crossman Memorial Family Fishing Outing

Details of these projects/programs are being posted to the revitalized OFAH Zone G website now hosted on the main OFAH site. The website has been expanded from a simple newsletter issued three to four times per year in the past, to a more dynamic communications source. Zone meeting schedules with location maps, agendas, and minutes are posted for membership review, and copies of the business cases presented for financial support,

pictures of our youth activities, and links to other sites associated with the zone are being made available. Regular communications will be sent to OFAH Zone G members who have provided their email addresses to supplement information available in *Ontario OUT OF DOORS* and the main OFAH website.

The OFAH Zone G website is a vehicle for two-way communications. Member clubs that have websites or activities that are open to the public, or if they just want to show what their club is doing, will have a place on our website. If your club has a newsletter that it wants to share which would be of interest to membership, send it to us and we will post it on the site.

Please visit the site at <http://www.ofah.org/zoneg/> and let us know what you think. We have provided the means for you to submit comments or send emails from within the website, so that it is easy to tell us what your concerns are, or to add your support to a program or project. You will be able to download forms for

registering your son or daughter to attend the OFAH Zone G Youth Camp, or if you are involved with a program involving hunting, fishing, or some aspect of conservation, you will be able to access the form to request financial support from OFAH Zone G. Not all requests can be satisfied, but each will be evaluated by the Zone Executive, and reviewed with members at the zone quarterly meetings.

As the site is being developed by volunteers as opposed to contracted web designers, it will remain a work in progress. Comments and emails will be responded to as quickly as possible. If you have any suggested changes for the site, either in format or information, your input will certainly be welcomed. We look forward to hearing from our zone members in 2011, either in person at the quarterly meetings, or via the website.

OFAH Zone H Annual Report



OFAH Zone H Executive:

- Wayne Forgrave, Chair and Director
- Jack Doherty, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Michael Evers, 2nd Vice Chair and 1st Alternate Director
- Wally Motz, Secretary/Treasurer and Director
- Glenn Meads, 2nd Alternate Director

In 2010, OFAH Zone H continued to fund conservation and education projects within the zone, including:

Sydenham Sportsmen's Association Water Project	\$1,700
OFAH TackleShare Program	\$1,000
Bursary to Stuart Loriman	\$1,000
Mike Evers, Junior	\$ 750
Bruce Resource Stewardship Network Envirothon	\$ 700
Grey Bruce Water Festival	\$ 700
OFAH Annual Conference	\$ 500
Lake Huron Fishing Club (trees)	\$ 500
Friends of Island Lake	\$ 500
Grey Bruce Forest Festival	\$ 500
OFAH YHES	\$ 400
Orillia Fish and Game Conservation Club	\$ 400
Friends of Hullett	\$ 250
Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers	\$ 250
Grey County Stewardship	\$ 250
Luther Marsh Kids' Day	\$ 250
Rankin River Project	\$ 200

Mike Evers, Junior and Victoria Edwards, both active youth members in OFAH Zone H, were honored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation in Quebec for their outstanding conservation achievement. Mike was also selected as one of ten, from coast to coast, to attend the Ducks Unlimited (DU) Camp in Manitoba, and was selected as one of two participants from Canada to attend the DU camp in the State of Arkansas.

In August, the Barrie District Hunters & Anglers Conservation Club hosted the OFAH Zone H Annual Black Powder Shoot, with 19 shooters participating. The shoot is open to all OFAH members, and a fun time was had by all.

John Ford, Bill Blackwell and Fred Geberdt were presented with the Volunteer Service Award by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, in recognition of 30 years of volunteer service in conservation. Mike Evers, Junior was also awarded the Volunteer Service Youth Award for his contribution to conservation.

The OFAH has issued a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the poacher(s) who shot and killed a valuable horse at night during the November deer season. OFAH Zone H, along with the Indian River Hunt Club, each added \$500 to bring the reward to \$2,000.

The Barrie District Hunters & Anglers Conservation Club did a clean-up project on Aunt Maggie's Creek to allow spawning trout access.

OFAH Zone J Annual Report



OFAH Zone J Executive:

- Tony Jackson, Chair and Director
- Jim Greenwood, 1st Vice Chair and Director
- Brian Moore, 2nd Vice Chair and 1st Alternate Director
- Kathy Moore, Secretary-Treasurer and Director
- Bruno Vanden Bergh, 2nd Alternate Director

We were certainly all feeling a little bit better in 2010 with the employment situation improving and with a slow economic recovery, but it is still a long way to go to get back to "normal." Through all of the economic challenges and sluggish recovery, members stood by the OFAH. Currently, OFAH Zone J membership is approximately 23,000.

As you will read throughout the various reports, there are many issues. At the same time, we continue to have success on many fronts working to create new or improved opportunities for anglers/hunters, and the protection of our natural resources. Our team would certainly encourage you to continue to attend, participate, and become involved with the many activities that support your clubs, your activities of choice, and the activities that hold our Federation in such high esteem within our communities. We will continue to work hard for you, and together, find ways to protect, promote, and hopefully, create new outdoors opportunities.

Getting young apprentice hunters into the outdoors should be a priority. With great excitement, we recognize the excellent work of local clubs with support of the Ontario Stewardship network. OFAH Zone J has been the area of focus for the youth pheasant hunts, which is now a six-year success story, having originated with Fingal and now taking place in several locations. There has been no better success story within our zone in the last few years, and this initiative is moving forward in leaps and bounds. Just volunteer and you will see the success that, as mentors, we can be proud. You can now find an excellent tool kit for initiating, planning, and implementing your own youth hunting event at www.youthhunting.ca. Zone members participated in the development of this information to share with all.

Land access continues to be one of the bigger issues within the zone. With much of the landscape privately owned, obtaining access is often a long and sometimes difficult process. Areas of public land within the southern and southwestern part of the province are few, and often the focus of high activity from a variety of user groups.

In 2010, the OFAH Zone J Executive met with the Chris Maher, Regional Vice President of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), which was a very positive and educational meeting. Many have the perception that the NCC was somewhat nonsupportive of hunting and the hunting community with respect to allowing hunting and hunter access. The NCC does have a relationship with hunting organizations to allow hunting, and in many cases is not opposed to hunting on their lands. Several large tracts of land owned by the NCC are accessible in Ontario, and they are very willing to discuss options and opportunities for clubs to cooperate in creating and managing opportunities to hunt. As a result of our earlier discussions, OFAH Zone F is now engaged in discussions with the NCC.

Discharge and noise bylaws seem to be an ongoing activity, and certainly frustrating, as municipalities seem to adopt bylaw wording that exists in larger urban areas and apply the wording in their small rural municipal ridings without careful consideration of the implications. Once realized, many have worked toward fixing the wording, but it is much more difficult to change an adopted bylaw. Please keep aware of your municipality happenings, and advise us if you see anything in upcoming municipal activity that would suggest a change, or if they are introducing a discharge or noise bylaw.

Sunday gun hunting opportunities still exist, and several presentations were made in 2010. The progress will continue, but certainly at a slower pace than over the past several years.

Coyotes are receiving more attention than any other species in our zone. Oxford County created a coyote task force involving a multitude of stakeholders to develop an information and action plan specifically for residents in dealing with coyote issues. In many situations, we have been approached to assist with con-

necting landowners and hunters where the problems persist. Solar and wind turbine installations are now an added landscape issue changing rural landscapes. OFAH Zone J is especially aware of, and concerned about a multitude of onshore and offshore Industrial Wind Turbine (IWT) sites planned without due regard for their impact, not only on the landscape, but potentially impacting wildlife, waterfowl, and fisheries as well. Migration corridors of several species are directly impacted, and the IWT sites will also affect feeding habits.

We have been very active with fisheries management, land access, hunting issues, club meeting presentations, Municipal Council engagements, Springbank dam, and the Misner dam, to name a few. We will be engaged with the FMZ Councils affecting our zone. FMZ 16 is a complicated zone, and the FMZ Council has yet to become active.

Baitfish concerns have been raised several times at our meetings and through discussions. Having the VHS concern a couple of years ago, and what appears to be a fragmented baitfish industry, the question keeps circulating around access and the use of live baitfish in the zone, and throughout Ontario.

