



# ANNUAL REPORT

The Voice of Anglers and Hunters



2015



# INVADING SPECIES AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) generates public education and awareness of aquatic and terrestrial invading species in Ontario. They also play a key role in monitoring and tracking invading species found in the province. In 2015, ISAP welcomed the official signing of the Invading Species Act, kept the public informed about Asian carps and were on the Trent-Severn Waterway controlling water soldier, to list a few of the highlights. Since invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity of Ontario's waters and woodlands, the OFAH has delivered the Invading Species Awareness Program for the last 24 years in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).



ONTARIO'S  
**INVADING  
SPECIES**  
AWARENESS PROGRAM



VISIT  
[WWW.INVADINGESPECIES.COM](http://WWW.INVADINGESPECIES.COM)

INVASIVE SPECIES  
SIGHTINGS

3,000 +

150 +

EVENTS ATTENDED BY  
ISAP STAFF TO RAISE  
AWARENESS ACROSS  
ONTARIO

EDD **MapS** Ontario  
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



IS TRACKING MORE THAN **150** SPECIES

1,500 CALLS TO THE INVADING SPECIES HOTLINE

CALL: 1-800-563-7711

## SOCIAL MEDIA



SEARCH:  
INVADING  
SPECIES AWARENESS  
PROGRAM



@INVSPECIES

# ONTARIO HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Ontario Hunter Education Program, an OFAH and MNR Partnership, trains new hunters to understand the natural world, and to become knowledgeable, safe and responsible hunters.

Participants learn about ecosystems and wildlife management, hunting laws and regulations, hunter responsibilities, identification, biology, hunting techniques for big game, small game and waterfowl, hunting and survival equipment and role of hunters in society.

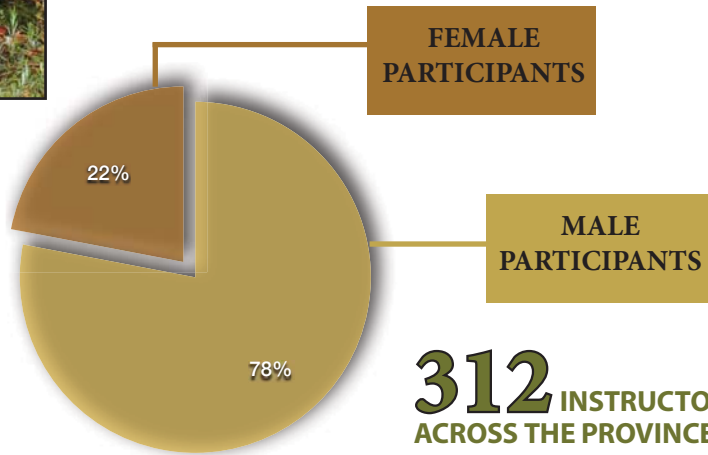
The program also reinforces firearms safety.

WWW.OHEP.NET

# 22,905

NEW HUNTERS TRAINED

**WOMEN = FASTEST GROWING SEGMENT OF PARTICIPANTS**



**312** INSTRUCTORS ACROSS THE PROVINCE

## TRAINING

**15** NEW HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS CERTIFIED



**HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE**

**52** REGISTERED INSTRUCTORS

## WILD TURKEY HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

**9,720** PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED IN 2015

**17** WILD TURKEY SEMINARS



# ATLANTIC SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM



The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program (LOASRP) is in its 10th year and continues to work towards bringing Atlantic Salmon back to Lake Ontario.

The OFAH and the MNRF, together with Ontario Power Generation, the LCBO, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and many other partners maintained the program in 2015.

The OFAH supported a proposed catch and release Atlantic Salmon fishery for Lake Ontario tributaries (FMZs 16 and 17) and helped develop a new five-year strategy for the program (2016-2021).

The OFAH is involved in all four areas of this long-term program: fish production and stocking; habitat restoration; research and assessment; and education and outreach.

VISIT  
[WWW.BRINGBACKTHESALMON.CA](http://WWW.BRINGBACKTHESALMON.CA)



## 41

CLASSROOM  
AND PUBLIC  
PRESENTATIONS

## 63

CLASSROOMS  
PARTICIPATED IN RAISING  
AND STOCKING FRY

## 13

HABITAT RESTORATION  
PROJECTS COMPLETED

## 3,785

TREES AND SHRUBS  
PLANTED

## 656

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS  
PUT IN

## 1,592

HOURS OF WORK

## SOCIAL MEDIA



SEARCH:  
LAKE ONTARIO  
ATLANTIC SALMON  
RESTORATION  
PROGRAM



@ONTARIOSALMON

# COMMUNITY HATCHERY PROGRAM

**MILLIONS**  
OF FISH STOCKED INTO MORE THAN  
**100** PUBLIC BODIES  
OF WATER



**900** DEDICATED  
HATCHERY  
VOLUNTEERS

**60,000**  
HOURS SPENT RAISING  
AND STOCKING FISH  
FOR PUBLIC WATERS

**\$149,971**  
OF FUNDING WAS  
DISTRIBUTED TO

**41** COMMUNITY  
HATCHERIES

## SOCIAL MEDIA



SEARCH:  
COMMUNITY  
HATCHERY  
PROGRAM



@COMMUNITYHATCHE

The Community Hatchery Program (CHP), in partnership with the MNRF, administers grant funding and provides support to Ontario's community fish hatcheries.

