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OFAH ZONE J 25TH ANNIVERSARY YOUTH CAMPOUT

[Images of people at the campout]

Special Points of Interest:

- Report on the OFAH Zone J 25th Annual Youth Campout
- A call for OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award nominations
- Remembering Doug Elliott
- OFAH Board of Directors

Did you catch a big one! Get your entry in!

ontarioanglerawards.com
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PLEAS REMEMBER
This is the last newsletter that will
Be printed and mailed unless a
specific request is received.
To receive this Newsletter in PRINT,
please send an email request to
newsletterzonej@gmail.com or contact
OFAH Zone J Secretary/Treasurer by mail or phone.
To receive electronically, send your email address.
IN MEMORIAM: DOUG ELLIOTT

This seems to have been an unusually tough year with many of our long time club members, friends and fellow conservationists passing on. This summer, OFAH Zone J and the Niagara region lost life long conservationist and visionary Doug Elliott. As per long time friend Felix Barbetti, “Doug was the longest standing life member of OFAH Zone J having served as Zone Chair and founding a member of the Welland and Pt Colborne Club affiliates. Last year, after attending most Zone and OFAH AGM’s he sadly informed us of not being able to attend any further meetings. Doug Served in the Land Registry Office locally until his retirement and was Past Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. Doug received the Queen's Jubilee Medal at a Civic ceremony last year and won several OFAH and Zone J awards.”

OFAH Zone J made a $1,000 donation in memory of Doug to the OFAH Provincial Fish and Wildlife Fund.

CALL TO ALL MEMBERS

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J is seeking nominations for the Annual OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award.

Deadline for Nominations is December 31, 2013

This award is to recognize an individual’s outstanding effort towards Stewardship, Conservation, and/or the promotion of angling or hunting in Southwestern Ontario as selected by the OFAH Zone J membership.

Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member, for this award.

Nominees for the 2013 award may be submitted to the Zone J Secretary/Treasurer no later than December 31, 2013.

Please include a description of the work the nominee has done as well as photos, news articles, etc. The Zone membership will vote on the winner at the January 2014 Quarterly meeting in Brantford with the winner being announced at the Zone J Annual meeting in April 2014.

We know there are many deserving volunteers who quietly devote their time, energy and money to conservation, hunting and angling within our Zone. Please help us recognize them by submitting a story about their dedication and passion.
OFAH ZONE J

OFAH ZONE J CHAIR REPORT

By Jim Greenwood, Chair

I am not sure where the time has gone this summer, but here we are into August and I am already preparing for our annual moose hunt in the northwest.

Licenses and adult tag received, areas mapped out for camp and hunting spots and even spoke with a butcher about meat preparation. How’s that for optimism!

We are having a much different summer from last year. No low water advisories so far this year in our watersheds which will have a positive impact on our fish and wildlife in the area.

Agriculture will gain this year in harvest for consumers and providing much needed forage for cattle and horses.

On a negative note however is the plight of our pollinators. Beekeepers are seeing huge die-offs in their bee colonies, and fingers are pointed at the increased use of pesticides, one group in particular. Neonicotinoids already banned in some countries, are being closely looked at for their contribution to the loss of not only bees, but other insects and the birds that need insects to survive.

Increases in the number of trails appearing on the landscape are creating issues for hunters. Municipalities and Conservation Authorities are quick to prohibit not just hunting along these public trails, but as in the case of the Grand River Conservation Authority, prohibiting possession of unloaded and encased firearms for hunters who want to carry their equipment to areas along the Grand River where they can legally hunt. This is not acceptable and we are engaging the Authority to reverse this decision.

Ontario will see a dove season this year. The season will begin September 5th and end November 13th. Daily bag limit is set at 15 with a possession limit of 45. Non-toxic shot is required.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has also indicated that a new regulation to allow the use of a leashed dog to retrieve lost harvested big game in areas where the use of dogs is presently prohibited during the hunt, will be instituted this fall by way of a new license for the dog being used.

Some other licenses and permits are being phased out. There will be no longer be a license to hunt raccoon at night. A small game license will be required and the conditions for hunting raccoon at night will still be in place. Permits for wild game dinners will also be eliminated, but again previous conditions will still apply. Please check with your local MNR office for details on these and other changes.