Concerns with respect to historical and ongoing fish rearing and fish stocking programs, and inconsistencies within FMZ 16 need to be addressed by the MNR, so that priorities are known and communicated. Perhaps we will see some clearer guidelines once the FMZ 16 Council is up and active.

Again this year, we would like to thank Bruno and Yolanda Vanden Berghe for their exceptional commitment and effort to attend events promoting our zone and Federation. Sales of merchandise are used to support many activities within the zone, which we proudly continue; the membership and the zone are well represented through their efforts.

OFAH Zone J membership concerns include:

- wind turbines;
- cormorants;
- municipal small game licenses;
- land access, restrictions, or fees for access;
- Hillman Marsh/Point Pelee;
- Grand River watershed issues;
- relationships with First Nations;
- changing whitetail deer populations;
- invasive species such as Emerald Ash Bore, Asian Carp, Kuduz Vine;
- Luther Marsh operating and future use;
- Brant County discharge bylaw;
- Zorra Township noise bylaws;
- Sunday gun hunting; and
- pushing forward with the decommissioning of the Misner and Springbank dams.

Please keep us informed. Several member clubs are now sending their Zone Executive meeting minutes and newsletters, which are an excellent vehicle to keep us informed of their club's activities. If you wish, we can post your upcoming events on the very successful OFAH Zone J website www.ofah.org/zonej. This also keeps others informed of club issues/events, and helps us keep current with club executive changes. Please contact Kathy Moore to put us on the mailing/contact list for your club newsletters and minutes.

Please have a safe and enjoyable 2011!

OFAH Agricultural Liaison Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – Jim Magee

The OFAH Agriculture Liaison Advisory Committee continues to work on issues that involve wildlife and the OFAH

As indicated in past reports, wildlife damage is continuing to be a major problem in Ontario. In a recent study, the George Morriss Centre at the University of Guelph put losses at \$41 million annually, which is probably a conservative estimate. Most of the species causing the damage are game or furbearing animals. In some cases, nonhunted species, such as song birds, cause fruit damage.

There is no compensation for crop damage, which make up most of the losses. The Agriculture community is pushing the government for action in this area.

For predation of livestock or honey bee colonies, there is some compensation, but it does not cover all losses. For example, small lambs may be carried away by predators, so the farmer can not prove a loss. Coyotes continue to be the main predator of livestock. The OFAH Board of Directors agreed to the snaring of coyotes in southern Ontario to assist the livestock industry. They asked that only nonlethal, relaxing snares be used, and that snaring of problem predators only be allowed between early April and October 15.

A significant number of coyotes are taken each winter by hound hunters, and there is an increasing number of people taking up the challenge of calling them.

We would like to encourage more hunters to take up this exciting activity during the winter, and have talked of holding coyote hunting workshops; however, as volunteers, there is only so much we can do. Perhaps there is an opportunity for the agriculture community, the MNR and the OFAH to work together to develop such initiatives.

OFAH head office, in conjunction with the Victoria Stewardship Council, is developing a manual to describe wildlife damage to crops and livestock in Ontario. This version was largely based on the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Crop Damage Manual, and we would like to thank them for allowing us to use their material. We would also like to thank those who sent wildlife damage photos to OFAH head office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the OFAH Agriculture Liaison Advisory Committee, and head office staff, for their commitment in 2010.

OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – Doug Ogston

New Moose Tag Transfer Policy

In 2008/2009, the MNR conducted extensive consultation with hunters and the public as part of Ontario's Moose Program Review. As part of this review, hunters and the public were asked to share their ideas on how to improve the distribution of resident hunting opportunities.

This revised policy was developed in response to hunter feedback received during Moose Program Review consultations, which indicated that most hunters supported more strict conditions surrounding the transfer of moose validation tags.

Eligibility Criteria

The MNR shall transfer a hunter's tag only if all of the following eligibility criteria are met:

- the hunter who wishes to have the MNR transfer their tag had applied to the moose validation tag draw as a member of a group;
- the hunter did not request a transfer of their tag to another hunter the last time they received a tag. A hunter who has previously transferred a tag must accept a tag in his/her name before he/she is permitted to perform another transfer, as consecutive requests for tag transfers are not permitted;
- the hunter's group has not already requested a transfer that

year. The transfer of a tag can not be reversed to return the tag back to the original recipient; and

- the moose season for which the tag is valid has not yet opened. If a hunter does not meet eligibility criteria b), c) or d), they may be considered for a transfer only if one of the circumstances listed below applies to him/her (and to the original tag recipient, if they are not the same individual), and has occurred following his/her application to the moose tag draw. These circumstances are:

- injury, illness or death preventing participation in the hunt;
- injury, illness or death of an immediate relative; or
- change in employment or cancellation of vacation time.

The hunter(s) must provide supporting documentation with respect to the circumstances described above. In addition to the circumstances above, the tag transfer history of a hunter (and that of the original tag recipient, if they are not the same individual) will be considered. Hunters with a history of performing numerous tag transfers could have their transfer request denied.

Conditions of Tag Transfer

A moose validation tag can only be transferred to the designated alternate in the group;

- If the designated alternate was noncompliant with mandatory reporting in an applicable WMU the previous year, they are ineligible to receive a tag through a transfer. No other alternate

will be chosen and the hunter's group will not be able to perform a tag transfer;

- A moose validation tag can be transferred to a Pool 2 hunter, only if the tag is for a WMU where a Pool 2 hunter had a chance to receive a tag of the same type in the draw; and
- Hunters who receive a moose validation tag through a transfer will be placed in Pool 2 the following year. Hunters who have transferred a tag to another group member will remain in Pool 1 in the following year.

Please refer to the 2011 Hunting Regulations Summary for up-to-date details about the administrative process for transferring a tag (i.e. regarding the application form and fees).

Black Bear Enhanced Management

The MNR gave us an update on the progress of this much-welcomed plan to manage bears, not people, to reduce human/bear conflicts across Ontario.

We were told that many MNR Districts have completed mailings to stakeholders, such as tourist outfitters and trappers, to get feedback on the revised and updated WMU-specific black bear information.

Last June, MNR staff workshops were held to discuss Black Bear Ecological Zone considerations, bear population assessments across Ontario, the preparation of WMU black bear population estimates and objectives, and harvest workshops for a management manual.

Population estimating and monitoring using barbed wire hair traps and DNA analysis continues across the province on a seven-year cycle. WMU's last done in 2005 should be redone in 2012 to continually update the estimated population by WMU, as well as provincially. The first cycle of all WMU estimates is almost complete.

Based on local population and harvest strategies, bear outfitters will be notified of allocation adjustments for the 2012 season in June 2011. We expect to be consulted for input into WMU bear population objectives and management.

The Bear Management Area (BMA) Program will be modernized with a review of the current policies, procedures, BMA's and boundaries, assignments and licensing.

Through the Ontario Moose Bear Advisory Committee, the Ontario Big Game Management Advisory Committee, and OFAH representatives, we will be front and center on improvements being proposed by the MNR, and we welcome the opportunity to comment on them.

Hunt Camp Black Bear License Proposal

OFAH head office received a "resolution" and request for OFAH consideration and acceptance, and for presentation to the MNR from the Beaver Meadow Hunt Club for consideration.

After discussions with Mike Reader, a letter was sent to the Beaver Meadow Hunt Club advising them that the matter could be handled more efficiently outside of the resolution procedure by directing it to the OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee for consideration, as it could be covered under existing OFAH policy and placed on the April meeting agenda; subsequently, the club agreed to our suggestion.

We dealt with the recommendation and had preliminary discussions with the MNR at the OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee meeting; we then put forth the following recommendation to the OFAH Board of Directors for consideration at the April Board of

Directors' meeting, where it was carried:

"That the OFAH work with MNR staff to enact changes to the hunting regulations, permitting organized groups engaged in party hunting of moose or deer to share one or more black bear licenses among the members of the group to permit any hunter in the party to legally harvest a black bear."

Unfortunately, due to more pressing big game issues currently being addressed, only preliminary discussions between OFAH and MNR staff have taken place toward helping us formulate a proposal. OFAH staff will pursue the matter in the new year with OFAH members and the MNR.

