The September 2012 was hosted by the members of the Greenwood Rod & Gun Club.

The Zone J Executive weekend started with a wonderful dinner at the Olde Heidleberg Restaurant and Motel. Bob and his staff treated us like family. We then checked into the Motel and had a restful sleep.

Sunday morning we headed to St Jacobs for breakfast then to St Agatha to the GRGC.

Greenwood Rod & Gun Club President Dale Hartung and his dedicated volunteers welcomed us with coffee and donuts.

We had a delicious lunch of pulled pork sandwiches. During the meeting we were educated on Chronic Wasting Disease surveys being held in Southwestern Ontario this fall as well as continued conservation efforts by the Grand River Conservation Authority in the Conestoga Hunting Areas.

Brian McRae, Club Liaison from OFAH Peterborough discussed member benefits and Club insurance.

Thank you Greenwood Rod & Gun Club for a fantastic Day!

Jim Greenwood presents Thank You to Dale Hartung

Landyn attended his first OFAH Zone J Meeting September 16th. He was born September 10th and became a member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters on September 13th. Proud first time parents Emily and Brian (1st Vice Chair Zone J) are both avid anglers, hunters and conservationists who live in the Watford area. Congratulations!!

From left to right Jim Greenwood, Brian and Landyn Moore, Cassandra Holtby, Randy MacPherson, Kathy Moore

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An OFAH Membership makes the perfect Christmas gift!

Did you catch a big one!
Get your entry in!
ontarioanglerawards.com
Congratulations to LPW for another Successful Duck Day on September 23rd!!

This FREE event is open to the public. Goodie Bags were handed out to attendees and most bags included Duck calls.

OFAH Zone J had the Duck Hunt computer simulator in operation. Long lines to play were the norm.

Pictured is Autumn Holtby from Chatham practicing her calls.

LONG POINT WATERFOWL DUCK DAY

February 16-18, 2013
Visit ontariofamilyfishing.com to find a “license-free” fishing event in your neighbourhood.

December 21st is the Winter Solstice
That is the “shortest” day of the year.
We will have 8 hours, 55 minutes and 43 seconds of daylight.
BUT...then the days continue to see an increase of daylight hours until the Summer Solstice in June 2013

To receive this Newsletter electronically, please send an email request to teamofah@live.ca

To have something added to the OFAH Zone J website, please send an email request to websitezonej@gmail.com
OFAH Zone J Financial Donations to Conservation 2011-2012

2011—November—$176.50—Hullett Youth Pheasant Hunt
November—$300.00—Middlesex Youth Pheasant Hunt donation
2012—January—$500.00—Greg Balch Wildlife Education
$250.00—CrimeStoppers
February—$250.00—Ontario Hunter Education Program Conference Sponsorship
March—$1,000.00—Long Point Waterfowl Youth Biologist Workshop
March—$105.00—Gosfield North Sportsman Association Wild Game dinner
April—$350.00—Outdoor Writers Conference Sponsorship
September—$7,000.00—Grand River Conservation Foundation Conestoga Hunt Area Improvement Fund
September—$208.90—Middlesex Youth Pheasant Hunt donation
September—$250.00—Long Point World Biosphere Charter Sponsorship
September—$200.00 to Canadian National Wildfowl Carvers

Please forward any funding requests to OFAH Zone J Secretary/Treasurer for consideration.

The Petrie Family Success Story

OFAH Zone J Chair Jim Greenwood and a successful moose hunt.

OFAH Zone J 1st Vice Brian Moore’s first waterfowl hunt.

The Federation Loses a Dear Friend

October 21, 2012 will be remembered as the day the OFAH lost a valued volunteer and dedicated conservationist. Bruno Vanden Berghe lost his battle with cancer in Windsor surrounded by his loving and devoted family.

Bruno and his wonderful wife Yolande seemed to devote every waking hour to supporting the OFAH. They spent thousands of hours selling merchandise and memberships at hundreds of events throughout Southern Ontario.

From September until May you would always find a book of lottery tickets in the hands of Bruno and Yolande. They spent weeks each year sitting at the malls in Windsor, selling tickets and raising funds for their Club.

Every year at the OFAH Annual Wildlife Conference, Bruno presented the Windsor Sportsmen Club award to the OFAH Club who sold the second most Conservation lottery tickets.

Bruno was past Chair of OFAH Zone J, a long time member of the Zone J Executive as well as an OFAH Life Member. Bruno will be memorialized thru a donation in his name from the OFAH Zone J Members to the Mario Cortellucci/OFAH Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre.