To be eligible for CHP funding, hatcheries must be operated by volunteers, and raise fish for public waters. In 2015, the CHP hosted a Walleye culture workshop to help community hatcheries raising Walleye improve their production and improve or enhance hatchery operations. The CHP also completed a province-wide check-in with community hatcheries. Results from the check-in confirm community hatcheries have resounding support for the current program, with a few good suggestions about improvements moving forward.

The OFAH is proud to play a key role in the CHP, which is making a positive contribution to Ontario fisheries and engaging community members in fisheries management throughout the province.

VISIT [WWW.COMMUNITYHATCHERIES.COM](http://WWW.COMMUNITYHATCHERIES.COM)



# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

## WOMEN'S OUTDOOR WEEKEND

The OFAH's Women's Outdoor Weekend (WOW) program celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Kinark Outdoor Education Centre in Minden.



Despite the rainy conditions, 80 women were eager to get out and enjoy a weekend packed with outdoors activities, including archery, fly-fishing, trap and rifle ranges, fishing, a high ropes course, wood

carving, orienteering, outdoor survival, night hikes, evening campfires, a pig roast, and more. Yvonne Brown from Fishing 101 For Women and Lezlie Goodwin from Ontario Out of Doors gave excellent presentations on the basics of fishing and hunting, respectively. The 50/50 and raffle draws raised several thousand dollars that will be used to run future OFAH women's programming.



**80**

WEEKEND PARTICIPANTS

**17**

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

**ONE**

GREAT WEEKEND!



## ONTARIO FAMILY FISHING EVENTS

A record number of winter events were held province-wide, but participation numbers were impacted due to cold temperatures during the Family Day Weekend.

The OFAH/OPG TackleShare program was very proud to host one of these events: the OFAH Family Ice Fishing Day.

The largest of the 35 winter events, the ice fishing day on Chemong



Lake attracted over 500 participants, many of whom were both new Canadians and new anglers. Diligent marketing and promotion of this event attracted increased media attention and recognition for the OFAH.

A record 73 summer events were held with 11,065 participants trying to land a fish. In 2016, we enter the final year of a five-year partnership with the MNRF and hope to continue delivering the program.

**14,682**

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

**73**

SUMMER EVENTS HELD IN 2015

**35**

WINTER EVENTS HELD IN 2015

# GET OUTDOORS SUMMER LEADERSHIP CAMP

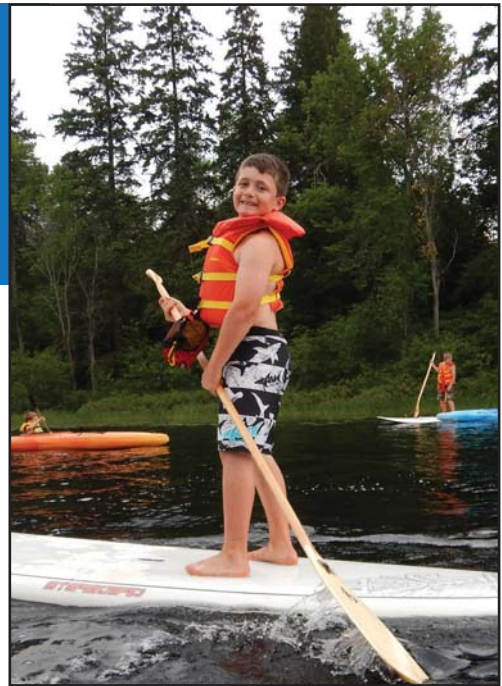
A total of 245 youth participants left their world of technology behind and came together to discover their place in the outdoors. Great campers, hard-working staff, and phenomenal volunteers made the 2015 OFAH Get Outdoors Summer Leadership Camp one that should be the envy of every conservation-minded organization around the world.

No other summer camp delivers quality programming for such a great value. The four-day experience for OFAH youth members combined outdoor exploration, conservation



education, and leadership into the experience of a lifetime. Campers enjoyed activities such as kayaking, canoeing, archery, a fishing tournament, swimming, fly tying, .22 range, ATV riding, a wild game calling competition, wolf howl, night hiking, wildlife discussions, conservation initiatives, sunset campfires, and stand-up paddle boarding.

Most importantly, campers spent four days learning about the OFAH and why members care about the importance of conservation and their participation in our organization.