Ontario Deer Management Updates

Based on feedback from deer hunters over the last couple of seasons, there appear to be reductions in deer harvests in some parts of Ontario. OFAH staff have been looking into the situation, and shortly, the OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee will be addressed on topics by MNR Regional Biologists from the Northwest, Northeast, and Southern Regions of Ontario.

A quick canvas of advisory committee members about observations they have made and had passed on from hunters, indicate that there are clear indications of reduced harvests and deer observed in some areas of the province. The "why" is open to various interpretations, from increased predation by coyotes and wolves, early agricultural crop removal, late rutting, etc. Hats for Hides collection centres are also reporting lower returns by hunters.

We will keep you posted as things develop. The question is: Does the MNR need to revise deer management practices to address the concern?

The 2010 deer harvest in southern and northeastern Ontario should shed some light on deer population trends and lead to improved management.

Elk Management Program

In June 2010, Ontario's Elk Management Plan, which provides a policy framework for elk management in Ontario, was approved. In August 2010, the MNR initiated consultation on proposed policies and regulations to implement several aspects of the Elk Management Plan. Consultation via the Environmental Registry ended October 14, and MNR Wildlife Policy staff have since reviewed input provided by stakeholders and the general public. The elk program includes the following policies, guidelines and regulations that were recently approved following consultation:

- Elk Population Objective Setting Guidelines, which outlines a process for determining an appropriate number of elk to inhabit an area, and is based on ecological, social and environmental factors;
- Elk Harvest Management Guidelines, which outlines a number of tools and a planning process for determining how an elk harvest could be conducted in areas where self-sustaining populations exist;
- Policy for Protecting Agricultural Property from Elk, which guides how authorizations to harass or remove elk in protection of agricultural property will be issued to farmers;
- Elk Harvest Allocation System, which outlines how elk hunting opportunities will be distributed; and
- Regulations to open an elk hunting season from September 19 to 25, 2011, in WMU's 60, 61, 62, 63A, 57 and 58 (Bancroft/North Hastings area), and specifying the conditions of a regulated hunt (e.g. hunter orange requirement, firearms, etc.)

Please refer to the 2011 Hunting Regulations Summary for up-to-

date details on the three-step application process for the random draw and license fees associated with it.

Woodland Caribou Conservation Plan

On September 10, OFAH staff gave us an update on recent meetings held with Rick Gollat, a retired moose biologist, and Glenn Rivard and Gilles Dumais of OFAH Zone B, on proposals associated with the Woodland Caribou Conservation Plan. Road closures and silviculture to replace mixed forest and confer (using herbicide treatment) are a major concern, due to their negative impact on moose habitat, populations, and hunter access in the future.

Hunters need to attend public forest management planning meetings and voice their concerns and opposition to the revisions being proposed that will significantly affect moose habitat, populations, and harvest opportunities. OFAH staff are readying to advise hunters, and will continue our analysis and specific opposition at whatever levels present themselves. This is not a new battle – we have been involved over the past decade or more at all levels, and will continue.

On December 3, the OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee was given the minutes of a lengthy video conference meeting between MNR and OFAH staff on wildlife and forestry implications of the Caribou Conservation Plan implementation. As mentioned earlier, the implications and impact on the moose resource and all of its facets “dictates” that this become a “number one” priority

within the OFAH. Our members, moose hunters, and tourist outfitters in the moose business need to become informed, and ready to stand up and be counted at forest management meetings that are forthcoming.

On January 5, OFAH staff contacted OFAH Zones A, B, C and D to identify dates and locations of upcoming meetings, so that they can arrange to have MNR staff attend and discuss the Caribou Conservation Plan.

In Summary

2010 was a busy, but exciting year with all of the various big game management plans we worked on.

The highlight came with the January 2011 announcement by the Minister of Natural Resources, Honourable Linda Jeffrey, that there will be an elk hunt this fall. Once again, we had MNR Wildlife Policy Advisors at all of our big game meetings, where open and frank discussions led to good recommendations from the OFAH which became key elements of policies, guidelines, and regulations that were approved. We thank them for their time and effort, and look forward to a new year of meetings and progress on wildlife issues of concern.

Special “thanks” go to OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee members and OFAH staff for their participation and assistance throughout the year.

OFAH Bowhunting Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – Len Dickinson

It has been another frustrating year for the OFAH Bowhunting Advisory Committee with respect to MNR's resistance to provide adequate mandatory bowhunter education for new hunters. The OFAH sent another letter to the MNR as a reminder of our commitment for an Ontario International Bowhunting Education Program that would provide the training needed to improve on hunter image, and to give students a better understanding of the complexity and skills required to become a good bowhunter.

If you only wish to bow hunt and receive an H2 Outdoors Card, you must take the minimum 90 minutes of bowhunter education within the Ontario Hunter Education Program, which only allows time for the instructors to show you the different types of bows,

arrows, and arrowheads. After taking this course, you are qualified to hunt and shoot big game animals with a bow; however, you are still required to take two hours of firearms training in order to do so. Students wanting to only bow hunt get more training on firearms than bows.

The MNR needs to realize that their obligation is to promote hunter image and provide the best education possible. We are behind most jurisdictions when it comes to bowhunter education. The OFAH has worked hard to ensure that we are all responsible and well educated hunters, and bowhunters need current knowledge and training to make appropriate decisions on shots, and know their limitation.

It is up to you to ask the MNR what they are going to do about this.

OFAH Firearms/Recreational Shooting/Hunter Education Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – Bill Blackwell

FIREARMS AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING

Bill C391

It was a shame to lose this very important bill by one vote, particularly after all of the work done by the OFAH and the firearms community across the country. We will continue to work with the government on plans to introduce a government sponsored bill after the next election.

MNR EBR on CVA Electronic Muzzleloader

The MNR EBR posting #011-1052, which proposes to update the definition of a muzzleloader to include the CVA electronic ignition muzzleloader, was finally posted in the fall of 2010. The regulation giving effect to the posting should be approved by Cabinet early in 2011. It will provide for the use of electronic muzzleloaders during the muzzleloader-only deer and moose seasons, in addition to the percussion cap and flintlock muzzleloaders currently allowed.

Micro Stamping of Firearms

The Federal Minister of Justice is considering a number of options, including the application of a metal sticker to fulfill the marking requirements of the U.N. resolution. A final decision of this issue has been deferred to December 2012.

Canadian Firearm Safety Course (CFSC) Instructor Suspensions

Increasing reports of improper teaching and testing methods by some instructors has prompted the Chief Firearms Office (CFO) and Firearm Safety Education Service of Ontario (FSESO) to monitor courses and tests conducted by suspected or reported offenders. Investigators identified a few instructors not meeting the standards required for instruction and testing. In some cases, local police authorities have laid criminal charges against the instructors. The CFO has stopped the issuance of firearms licenses and processing of paperwork for participants who took courses from these individuals, because of questions about the validity of training received. These persons are allowed one free attempt to challenge the exam and practical test. If they pass, their paperwork is processed and they can apply for their PAL; if they fail, they can either challenge the test or retake the course and test at their own expense. It is estimated that at least 2,000 applications are being held, waiting for the people to re-take the test.

Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC) – Rewrite of CFSC and CRFSC Courses and Exams

A new manual that combines nonrestricted and restricted manuals into one version is supposed to be ready for April 2011. The CFC is also hoping to have new tests available at the same time.

Gravel Pits and Sighting in Rifles

Sighting in rifles at private or municipal gravel pits was a topic of discussion at the most recent meeting with the CFO. While the CFO has not received letters of complaint about this practice, there are concerns over public safety and liability issues.

High-Powered Pellet Rifles – Range Rules

The CFO has informed a couple of clubs that they can not shoot high-powered pellet rifles on ranges that are not certified or licensed for this use. Without proper berms and backstops, the use of these firearms can result in an accident for which the club will be liable. “Combat action” where shooters move from station to station, can not occur without backstops or overshoot areas which allow for lead pellets to fall on the range.