R.I.P. friend
Bruno Vanden Berghe passed away recently. Bruno was a life member with the Windsor Sportsmen’s Club and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Bruno was a past executive with the OFAH Zone J. Bruno and his wife Yolande spent years travelling across Ontario attending conferences, shows and meetings selling OFAH merchandise and memberships. Bruno was also in attendance when tickets were drawn for the OFAH lottery year after year.

Past Executive Director Rick Morgan commented in a recent email that hearing Bruno’s name reminded him of the OFAH lottery, and hearing about the lottery and the money raised for the federation and its programs reminded him of Bruno.

Dave Ankney, past president commented that in a lot of ways Bruno symbolized all that is good about the OFAH. Bruno was presented with a gift of appreciation from OFAH Zone J last year in a presentation at the Head Office in Peterborough. The OFAH Zone J will be donating $1000 towards the Mario Cortelucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre in Bruno and Yolande’s names. He will be missed.

I would like to congratulate 1st vice Chair Brian Moore, and his wife Emily on the birth of their son Landyn. I’m sure it won’t be long before hunting and fishing paraphernalia for kids fill their home.

Our Zone continues to be actively engaged on a number of fronts.

Dam issues are popping up in a number of municipalities. Obsolete, in disrepair, and often holding back polluted water, they have become a battle between emotion and science. Municipal councils are looking at huge costs to repair and maintain. Government agencies, provincial and federal are long on talk and short on action. We can expect to see more of these in the future.

The City of Brantford is wrestling with how to deal with coyote within city limits. As the city expands its boundaries into the surrounding area, more wildlife is being observed by the residents. This shouldn’t surprise anyone. Suggestions of hiring a licenced trapper, to utilizing Coyote Watch, an information program to inform the public of coyote activity have been looked at. Regulated hunting, including Sunday gun hunting can often provide relief to the problems associated with wildlife populations.

Changes in federal and provincial legislation will have significant impact on our resources and our recreational uses of them. The federal Acts including Fisheries, Navigability, and Environmental Assessments and Provincial Acts under MNR and MOE have been weakened significantly. Clearly development --sanctioned by Gov't will have less scrutiny since there will be minimal Federal oversight ( enforcement) and selective Provincial enforcement . What is happening is downsizing resources ( staff funding ) and streamlining legislation to the detriment of environmental protection.

In our Zone J, anglers and waterfowlers no longer have Navigable Waters Act protection in areas such as the Thames River and shallow bays. Without applicable laws, what recourse will there be? We may see more owners of land under water, close access.

I recently attended the Middlesex Stewardship youth hunt. While there I was approached by a local firearm instructor and dog handler. He commented that we ( OFAH, stewardship councils ) were missing an opportunity to expand not only our membership but to increase hunting participation in Ontario. He was referring to immigrants, specifically older than the youths we key on. He suggested we need to focus on providing opportunities like the youth hunts we support, or similar hands on workshops, to this demographic.

OFAH Zone J has been asked to part of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Conservation Areas Advisory Committee. With over 4000 acres of lands including provincially significant wetlands, there is a need to engage the public and connect with stakeholders. ERCA is wanting to collaborate with partners and provide an opportunity to discuss and provide input into the management of their conservation areas. Providing hunting opportunities will continue to be part of the management plan.

Firearm discharge bylaws continue to be addressed in communities, the most recent brought to our attention being the city of Woodstock whose police chief is advocating for no discharge in the surrounding lands slated for development. A meeting will take place in Woodstock with OFAH representation Nov.14th.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian McRae for taking the time to speak with clubs in our Zone. I recently attended a club with Brian to speak on the benefits of joining this federation. Brian did an outstanding job in delivering the message and responding to questions from members. Good Job Brian!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Greenwood, Chair
Zach and his father Mark attended the Middlesex Youth Pheasant Hunt recently. What makes this particularly special is that Zach was first diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 3. This year he underwent a bone marrow transplant.

Zach was noticed this spring when an article was printed in a Simcoe area newspaper about someone stealing his hunting blind. OFAH Zone J Chair Jim Greenwood contacted Mark and Zach to ask “What can OFAH Zone J do?”

The blind was returned but OFAH Zone J along with Hunter Education Instructor Bert Cronkwright assisted Zach in achieving his goal of completing his Hunter Education Course and presenting Zach with an OFAH youth membership.

It was great to see Zach out in the field!!

We would like as many mariners as possible to complete the survey. If you are a mariner please take a few minutes to complete the survey. If you know other mariners who may be interested in participating, please share this invitation with them. Your participation will remain completely confidential and anonymous. Results will be used to shape the weather information that EC provides to mariners.

To begin this survey, please go to:

http://ec.sondages-surveys.ca/s/marine2012/langeng/

Everyone has seen these little “puzzle” boxes printed in Ontario Out of Doors Magazine. Have you used them? They are an AMAZING way to pass on whatever you want to say to the YOUNG FOLKS.