Have an enjoyable fall. If you are hunting or fishing make sure you do so safely and in compliance with the regulations. Good luck!

Mark Your Calendars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting, Dunnville District Hunters and Anglers</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 12, 2014</td>
<td>OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting, Brant Rod &amp; Gun Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5—6, 2014</td>
<td>OFAH Zone J AGM and Election, Oxford Sportsmens Club, Tillsonburg area</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13—15, 2014</td>
<td>OFAH Zone J 26th Annual Youth Campout, Brant Rod &amp; Gun Club, Brantford area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 21, 2014</td>
<td>OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting, Bluewater Anglers, Sarnia area</td>
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We are now seeking locations for our 2015 meetings. If you are interested in hosting a meeting and would like more information, please email OFAH Zone J Secretary.
OFAH Zone J Past Chair Felix Barbetti volunteering with the Ministry of Natural Resources and local conservation Clubs at the Dunnville dam. Every April they diligently work with keeping the fish population in the Grand River and Lake Erie healthy, happy and thriving.

Felix will be presenting more information on what they do at the OFAH Zone J September 15th membership meeting being held at the Dunnville Hunter and Angler Conservation Club.

Just a sampling of some of the Family Fishing photos we gathered this summer.

THANK YOU to everyone who mentored and shared their skills and passion of the awesome activity of fishing!!
Another meeting date is quickly approaching. Everyone is starting to think hunting season so it’s important for our members to attend this meeting to gather up to date information on any changes to the hunting regs. There are changes to the Migratory Bird hunting regs along with the addition of a mourning dove hunt! Come and hear the latest info!

Doors open at 8:30am with the meeting starting at 9am sharp. We will have a couple of very interesting guest speakers talking about wood duck boxes, walleye fisheries, and much more!! We will break for an hour lunch at noon resuming the meeting at 1pm. We will wrap up by 3pm.

Dunnville Hunters and Anglers Conservation Club is located at 237 McLaughlin Road, Dunnville. McLaughlin Road is about 2 miles east of Dunnville running north off Highway 3.

There is room at the Club for a couple of motor homes (no hookups) and a few campers if you’re interested in coming up on Saturday.

Local motels include: County Inn Motel 1-866-774-7363 www.countryinnmotel.ca Lollies Dunnville Motel & Restaurant 905-774-5600

CALLING ALL OFAH MEMBER CLUBS
AN EMAIL RECEIVED BY OFAH ZONE J

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you to see if you would mind donating a Club Crest to our club, as I am doing up a plaque of crests of Rod & Gun Clubs of Ontario for our clubhouse, a picture I am included with this letter.

If you wish to participate, please send your crest to the address below.

Should you or any of your members be in the area and has an hour or two free, I or one of the Exec. Or Directors would be more then happy to give you a tour of our facilities.

I would to take this time to thanking you for listening to what I have to say, again thank you.

Bill Dunn
Recording Secretary/Director
Vermilion Bay Rod & Gun Club
919 Quibell Rd., Vermilion Bay, ON P0V 2V0

807-227-2122 bdunn@sunsetscountrylogbeds.com
By Brian Moore, Camp Chair

**OFAH ZONE J 25TH ANNIVERSARY YOUTH CAMPOUT**

This past June, OFAH Zone J celebrated a special anniversary in partnership with the Wellington Street Sportsman's Club just East of London.

In 1988, OFAH Zone J Executive and members held the first ever OFAH Zone J Youth Campout at the Wellington Street Sportsman’s Club (WSSC). The mandate of this camp is to move it around OFAH Zone J every 2 years, offer it to the youth at NO Cost and to involve the parents. Our mission statement is "Involving Today's Youth - Building Tomorrows Conservation-ist". With this mandate and vision, we continue to build our unique camp year after year. Our camp requires parents/mentors to accompany the youth for the entire weekend. We find, as the youth learn and become engaged, so do the parents! It is a learning tool for both young and "old".

This past June 7-9, after an amazing 25 years of growth, trials and tribulations, OFAH Zone J and WSSC held the 25th Annual OFAH Zone J Youth Campout.