Status of Range Construction Guidelines Rewrite

The CFO is in the process of rewriting the range guidelines for Ontario, which will be based upon the Federal Guidelines for Ranges; however, the rewrite is on hold pending assistance from the RCMP.

“No Blue Sky” Requirements for Outdoor Ranges – Baffling Clarification

Clubs are asking for clarification on when baffling is needed so “no blue sky” is visible. The rules are for handgun ranges 50m or more, and rifle ranges 200m or more require baffles.

Ammunition Purchase Recording Requirements – Federal and Provincial

Stores such as Canadian Tire and TSC are still asking for a person’s driver’s license and recording names, addresses, etc., for ammunition purchases. These are the old provincial standards, which are now superseded by federal guidelines. All that is required is your POL or PAL, and the store only needs to record

the ammunition purchased along with the POL or PAL number. On October 8, 2010, the CFO sent a letter to all businesses selling ammunition to inform them of this change.

Home Inspections of Collectors

The CFO was going to undertake home storage inspection in 2011 for persons who have more than 200 firearms in their collection. The plan has now been abandoned.

Inheritance/Estate Clarification – Definition of “Reasonable Time”

If a person is inheriting firearms and needs a license to do so, or if you are acting as an executor of a will, “reasonable time” means that you are actively addressing the situation. The Crown also noted that under the Firearms Act, a person who is the executor of a will who is not licensed themselves is, by law, deemed to have the same firearms license status as the deceased person only while dealing with the disposition of firearms that are part of the estate.

Expired Firearms Licenses and Firearms Confiscations

In some areas, (e.g. Toronto, Hamilton and Sudbury), local police were going to the homes of firearms owners whose firearms licenses (POL’s/PAL’s) have expired, and seizing firearms. This is not a CFO initiative, but a city police initiative. Once a firearm license expires, the registration certificate for that firearm is also considered null and void. In these cases, police are not providing a grace period for the renewal of licenses, so please keep your license up to date.

Canadian Benchrest Shooting Team Sponsorship

Earlier this year, a Peterborough area couple, both OFAH members, represented Canada at a Benchrest Shooting competition in the United States, and won their respective categories. They will be representing Canada at the Benchrest World Championship competition in France in 2011. The OFAH Board of Directors has agreed to provide funding in the amount of \$6,000 to support the team. Additional support from companies such as Winchester and Stoeger will also be sought.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Hunter Education Program Continues to Grow

For the ninth year in a row, Ontario’s Hunter Education Program has experienced strong growth. The final numbers for students and courses taught in 2010 are:

Number of Students	17,645
Number of Instructors	313
Total Courses	1,586
One-stop Courses	1,219
Stand-Alone Courses	582
Average course/instructor	5.5
Average class size	10.8

Wild Turkey Seminars on DVD for “Home Study”

The MNR plans to have the home study DVD version of the Ontario Wild Turkey Hunter Education Seminar available in 2011. This will allow people living in remote places, out of the province, or who cannot get to a seminar the opportunity to purchase the DVD and do the course at home. Once completed, they will contact a certified Hunter Education Instructor, pay the \$10 fee, and write the test. Half-day onsite seminars will continue to be available.

International Hunter Education Association Meeting

In August, the IHEA Region 1 Canada held their annual meeting in Peterborough. Hunter Education coordinators were present from most provinces and the Northwest Territories. Guest speakers included Eric Bassaler from the RCMP, head of the CFSC program for Canada, and the Newfoundland/Labrador coordinator, who spoke about their coyote and bear hunter/trapper programs. Participants also visited the OFAH head office and toured the OFAH/Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre.

Hunter Orange on Helmets and Pop-Up Blinds

In the 2010 Hunting Regulations Summary, the MNR proposed that in seasons when hunter orange is required, they were considering the additional requirement of adding hunter orange on the outside of manufactured tents or pop-up ground blinds, and ATV or skidoo helmets. In the absence of factual evidence,

the OFAH reaffirmed its earlier opposition to the proposal. We understand that the MNR have now abandoned the idea.

Fall Training Courses

Each fall, instructors are busy teaching Firearms Safety and Hunter Education courses for persons who wait until the last minute. A hunting license can be issued on the same day a person passes their exam. The same is not true for a firearms license. The minimum time from passing the Canadian Firearms Safety Course until you have a license in hand is three months. Sharing a firearm with a licensed partner is the only recourse if the firearms license has not arrived prior to hunting season. If you plan to hunt with a gun in the fall, take your courses before August.

The waiting situation does not apply to bowhunting. A hunting license is all that is required because under the *Firearms Act*, a bow is not considered a "firearm."

OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – Fred Geberdt

Throughout 2010, the following volunteer OFAH members have served on our OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee, and have worked on and made numerous recommendations to our OFAH Board of Directors and head office staff regarding pressing fisheries issues occurring throughout Ontario:

- Roy DeCorte (OFAH Zone A);
- Debbie Rivard (OFAH Zone B);
- Peter Sword (OFAH Zone C);
- Dan Polsky and Rolly Frappier (OFAH Zone D);
- Ed Giffin (OFAH Zone F);
- Jack Osadzuk (OFAH Zone H);
- Felix Barbetti (OFAH Zone J);
- Dr. John Casselman;
- Dr. Harold Harvey; and
- Dr. Bruce Tufts

We would also like to give special thanks to our OFAH head office support staff for their assistance, guidance, and their follow through on fisheries issues occurring throughout our province.

The following is an overview of some of the fisheries issues that we dealt with, and in many cases, continue to work on.

Fisheries Management Zones (FMZ) Advisory Councils

Over the past year, our required attention and time spent on FMZ business increased tremendously. At OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee meetings, we have been spending fifty percent of our time on the fisheries issues and reports brought forth from the operating FMZ Advisory Councils.

The following is a brief look at the ongoing development of the 20 FMZ's in the Province of Ontario:

- in 2007, pilot councils were established in FMZ's 6, 10, and 17;
- in 2008, councils were formed for FMZ's 18, 19 and 20;
- in 2009, FMZ's 4, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 took initial steps to form councils;
- in 2010, a council was formed in FMZ 5; and
- in 2011, councils are expected to be formed for FMZ's 7, 8, 15 and 16.

It is unclear how FMZ's 1, 2, and 3 will operate, but we expect that they will not follow the existing template, but possibly be included in some way with other far north planning exercises.

It is interesting to note that some FMZ's have divided their areas into two sections, and have set up sub-committees. Additionally, while the majority of the FMZ's operate successfully, a few have run into difficulties, having been faced with insufficient MNR funding, resulting in their activities being reduced.

This past year, the OFAH recognized the need to assist OFAH representatives on the FMZ Advisory Councils. With the financial assistance from OFAH zones, we were able to host a workshop for approximately 30 OFAH FMZ representatives, plus OFAH zone chairs in April. The workshop involved assistance regarding:

- roles and responsibilities;
- OFAH fisheries and water resources policies; and
- a working list of contacts.

Until recently, OFAH Board members or OFAH fisheries staff, have represented the OFAH on the FMZ Advisory Councils. In the near future, due to the development of future FMZ's and the attrition of our present OFAH FMZ representatives, we will face an increased demand for OFAH representation on the FMZ Advisory Councils. The following lists our present OFAH representatives, and reflects on our future needs for O.F.A.H representatives on the FMZ Advisory Councils:

FMZ 1, 2 & 3 future northern planning initiative

FMZ 4 Roy DeCorte, Dennis Kristjanson

FMZ 5 Roy DeCorte

FMZ 6 Deb Rivard, Neil Wiens, Rick Tomiak

FMZ 7 expected to form in 2011

FMZ 8 expected to form in 2011

FMZ 9 (east sub-committee)

FMZ 9 (west sub-committee) Deb Rivard, Neil Wiens, Rick Tomiak

FMZ 10 Rolly Frappier, Felix Delongchamp

FMZ 11 Dan Polsky

FMZ 12 Eugene O'Beirn, Doug Antler, Pierre Boucher, Don Pajot (alternate)
FMZ 13 Jack Osadzuk
FMZ 14 Rolly Frappier, Dennis Wiseman
FMZ 15 expected to form in 2011
FMZ 16 expected to form in 2011
FMZ 17 Chris Robinson, Dawn Sucee (alternate)
FMZ 18 Ed Giffin, Len Dickinson
FMZ 19 Felix Barbetti, Alf Marinelli, Charlie Ross (alternate), Tony Jackson (alternate)
FMZ 20 (west basin) Chris Robinson, Dawn Sucee (alternate)
FMZ 20 (east basin) Mike Howe
Lake Simcoe Jeremy Holden, Matt DeMille (alternate)

The FMZ Advisory Councils are slowly changing the way fisheries business is conducted across Ontario, and we continue to evolve along with the FMZ Advisory Councils. The OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee is engaged with the MNR to improve the working process related to FMZ's, and is taking a lead role in the development of this process.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and MNR Fish Habitat Protection Regarding Hydroelectric and Wind Power Generation Projects

Dan Thompson, DFO Habitat Team Leader, Southern Ontario District, provided the OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee with information on DFO's regulatory mandate outlining Federal Fisheries Act provisions dealing with Section 20 - Fishways; Section 22 - Sufficient Flows; Section 30 - Safeguards/Screens; Section 32 - Destruction of Fish; and Section 35 - Harmful, Alteration, Destruction, Degradation (HADD).