**245**  
CAMPERS  
TOOK PART

**2,500**  
ROUNDS FIRED ON  
THE .22 RANGE



**80** PARTICIPANTS

## GET OUTDOORS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In 2015, the Get Outdoors Youth Leadership Conference was themed "Reaching New Heights" to encourage our youth members to push themselves out of their comfort zone.

On the Friday, 80 youth were bused to Boulderz Climbing in Etobicoke for indoor rock climbing. On the Saturday, the Dufferin Northern Peel Anglers

and Hunters Association again invited youth members to enjoy a day of trap shooting, .22 target shooting, archery, fly tying, 3-D archery and a nature hike. We continue to have strong support from our sponsors Stoeger Canada, Graywood and Winchester Arms who provide the high quality firearms and ammunition for the participants.

## ONTARIO RECORD FISH REGISTRY

In April, registry officials declared a new record Longnose Gar caught by Steven Grail on July 19, 2014 on the Ottawa River weighing in at 21.20 pounds.

There was one potential new record submitted to the registry in the Channel Catfish category. (See right)

**33.36 lb**  
CHANNEL CATFISH







# OFAH/OPG TACKLESHARE PROGRAM LOANER SITES

The OFAH/OPG TackleShare Program has over 145 loaner sites across the province, encouraging thousands of new anglers to become involved in recreational fishing. Twenty new loaner sites were added in 2015, including 10 in the Greater Toronto Area.

These loaner sites include Ontario Parks, public libraries, conservation authorities, and other community organizations. With continued financial support from our lead sponsor Ontario Power Generation, the OFAH/OPG TackleShare Program distributed over 200 rod and reel combos, and over 275



fully-stocked tackle boxes to various loaner sites. Ontario Parks and Conservation Areas continue to provide the greatest number of loans throughout the summer.

Also, the OFAH/OPG TackleShare Program continued to support the Learn to Fish program through the MNRF at six Ontario Parks. These parks were each supplied with 35 rod and reel combos, five fully-stocked tackle boxes, OFAH/OPG TackleShare bobbers and learning material.

We continue to receive strong support from program sponsors: Canadian Tire; Lucky Strike; Ontario Parks; Walmart; KTL Canada Inc.; Plano; Shimano; and Rapala.

# 6,547

PEOPLE BORROWED FISHING GEAR

# 145

LOANER SITES ACROSS ONTARIO

# ZERO

COST TO PARTICIPANTS

# OFAH/OPG TRAVELLING TACKLESHARE PROGRAM

The OFAH/OPG Travelling TackleShare Program brings fishing equipment to specific locations for special events.

At these events, TackleShare provides an educational workshop that includes introductory fishing instruction and aquatic habitat conservation, followed by the opportunity to go fishing.

This travelling component was delivered at 21 public events this summer, and several extra private events.

New in 2015, the travelling component also toured southwestern Ontario

and held events at 10 loaner sites to strengthen local partnerships and publicize the availability of free fishing equipment for loan.

The OFAH/OPG TackleShare Program also loaned its Travelling TackleShare rods and reels out to member clubs and other organizations for an additional 8 separate events this summer.

This program reaches out to urban families who discover that the OFAH is important in leading environmental work in Ontario, and is the pinnacle of youth outreach programming.

# 35

SUMMER EVENTS HELD



# 18,377

PARTICIPANTS



# OFAH | MARIO CORTELLUCCI HUNTING AND FISHING HERITAGE CENTRE

The Heritage Centre celebrated its fifth anniversary by hosting our 10,000th student in 2015. The HFHC hosted busy spring and fall educational field trip seasons that provided 1,522 students with unique learning opportunities outside of their classroom. Plans are underway for the construction of an outdoor classroom to provide additional opportunities for students to connect to nature.

Our Get Outdoors Summer Day Camps expanded to five weeks which allowed 100 youth participants to take part in outdoor pursuits including ATVing, fishing, wild game calling, and fly tying. These camps are a success thanks in part to the annual financial support from OFAH Zone E, which has renewed their commitment to this camp with a \$15,000 donation spread over the next five years. The HFHC continued to see strong use of the Stoeger Airgun and Excalibur Archery Ranges, and Shimano Fishing Pond through rentals, birthday parties and other private events.



**1,500 +**  
STUDENT VISITORS IN 2015



## NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The National Archery in the Schools Program experienced steady growth in 2015. Twenty-six new schools signed up, bringing the number to 39 Ontario schools actively introducing archery fundamentals to their students. Contact with schools wanting more information about the program is happening every



week. Over 750 NASP information kits were sent out to schools that already have their board's approval. This direct mailing should generate a lot of program interest moving forward. Follow up phone calls will be made to assess each school's interest in running NASP to continue the growth of this accessible sport for youth of all ages and abilities.

**14** CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS

**39** SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING

**128** TEACHERS TRAINED TO DELIVER NASP