This years activities included Friday evening opening ceremonies which were emceed by Kathy Moore, OFAH Zone J Secretary/Treasure, included a visit from OFAH's Executive Director and a presentation from Mike Miller, Host of Angler and Hunter TV!! Several certificates of appreciation were handed out for various years of service, one of then was handed out to a founding member of WSSC and for 60+ years of OFAH membership. Mr Bill Rodriges has been a member longer than OFHA records go back. Angelo Lombardo helped us recognize Bill.

Saturday's activities included Archery, Bird House Building, .22 Rifle Shooting, Lure Making (Tri-County BASS Masters) and Fishing in the clubs stocked Bass Pond kept the over 110 youth busy!! We rounded out Sunday with a presentation from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority on Herpatology, a Wildlife Workshop by Greg Balch and Fishing Tips and Techniques by Tri-County BASSmasters.

After checking our archived records, it has been confirmed that the 25th Annual was a record breaker!! We smashed the previous record set at the 23rd Annual in 2011 at the Tavistock and District Rod and Gun Club (94 youth), with 110 youth participating this year, it made for a very busy weekend! It was estimated that the lunch of Saturday was served to just over 300 people! Hats off to the WSSC members for running the bbq's and keeping the line moving so well! It was awesome to have an OFAH affinity partner, Brokerlink Insurance send out area office staff to volunteer for the Saturday.

Both Friday and Saturday evenings were finished with a camp fire social that were led by the several cub and scout groups that had joined us for the weekend. Songs and skits always seem to be a crowd pleaser.

We sincerely Thank WSSC and its members for hosting the 24th and 25th Annual OFAH Zone J Youth Campout's! It takes a lot of work and dedication from a large team to make a camp of this size so successful. We also Thank the many sponsors, supporters and volunteers for all of their contributions that enable us to offer the youth a 3 day camp at absolutely NO COST!

As we approach the fall, we are getting excited to start a partnership with the Brant Rod & Gun Club who will host the 26th and 27th annuals in 2014 and 2015.
2nd Annual Long Point Heritage Hunt
Sponsored by the Long Point Waterfowlers Association and Long Point Waterfowl
Youth ages 12 to 18 who are either licensed or certified apprentice hunters may apply to attend this event.
Applications can be found at www.longpointwaterfowl.org

3rd Annual Duck Day
Sunday September 22 at Long Point Waterfowl, 546 Turkey Point Road south of Simcoe. This is a FREE event open to the public. Many conservation partners are involved to assist in educating the public on the importance of waterfowl in our environment. Decoy painting, duck calling, raptor displays, retrieving dogs are all a part of this event. Free Hot dogs, burgers and cold drinks are also served. For more info visit longpoint-waterfowl.org

2013 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Board of Directors

As I See It by Kathy Moore

I would like to say THANKS to all of the OFAH Members and Member Clubs in Zone J who have picked up the torch and are hosting, supporting, sponsoring Youth Mentored Hunts. Without you doing the hands on work of passing on your passion and knowledge to our youth, these hunts would not be as well established as they are. We are fortunate to have mentored hunts for just about every game species found in southern Ontario.

What I would like to ask our Clubs and Members, have you considered mentoring adults as well? I agree that without mentoring our youth, our heritage activities are at risk of being of lost but I also see a need for mentoring adults as well. I am meeting adults in their 30’s, 40’s and 50’s who have always wanted to hunt but never had a mentor. For various reasons, they never took up the activity as a teenager but now has the time and money to get involved. They take the courses, learn from videos, practice target shooting but then get muddled in not quite being able to take the next step. They are competent and could pull the trigger, but … then what? They don’t quite know where to hunt, how to field dress and butcher their harvest. But how do they find a mentor?

Those hunters who have been mentored at a young age may remember the thrill of that first hunt and the huge learning curve once the game was down. I was fortunate to have been mentored by my son. This fall he will mentor me in my first waterfowl hunt. Please consider mentoring a adult on a hunt this fall. Clubs—please consider mentoring some of your own members who have not had the opportunity to hunt.

Wishing everyone a safe, bountiful hunt this fall!!!