We also engaged in discussions on the Species at Risk Act. It is important to note that once a species has been formally listed, it is unlawful to kill or harm them. Habitat protection comes into play with a required recovery strategy. This past fall, the recovery strategies for five minnow species within southern Ontario took effect, with the objective of no net loss of productive habitats.

We were disappointed to learn that DFO does not approve hydro dams or wind turbine initiatives; it is the responsibility of the Province of Ontario (MNR and MOE). The DFO has received a number of offshore wind proposals, but their review only includes assessment of the significance of direct habitat loss, and alteration of habitat. We were informed that several DFO guides are available on their website, including Practitioners Guide to Fish Passage and Risk Management Framework that outlines what projects do not require DFO approval, those that need risk assessments, and project denials which are based on risks.

The DFO did not engage in many of our concerns, and even suggested that some habitat might benefit from offshore wind turbine installations. The DFO has conducted an electromagnetic study, which the science shows no concern, and the structure can be insulated. We raised questions about vibrations. This study has not been done, and DFO is not sure who would be responsible for leading the study.

The OFAH recently completed a draft document regarding our wind power policy, and suggests that when reviewing the draft OFAH policy for wind power development, OFAH members involved in the wind power issue should read and keep in mind the

document, "The Importance of Fish Habitat to Ecosystem Health and Recreational Fisheries."

The OFAH asked the DFO if after 25 years in effect, whether an evaluation of the Federal Fisheries Act had been done. We referred to last year's Auditor General's report, which was critical of DFO's strong policy objectives, but questionable performance (no report card). They informed us that, on a national level, the DFO is working on this issue.

We also engaged discussions with MNR Energy Policy Branch, regarding water power projects. Water power projects need Lake and Rivers Improvement Act (LRIA) permits from the MNR. The MNR stated that all federal approvals are required before LRIA permits are issued. If the federal government says "no," concerning all data on fisheries management and flow requirements per DFO standards, then presume there will be no permit issued.

The Centre of Expertise on Hydropower Impacts on Fish and Fish Habitat was developed in 2006; its mandate is to assess and mitigate the impacts of hydroelectric power facilities and operation in order to protect the health and production of freshwater fish. The OFAH contends that many of these rules and guidelines are made by engineers, and fisheries issues are often at a disadvantage. We contend that the *Green Energy Act* is the most significant policy decision in a generation. We are currently facing 42 hydroelectric projects and numerous wind power proposals, which may have significant negative impacts on our fish and wildlife populations.

MNR Fisheries Policy Section

A number of informative sessions have been held between the MNR Fisheries Policy Section and the OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee. A main topic at these sessions related to some of our concerns with inconsistencies and how some MNR District Offices were running the FMZ's. Resourcing and financial support is becoming a challenge for some MNR offices in this matter, and some FMZ's have lost members, due to the lack of action. The MNR has indicated that the last thing they want to do is waste people's time.

To address OFAH concerns, the MNR has placed Dan Taillon, MNR Fisheries Biologist, to work on FMZ matters. He will be checking with MNR Districts responsible for running FMZ Advisory Councils, and will be meeting with the OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee a number of times in the near future.

On a more positive note, the MNR Fisheries Policy Section provided us with a preview of MNR's future online fisheries mapping tool. This is a web-based application using Google Maps to allow users to plan fishing trips by searching lakes, species, license issuers, launch sites, etc. Twenty-five destination lakes will have a one-page information sheet highlighting regulations. The MNR is hopeful that this communication tool will increase the promotion of our fisheries in Ontario.

MNR Fisheries Policy Section also provided us with an update regarding an MNR bait review. They are pulling together information and science that will enable them to provide a meaningful review, including terms of reference for a bait council, and defining a bait management plan. They are presently waiting for MNR approvals to move forward with this bait review.

Bamoos Lake Mining Tailings Proposal

Marathon Platinum Group Metals (PGM) proposed a precious-metal mine, a 2,371-acre open pit mine, with annual tailings projected to be 6.9 million cubic yards. The company offered two

options for the disposal of tailings:

North Option: dump tailings directly into nearby Bamoos Lake (a popular lake with a Brook Trout fishery) – this would destroy it as a coldwater lake; or

South Option: build a dozen dams to create an impoundment for tailings disposal – this would destroy 44 ponds and 30 streams.

After consultations with First Nations, government agencies, residents, and OFAH Zone B, Marathon PGM decided to withdraw the North Option from further consideration. The company requested a hiatus period in the federal environment assessment process to reevaluate what to do with the mine waste.

The OFAH noted that a series of amendments to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)* came into force in July 2010. The CEAA will perform the duties and functions of the “responsible authority” for the Marathon PGM until their submission of the comprehensive study report is made to the Minister of the Environment. These amendments also require that the Agency provide the public with the opportunity to comment on the project and comprehensive study.

OFAH Fishing Tournament Policy

We revised the existing policy and it was approved by the OFAH Board of Directors. The previous existing policy was unclear or omitted support for catch and keep fishing derbies, such as the Great Ontario Salmon Derby, the Chantry Chinook Classic, the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular, and many others throughout Ontario. Also tournament guidelines expressed in the policy are no longer distributed or widely used by the OFAH. We also had a concern that no references were mentioned concerning the possible threat of spreading invasive species during these events.

DFO Great Lakes Aquatic Protected Areas (APA's)

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) funded a study to look at APA's and assess how they are being used in the Great Lakes. The OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee addressed this issue with Dr. Kevin Hedges, DFO, who is involved in marine and aquatic protected areas. The DFO has power to create APA's under the Fisheries and Oceans Act (Part 11); however, since lakes and rivers are under provincial jurisdiction, the DFO is only party to the formation of any future APA's.

APA's are becoming far more common globally; most of us are aware of the large APA in northwestern Lake Superior. Their benefits include the protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, conservation, resource management, and recreation.

DFO's inventoried data for existing seasonal and permanent APA's showed many protected areas around the Great Lakes (e.g. sanctuaries). It was found that habitat protection in these areas was not intentional, and the focus was on the protection of single species in their spawning areas, that the majority of these protected areas were outside of the Great Lakes proper (i.e. 96 sanctuaries which are all in tributaries), and that many of the APA's in southern Ontario are on private property. The study also found that most habitat protected areas and sanctuaries did not have a follow up assessment; therefore, their effectiveness was poorly measured. It was of interest to us that the survey results were only done on native species, and excluded Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Chinook Salmon.

We concluded that it is important to show scientific results before impacting stakeholder, commercial or sport fishing with the future development of more APA's. Many questions remain: Is

species diversity higher in APA's? Does healthy fish habitat make it harder for invasive species to become established? Are APA communities more resistant to invasion? The DFO found a lot of existing data, but most was from outside of the Great Lakes Basin, reflecting that most sampling was done in the United States, and all studies were limited to only native species. The OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee remains cautious regarding the development of more APA's. We need transparency about threats and reasons for protection, and the amount needed.