We see young folks with smartphones in there hands ALL THE TIME! Why not put YOUR information on their smart phone? For FREE even! QR stands for Quick Response. That is the way young folks process information today—short bursts of info and they move on to the next thing.

QR codes have been popular in Japan for MANY years and is just breaking into North America.

You need to download a free QR code app onto your smart phone. Once you do that, you just scan the QR code and your smartphone is taken directly to wherever the QR code sends you.

OFAH Zone J currently uses 2 QR codes. One takes you to links such as MNR and OFAH Zone J website. The other takes you directly to the OFAH Zone J Youth Campout information.

Imagine the possibilities of free advertising? Post one on your Club’s front gate to direct visitors to your website for instance.

For more info contact OFAH Zone J Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Moore

The 20th Season of Angler and Hunter TV will premier on the Outdoor Life Network (OLN) Sunday January 6th at 8am. Tune in and visit ahtv every Sunday at 8am!

www.ahtv.com
MNR is no longer sending renewal notices for your Outdoors Card. It is up to you to remember to renew on time.

www.ofah.org now has a section that describes OFAH stands on issues (www.ofah.org/ofahcomments) as well as links to the EBR (Environmental Bill of Rights) postings (www.ofah.org/postings).

Please remember to complete your Hunter Survey cards. The info reported is vital to setting future harvest limits.

MNR is proposing to put access to more of their services online. Services such as Road Kill Authorizations; Wild Game Dinner forms; harvest reporting cards.

MNR still has not formed the FMZ 16 Council. Lack of funds, manpower and the sheer size of the Zone are stumbling blocks!

Bear Camp license issue is not a priority for MNR at this time.

OFAH has asked MNR to consider “Bundling” of licenses to save hunters a few dollars. MNR is reviewing this request.

THANK YOU to all deer hunters who participated in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance in southwestern Ontario. As of end of November, no CWD has been found in Ontario

September 2012 was the first Annual Waterfowl Heritage Day. Congrats to everyone who mentored our young Waterfowlers

2nd modern day Elk hunt was extended to 2 weeks this year. 9 bulls and 13 cows were harvested—up 2 from last year. MNR says Elk hunt will be the same for 2013.

Wild Turkey Hunter Education Course DVD continues to be popular. This DVD is available thru OFAH website.

29 new Wild Turkey Hunter courses are scheduled for 2013. Schedule can be found at www.ofah.org

MNR has approved 33 new Hunter Education Instructors to begin training in January. These folks live in areas where there is an increased need for courses. OFAH Zone J 1st Vice Brian Moore is one of the trainees.

Asian Carp continue to be a huge concern. More than $150 million dollars have been invested by the US over the past 3 years to stop the spread. Canada has committed $17.5 million for the next 3 years. OFAH continues to educate on the dangers of this invader.


November 1 the Honorable Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety announced the long-gun registry info has all bee destroyed.

Please send us a detailed letter if you have had problems with the “new” MNR Licensing Automated System. OFAH is documenting problems and will address them with the MNR
On January 6th, OFAH Zone J will visit the Rondeau Rod & Gun Club.
Following is a brief look at the 59 year history of this Proud Club.

This group of young men met at the home of Harry Pegg on Talbot Street West in Blenheim in 1954 and formed the nucleus of our club as it is today. Those present at that memorable occasion were: John Embury, Louis Rakus, Pete Ryan, John McNear, Willard Downie, Gordon Warwick, Stuart Kirkland and Harry Pegg. That evening, on December 1, 1954, marked the beginning of an organization of men that has held together for 25 years, an organization that has become well known throughout the county and is synonymous with the preservation of wildlife and nature for future generations.

It seems only fitting to continue this story by recounting the minutes of those first meetings at which the plans were formulated and our constitution also formulated:

On December 1, 1954, a meeting was held at the home of Bill MacDonald, Talbot St. West, Blenheim, for the purpose of forming a rod and gun club. Ten members were present.

A motion was made by Harry Pegg and seconded by Willard Downie, that Bill McNear be chairman of this organization.

A motion was made by John Embury, seconded by Pete Ryan, that Bill MacDonald be secretary/treasurer.

A motion was made by Stu Kirkland, seconded by Pete Ryan, that each member present may sponsor two new members at the discretion of the other members.

A motion was made by Bill McNear, seconded by Pete Ryan, that a definite zoning area be established.

A motion was made by Pete Ryan, seconded by John McNear, that the club be named the Rondeau Rod and Gun Club.

A motion was made by Willard Downie, seconded by Louis Rakus, that the Rondeau Rod and Gun Club be publicized and that Harry Holmes be called upon for the article.