Bait Resource Use and Management in Ontario

We have had several overviews and discussions regarding the live bait industry. Brenda Koenig, MNR, presented an in-depth review of the benefits, issues, and biological and coordination concerns related to this important resource sector. It is expected that to assist in the management requirements of this important industry, a baitfish FMZ might be the outcome, since it is unlikely that a baitfish association will form again. _

As anglers and those involved in the harvest and sale of bait, the following is a list of some ongoing concerns and present conditions that we are experiencing:

- transporting invasive bait species by baitfish operators and anglers;
- harvesting of species at risk;
- the OFAH and the MNR have partnered to facilitate awareness and training with baitfish operators and anglers;
- prohibition on transporting live baitfish does not apply to anglers;
- it is illegal to release live baitfish or empty contents of a bait bucket within 30 meters of any waters;
- localized restrictions are presently in place, such as park bans on live bait, and bait collection areas;
- other than suckers, anglers may trap for baitfish and possess a total of 120;
- name and address must be on the bait trap;
- to harvest and sell baitfish, a commercial baitfish license is needed;
- commercial bait harvesters and tourist bait harvesters have different licenses and fee structures;
- temporary licenses for tournaments are issued some times;
- there are 7,000 bait harvest areas mapped out in Ontario. The far northern large areas and southern areas of Ontario are allocated by the MNR according to a point system;
- bait harvesters were most affected by VHS positive waters, which effected their sale and movement of baitfish; and some small operators even went out of business;
- VHS zones have been identified, and the most recent mapping is current to 2010;
- VHS has shown up in Lake Superior;
- Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, and several inland watersheds have been VHS infected; and
- U.S. jurisdictions and Ontario had different responses on VHS; Ontario is the least restrictive.

The OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee continues to pursue up-to-date information on this issue.

Discussion and policy surrounding bait harvest and use needs to remain in the context of sustainable use. Challenges related to bait movement resulting in the transfer of invasive species and diseases are extremely important and require ongoing discussion. Anglers need to recognize that movement of bait, while not currently

regulated with anglers, should be discouraged. Public education should be the first tool utilized before a regulatory approach is set in place.

OFAH Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP) Survey

This past year, the OFAH completed a CFWIP survey with OFAH member clubs and had 120 responses returned. Data collected included:

- 20% of OFAH member clubs received CFWIP funding;
- 30% of funds received went to hatchery operations;
- 80% of our OFAH member clubs received other forms of assistance from the MNR; and
- 90% of OFAH member clubs felt CFWIP funding did not cover much of the costs in their projects.

North Ontario Aquaculture Association (NOAA)

During discussions at Queen's Park in April 2010, it was felt that the OFAH and NOAA should meet. The OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee followed up on this preliminary contact, and arranged for a meeting in September.

The purpose for the meeting was to look at future partnerships between NOAA and the OFAH for wild fishery enhancements, especially in the Great Lakes. NOAA was invited to make comments and suggestions, and to provide up-to-date clarification to the OFAH policy on aquaculture. They were also requested to provide information on the history of their organization, as well as their best management practices to illustrate how they follow the OFAH policy on aquaculture.

The following are some points of interest presented by NOAA:

- NOAA cage aquaculture solely grows domestic strains of Rainbow Trout from captive stock;
- NOAA has nine licensed cage sites – Cold Water Fisheries Inc. (3), First Nations (3), Meeker's Aquaculture (1), Aqua-cage Fisheries Inc. (1), and North Wind Fisheries Inc.(1);
- there are many people (some from the MNR) who claim that the best Lake Trout recruitment and fishing in the North Channel is around cage aquaculture;
- DFO is presently carrying out a depositional modelling program that will help to predict the impacts of cage culture, with specific focus on the area where sediments (fish waste) will fall;
- there is presently a study underway that is investigating the distribution and survival of farmed trout escapees; trout are equipped with transmitters and then released;
- NOAA stated that there have not been any new cage culture farms since 1997, because of a legislation change that made it very difficult to get a licence. This seems to be a lesser issue for First Nations attempting to acquire a licence;
- cage culture operators require a new licence every five years, rather than a renewal for their cage aquaculture sites. Under this licensing regime, it is not worth making any new expensive investments, due to the uncertainty of future licensing; and
- Mike Meeker, President of NOAA, began a fish compost project 5-6 years ago, due to the high production of waste associated with aquaculture (55% yield from a fillet). He originated experiments, which eventually led to a research project in collaboration with a number of other organizations (e.g. DFO and MNR). Ultimately, this product became commercially viable and is known as "Meeker's Magic Mix." It is an all natural fish compost created by a mixture of aquaculture operational waste from processed waste food, discarded fish parts, fish mortality and sawdust.

A large number of additional topics and issues were discussed and investigated as possible areas of joint cooperation, including invasive species, cage releases of antibiotic treated fish, fish genetics, fish pathogens (VHS), and cormorants.

One particular area of interest was a discussion on baitfish aquaculture. NOAA discussed a previous research project carried out by the University of Guelph, which was not pursued because of the lack of money; they now feel there is a real opportunity here. Baitfish aquaculture occurs in the United States, but is generally pond culture. Not only is there a huge demand and market for baitfish in Ontario, but the OFAH is also looking at similar possibilities, because it may also help to reduce the spread of pathogens and invasive species. Mike Meeker has brought up the issue of baitfish aquaculture a multiple of times with the Ontario Sustainable Aquaculture Working Group.

The meeting between the OFAH and NOAA concluded with an open invitation to attend each other's meetings. NOAA was invited to attend a future OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting, keeping in mind our statement of purpose -- look at possibilities for partnerships between our two associations for wild fishery enhancements in the Great Lakes.

Since the meeting in September, a number of communications have taken place between NOAA and the OFAH

Regulation Changes to the Kawartha/Rice Lake Area

Fisheries regulations were changed in the Kawartha/Rice Lake area to allow a year-round season for Pike, Perch, Crappie and Sunfish. This enabled ice fishing for the first time in many years, and allows anglers to keep 300 Sunfish, of which only 30 can be larger than 7.1 inches.

The Rice Lake Tourism Association (RLTA) objected to these changes and criticized ice fishing. They favored a separate FMZ, recommending 500 panfish with no size limit. The OFAH opposed the RLTA position, due to the loss of fishing opportunities and negative impacts on future sunfish populations. Live bait dealers came onside with the OFAH when they experienced an increase in their business in the winter. Adjoining municipal councils and cottagers were split on their support of the RLTA proposal. The OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee has one concern -- possible impacts on spawning stocks if ice fishing extends into the panfish spawning period.

Lake Simcoe

The large increase with Herring being caught in Lake Simcoe was discussed. The herring fishery was closed for the past 10 years, and now one- and two-year classes are showing up in good numbers. The MNR appears to be reluctant to reopen the herring fishery based only on these two-year classes, and if opened, might be for a short period of time. We were reminded that the recovery of Lake Trout would benefit more from herring than smelt. Herring populations are booming, resulting on major negative impacts on subsequent year classes; it might be prudent to harvest.

Whitefish and Walleye have been identified upstream from Pefferlaw Brook, and above the dam at Beaverton. As a result of Lake Simcoe Muskie stocking efforts, they should be showing up in index test netting in the near future.

The use of live bait in Lake Simcoe continues to be discussed at our meetings. There is a concern that future policies for the use of live bait in Lake Simcoe will have implications that would alter province-wide baitfish policies. The MNR has been asked to return

to the OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee with a revised list that reflects their preferred best options for the use of live bait for Lake Simcoe. Presently, we were exposed to over 20 options, ranging from no live bait, to locally caught bait, to various combinations of different bait shops. The Lake Simcoe Fisheries Stakeholder Committee is currently working at putting forth the best options for the use of live bait in Lake Simcoe, and as mentioned, the MNR Fisheries Policy Section is working on a bait review as well.

Additional Topics and Issues Addressed

- ongoing review of the OFAH fisheries policy binder;
- Namakin River hydro development proposal;
- ongoing Thames River, Springbank dam issues;
- illegal stocking and movement of Smallmouth Bass into northern Ontario waters;
- Colpoy's Bay fish sanctuary proposals;
- Walleye stocking and management objectives for inland lakes;
- Lake Erie commercial fishing;
- Bala Falls water power proposal;
- Chinook Salmon proposals for the Nipigon River and Lake Superior;
- enforcement and concerns related to present boating regulations;
- ongoing issue on MOE's water taking/water treatment fees for

- volunteer OFAH hatcheries;
- concerns related to fish ingesting plastic baits;
- Maple Hill Private dam on the Saugeen River;
- the Black Sturgeon River dam/Walleye habitat issue, and the proposed options;
- Misner dam (Lynn River/Lake Erie) decommissioning proposal;
- live Asian Carp being transported across the border at Windsor;
- concerns about slot sizes causing mortality with Lake Trout being caught in northern Ontario;
- Rainbow Trout creel reduction proposal for Lake Ontario;
- MNR Lake Trout stocking proposals for Lake Huron;
- movement of Asian Carp through the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal;
- Larder Lake hydro site proposals;
- Ringwood Fish Culture Station; and
- concerns with DFO's enforcement of fish habitat.

In closing, I would like to again thank the OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee volunteer members and OFAH head office staff for their continued support in dealing with the fisheries issues and challenges this past year.

OFAH Land Use/Access/Trails Advisory Committee Annual Report



Co-Chairs – Dennis Kristjanson and Roy Polsky

As predicted at the end of 2009, many of the issues which this advisory committee was faced with at that time continued to require the attention of the OFAH throughout 2010. We extend our appreciation to OFAH head office staff who have worked hard to represent our concerns on these issues, and provide valuable guidance on the matters dealt with throughout the year. Through our efforts, we hope to continue to position ourselves to meet the challenges that our members expect. Access issues vary across the province, and a number of these issues, in some way, affect most of our members.

The OFAH responded to a number of postings on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR):

Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program – the OFAH response on the proposed policy and guidelines addressed broadening of the permitted land uses, enhancing and expanding management and stewardship activities, relaxing requirements for MNR approvals for permitted land uses, and improving delivery of the program;

Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 – concerns expressed related to natural heritage policies;

Forest Management Plans – we responded on the Lac Seul and Black Spruce plans. Caribou recovery policies are having major implications for access, as well as habitat requirements for moose and other species. Several plans are coming up for review in 2011, and the OFAH will comment on them. As OFAH members, you are encouraged to participate in the review of those plans that may affect you, and respond with your concerns. Please keep us informed on your efforts; we need to work together;

Park Plans – we continue to monitor and respond to a number

of outstanding issues on several park plans and policies. Our concerns and suggestions for changes to the Quetico Provincial Park plan were relayed; and

Wind Power – land use and access implications with respect to industrial wind turbine development are being reviewed in conjunction with fish, wildlife, habitat and public safety concerns.

The provincial caribou strategy will impact access, and in turn, hunting and fishing in the recovery area. Most of this will occur through the development of Forest Management Plans. Recently, the recovery area was expanded further south than originally proposed. Many Ontario residents, and our members, who live outside the recovery area, hunt and fish within the recovery area. Through forest management planning, once harvested, regeneration of cut areas will place preference on the development of caribou habitat, and increase the level and frequency of road deterioration and restrictions. This is a clear lack of vision on the part of the province for the value of the area for recreational uses, such as hunting and fishing.

A brief summary of other actions include:

- Northumberland County (OFAH Zone E) approved a new forest plan that restricts hunting opportunities; the OFAH will continue its efforts to amend the plan, where opportunities exist;
- in the Sudbury Forest (OFAH Zone D), the decision of the MNR Regional Director, Northeast Region, to support the removal of certain access restrictions on the Spanish Arm Road was well received;
- the OFAH provided comments on the initial stages of the Crown Land Use Area Harmonization Project (OFAH Zone C), and we expect this process to continue this year;
- there is ongoing monitoring and communication on Presqu'île,

- Darlington, Kawartha Highlands Signature Site, and Quetico Provincial Parks; and
- the OFAH met with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) regarding hunting opportunities. Most NCC properties permit hunting, and they are willing to discuss opportunities

for cooperation with OFAH zones to assist with the facilitation of hunting on NCC lands.

Trends, as they are, suggest that 2011 will see many land use and access challenges for our organization.

OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee Annual Report



Co-Chairs – Gerry Haarmeyer and John Ford

OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee members include Gerry Haarmeyer, John Ford, Ed Giffin, Jack Doherty, Wes Brown, John Sullivan, Shirley Giffin, as well as President Rob Hare, and Executive Director Mike Reader.

The OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee met in April (Peterborough), September (Mississauga), and December (Mississauga) 2010. Many topics, with much documentation, were discussed and reviewed.

Three main issues continue to take up much of our time:

- Algonquin Land Claim;
- Saugeen/Cape Croker native commercial fishing agreement; and
- Métis harvesting (in general and within Algonquin Land Claim).

Algonquin Land Claim

The Algonquin Land Claim continued to be a major area of concern throughout 2010. We met, and continue to meet, with provincial and federal government officials to discuss our concerns regarding this issue. We have also attended Committee of External Advisors meetings, and have met with the provincial and federal Ministers responsible for native affairs.

The provincial government is pushing for an Agreement in Principle (AIP) with the Algonquins by May 2011, and preferably earlier. The OFAH fails to see the rush. We contend that the AIP must be general in nature, speak only about broad philosophical issues, and not contain specifics, which would be more difficult, if not impossible, to change at a later date. The OFAH has received assurances from the federal Minister that they are not in sync with the province's timeline, and believe the issue requires more time and consultation before an AIP is signed. The general public in the claim area is aware that meetings are ongoing, but are not aware of

the effect that an agreement may have on their day-to-day hunting and fishing heritage opportunities. The OFAH has developed and is implementing a strategy plan to increase the public scrutiny of the process, and to point out the potential pitfalls of rushing to sign an AIP.

Saugeen/Cape Croker Native Commercial Fishing Agreement

The agreement between the MNR and the Saugeen/Cape Croker community has expired, and a new agreement is to be negotiated. The MNR has held two meetings with interested stakeholders to update them on the status of the negotiations.

The OFAH has asked if the MNR will seek public input for the process, and if there will be provisions that provide for inspection and enforcement of quotas and species caught. We also asked if there were considerations of extending boundaries.

To date, we have not received clear answers to the questions, and have written to the Minister of Natural Resources for clarification.

Métis Harvesting

Harvesting of game and fish by Métis is occurring in many areas of the province. The MNR/Métis Harvesting policy recognizes the test set out by the Supreme Court of Canada which must be satisfied for a Métis claimant to prove rights. Many of the locations have not demonstrated the existence of a Métis community in the harvesting area; however, the MNR is not enforcing their policy.

This is creating animosity among all harvesters in local areas, and a general disregard for established law enforcement. The OFAH has requested clarification from the MNR regarding this very important issue.

The OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee also reviewed a number of court cases from Ontario and other jurisdictions.

OFAH Past Presidents Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – John Ford

I am very pleased to be able to present to you with a very short Past Presidents Advisory Committee report for 2010.

It was a relatively quiet year for the Past Presidents, as we continued to work on the overall review of the OFAH Constitution and Bylaws.

As you are aware, the OFAH Constitution and Bylaws provides, what we believe are the guiding principles for this organization, and defines how we govern the business called the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

The final review of the document was done in mid-2010, and has been forwarded to our legal counsel for his review. That review

is still underway, as there are a number of other items that need to be considered within the context of developing a new OFAH Constitution and Bylaws.

There is new provincial legislation which governs not-for-profits, and there have been some recent changes that our legal counsel wants to be sure are incorporated in our Constitution and Bylaws.

We expect that the Constitution and Bylaws will be ready to review some time in mid-2011, and unless there are some other delays, will be rewritten in time to be adopted by our Board late in 2011, and be brought to the annual general meeting in 2012 for ratification.

OFAH Provincial Director-at-Large Nominating Committee Annual Report



Chair – John Ford

No report.

OFAH Resolutions Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – Bill Blackwell

No report.

OFAH Sporting Dogs/Small Game Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – Tony Jackson

OFAH SPORTING DOGS/SMALL GAME I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OFAH Sporting Dogs/Small Game Advisory Committee members, as well as OFAH head office staff, for their help and support over the past 12 months on sporting dogs and small game topics.