A motion was made by John McNear, seconded by Gord Warwick that the initiation fee be $5.00, which may be paid within a period of six months. Amendment to the motion, by Pete Ryan, that on payment of $5.00, membership cards be issued, which will allow member full voting and club privileges.

Second amendment, that all monies paid to be forfeited to the club in case of any withdrawal of membership.

A motion was made by Willard Downie, seconded by Gord Warwick, that the next meeting be held on Tuesday, December 7, 1954.

Meeting Closed.

On January 25, 1955, the Rondeau Rod and Gun Club started holding their regular meetings at the Blenheim Legion Hall and this was to continue, at no charge, until September of 1959. In 1955, the bean system was adopted for the acceptance of new members. Joe Stewart was nominated as fishing chairman and instituted the annual fishing derby, which is still carried on today. Things were really tough that year, a motion to pay someone $2.50 a week, for cleaning, was turned down but a motion of $2.00 was accepted. Gord Warwick started the youth movement and began teaching young people in safe gun handling and was able to obtain the use of the Blenheim High School rifle range for practice.

Fellow sportmen, we gather together in the common cause of sportsmanship and good fellowship. Our aims and objectives are the furthering of conservation and propagation. Let us all as sportsmen and gentlemen appreciate of God's Great Gift—nature. Through our youth movement, let us teach them the Do's and Don'ts of good sportsmanship, of conservation and propagation, so that they may become a part of our way of life. Let us extend our selves to the utmost and take a boy or girl fishing, hunting, hiking or camping at every opportunity. Let us conduct ourselves as sportsmen and gentlemen and no matter how bitter the pill, hold no malice towards your fellow man. Let us all join in the furtherance of our aims and objectives and leave pettiness to the misguided.

Recent Activity

1. Youth group still going strong with approximately 25 local kids participating each year during the winter months.
2. Weekly Euchre nights followed by a light dinner between Jan and May each year with 10-12 tables usual size.
4. New 100 yard rifle range as of 2011.
5. $14,000 range improvements to indoor 20 yard range as of 2010.
6. Hosting the Blenheim air cadet squadron air rifle team in their yearly training.
7. In past 4 years donated over $6000.00 to Lake Erie Salmon and Trout club for fish restocking efforts.

OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting being held here Sunday January 6, 2013.

Meeting starts at 9am and wraps up by 3pm. Lunch will be served as well as coffee.

The Rondeau Rod & Gun Club is located at 10260 Campbell Line, Blenheim. From Hwy 401 go South on Hwy 40. As you approach Blenheim you will see Cdn Tire and Sobey's at the corner of Hwy 40 and Allison Line. Turn left (east) on Allison Line. At the “T” intersection turn left onto Harwich Raleigh Township Drive. Drive about 150 metres and turn right on Campbell Line. Club is on the right about 200 metres down the road.

We are still working on confirming Guest Speakers but we do know Brian McRae from OFAH head office will speak about Membership programs, benefits and insurance.

Bring your guns!!! The trap and skeet range will be open for us to use after the meeting. If you want to shoot but don’t want to bring a gun, club guns will be available to use. Ammunition is available as well. If we have enough interest, the hand gun range will also be open for us to use. The club has handguns available as well.

A nominal fee will be charged for each firearm range use. For more info on the meeting please contact Zone J Secretary/Treasurer.
OFAH ZONE J OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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 2012 award may be submitted to the Zone J Secretary/Treasurer no later than December 31, 2012. 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 2013 Quarterly meeting in Blenheim with the winner being announced at the Zone J Annual meeting on April 6/7, 2013.

Please remember to submit your nominations for the 2012 OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award.

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 ANNUAL EXECUTIVE ELECTION
APRIL 6TH, 2013

Once again it’s time to get your Nomination in if you’d like to stand for a position on the OFAH Zone J Executive. The positions are:
Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Alternate Director

If you are interested and are an OFAH member (Zone J) in good standing for the past 12 months, please call one of our Nominations Committee: Past Chair Tony Jackson or Past Chair Felix Barbetti for details.

The Annual Election will be held April 6th at 3pm.

www.shopofah.org

MARK YOUR 2013 CALENDARS

March 14—17—OFAH Annual General Meeting and Wildlife Conference at the Delta Meadowvale Hotel and Conference Centre, Mississauga

OFAH Zone J Annual General Meeting and Election—April 6 & 7—London Area—we are still working on confirming a location and host Club for this meeting. Details will be posted on the Zone J website and in the March Newsletter.

25th Annual OFAH Zone J Youth Campout—June 7, 8 & 9—Wellington Street Sportsmens Club, Dorchester, ON Registration starts April 1st.

OFAH Zone J General Membership Meeting—September 15—Dunnville Hunter and Angler Club, Dunnville, ON

Detai...