There has been ongoing work with respect to completing a comprehensive OFAH Sporting Dogs/Small Game policy, and we hope that in 2011, the MNR will have resources to finally move forward with a much needed, comprehensive, small game review. MNR priorities have been focused elsewhere.

Coyote issues continue to lead as the top human/wildlife issue in much of southern Ontario. Much public information and education is still needed to understand the dynamics at play, and in the creation of good coyote management strategies.

Small game has become an underutilized activity in many parts of Ontario. Young and first-time hunters seem to be focused on big game species with extended archery seasons rather than small game. Squirrel, cottontail, pheasant, and other such species can provide excellent opportunities, but the glamour of such activities does not seem to hit the airwaves. There are many reading this today that “cut their teeth,” so to speak, hunting cottontail busting out of a brush pile, or from under a roll of fence wire. This fast paced, often unsuccessful activity provides a lot of fun and many great days in the field.

Squirrel populations appear very strong, yet few take advantage of this small game species. An afternoon still hunting in a hardwood

bush can teach you more about patience and animal habits than most people realize.

We will continue to discuss these topics in 2011, as we need to find ways to engage hunters to let them know that small game is a prized and rewarding hunting experience.

Concern remains around the presence and population of Ruffed Grouse in many areas of southern Ontario; in some cases, hunters are reporting that the birds seem to be nonexistent. In the northeast and northwest regions, there are mixed opinions, but reports suggest there are more Spruce Grouse than Ruffed Grouse. Wild Turkey hunter training is evolving. Thanks to the hard work of OFAH head office staff, we can expect updates to the existing program in 2011. There have also been many comments made from out-of-province hunters wishing to target Wild Turkeys in Ontario, yet they find the process of doing the course and being certified to hunt in Ontario less than convenient. We expect that the changes in program delivery will address this issue as well.

A reoccurring issue coming from the hunting community is lost game in the field, and the inability of hunters to use dogs that are capable of locating downed game animals in certain areas of the province and in “no dog” seasons. It seems practical to revisit those restrictions with the MNR. A leashed dog can aid in the recovery and prevent lost and spoiled game. We will move forward with a sporting dogs/small game policy, and engage the MNR in more meaningful discussions with respect to seasons, harvest limits, increased opportunities, and use of dogs. Having an adopted policy will assist us in future meetings with MNR staff.

OFAH Wetlands/Migratory Birds Advisory Committee Annual Report



Chair – Dr. Scott Petrie

The OFAH Wetlands/Migratory Birds Advisory Committee consists of Scott Petrie, Clark Boyd, Jim Greenwood, John Sullivan, Ed Reid, and Dawn Sucee. We were involved with a number of migratory bird and wetland-related issues in 2010, and the following is a brief update pertaining to the more important issues.

The Ontario Waterfowl Advisory Committee (OWAC) consists of members designated by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), the MNR, and the OFAH. They meet annually to make recommendations to the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Ontario Region, regarding migratory bird regulations. The Chair of the OFAH Wetlands/Migratory Birds Advisory Committee is also an OWAC member, which ensures that the OFAH annually

contributes to waterfowl regulatory changes within the province. Thanks to the OWAC and the CWS, waterfowl hunters in Ontario have been provided with substantial increases in opportunity over the past four years (e.g. length of seasons and limits).

Removal of Current Restrictions on Canvasback and Redhead Limits

The OWAC reviewed the current bag and possession limit restrictions on Canvasbacks and Redheads in Ontario. After a review of current population size and trends, as well as harvest estimates for Ontario, other parts of Canada, and the United States, it was agreed that the harvest restrictions in place in Ontario are no longer needed. Based on this, it is anticipated that the CWS will remove these restrictions prior to the 2011 waterfowl season.

Spring Snow Goose Hunt

Greater Snow Geese have reached an overabundant status, and the Quebec Region has had a special spring conservation hunting season since 1998. Spring Snow Goose numbers in eastern Ontario have increased and now number about 80,000 birds. In order to support the international goal of population reduction and to reduce crop losses, the CWS has approved a spring conservation harvest for Greater Snow Geese in eastern Ontario (WMU 65) starting in 2012; the season will be from March 1 until May 31. Snow Goose hunting will only be permitted on farm land, and hunters will be permitted to use electronic calls, but can not use bait. This season will help address a conservation concern (Snow Goose overabundance), while also providing increased opportunities for waterfowl hunters in Ontario.

Sandhill Crane Research

The OFAH and the CWS continue to support the study of Sandhill Cranes on Manitoulin Island and the North Shore Region. This population has increased (by at least 9,000 birds) to the point that agricultural producers are complaining about crop losses. During the summer of 2010, Everett Hanna (M.Sc. candidate – Long Point Waterfowl) studied the habitat use and productivity of birds on Manitoulin Island. He attached solar powered satellite transmitters to nine birds to track local and migratory movements over the next few years. The CWS and Long Point Waterfowl plan to continue to monitor and conduct research on this population.

Possession Limits

The CWS recently increased the waterfowl possession limit to three times the daily bag limit. This serves to harmonize the regulation with western provinces, and also allows waterfowl hunters to legally travel with, and store more waterfowl for consumption.

Mourning Dove Harvest

Based on research conducted by Long Point Waterfowl, the OFAH recently wrote a letter to the CWS requesting that they open a fall season for Mourning Doves in Ontario. The OWAC agreed that, given the current size and increasing trend of the population of Mourning Doves in Ontario, there could be a sustainable harvest. In Canada, Mourning Doves are only harvested in British Columbia, but they are harvested in most states. The CWS is presently considering this proposal.

Wind Turbines Projects

Improperly placed wind turbines (on and offshore) have the potential to displace waterfowl from important movement corridors and foraging areas. Numerous wind turbine projects

have been constructed or are proposed to be developed along the shoreline of the lower Great Lakes. Certain developments have been cause for concern, because they are situated along important waterfowl migratory pathways, are too close to major staging/wintering areas, and/or they are located on important foraging areas. The OFAH is particularly concerned by the fact that the setback requirement from significant wildlife habitat is only 120 meters, and cumulative effects have not been taken into consideration. The OFAH Wetlands/Migratory Birds Advisory Committee is concerned that certain key waterfowl wintering and staging areas will be compromised, and will continue to lobby for adequate preconstruction monitoring of all potential developments, as well as adequate setback guidelines. Over the next two years, Long Point Waterfowl (Phil Wilson, M.Sc. candidate), in partnership with the CWS, will be implanting 40 Long-tailed Ducks with satellite transmitters. This work will be done on Lake Ontario with the intention of determining critical habitat areas for the species, and the potential impact of proposed industrial wind turbine developments.

Waterfowl Heritage Days

With the exception of Ontario and Saskatchewan, all other provinces in Canada have Waterfowl Heritage Days, which provide youth with the opportunity to hunt waterfowl with a mentor prior to the regular waterfowl season. Most provinces provide one day (Saturday before the opener), but a few provide two days, and one province provides an entire week. At the December 2010 OFAH Board of Directors' meeting, it was decided that the OFAH would propose to the CWS that Ontario establish Waterfowl Heritage Days during the Saturday and Sunday (where Sunday hunting is allowed) prior to the regular waterfowl opening season in each of the districts. Several other organizations (Long Point Waterfowl, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited) have expressed support for this initiative, and will also be writing letters of support.

Delisting Mute Swans

Mute Swans are an exotic/invasive waterfowl species that competes with native waterfowl species for space and food. The southern Ontario Mute Swan population has been expanding since the 1980's. The issue of delisting Mute Swans from the list of species protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act was discussed briefly by the OWAC. The OWAC Chair indicated that the CWS still had not made a decision on whether to delist the species. At the December OFAH Board of Directors' meeting, it was decided that OFAH head office staff would write a letter to the CWS urging them to delist Mute Swans.

During 2011, the OFAH Wetlands/Migratory Birds Advisory Committee will continue to promote the conservation and management of waterfowl and wetlands within the province. We will also continue to promote the expansion of hunting opportunities when/where it is considered to be ecologically sustainable.