Special Points of Interest:
- Plan to attend the OFAH Zone J Membership meeting August 18
- OFAH Zone J 31st Annual Youth Camp
- Gravelly Bay

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Please share this Newsletter with your Club and your friends.

Chair, Brian Moore  Watford area  brianmoore@live.ca  519-919-1520
1st Vice, Felix Barbetti  Fonthill area  fbarbetti@congeco.ca  905-892-4381
Director, Joe Tetreault  Cambridge area  joet.ofah@gmail.com  905-452-4676
2nd Vice, Randy MacPherson  Kitchener area  martin.mac@wightman.ca  905-662-9724
Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Moore  Brantford area  secretaryzonej@gmail.com  519-861-0965
( also Newsletter Editor)
Past Chair, Tony Jackson  Stratford area  tonyj_ofah@mail.com  519-273-4193

Please share this Newsletter with your Club and your friends.
2019
August 18—OFAH Zone J membership meeting hosted by Southwest Outdoors Club, Wheatley

2020
January 12—OFAH Zone J membership meeting hosted by Dunnville District Hunters and Anglers Association
March 28—OFAH Zone J Annual General meeting hosted by Twin Creeks Shooting Preserve, Inwood

**Note Date Change**
April 4—OFAH Annual General Meeting, Peterborough, ON
June 19 to 21—OFAH Zone J 32nd Annual Youth Camp—Tavistock Rod & Gun Club, near Stratford
August 23—OFAH Zone J Membership meeting hosted by Halton Sportsmans Club, Milton

A huge Thank You to everyone who have invited us to their Club.

Gravelly Bay, Port Colborne area

On July 8th 2019 a new Port Colborne Municipal Council, after several meetings and one public information open house decided to move forward with recommendations from their By Law Enforcement Supervisor. Mainly to better inform shoreline residents during the three month waterfowl hunt by setting up signs buoys and barricades to mark a 750’ no hunting area from shore. The fact that hunting on Gravelly Bay will continue as it has for decades with heritage hunting blinds locations continuing as before, was generally appreciated by waterfowlers. A concerted effort by some shoreline residents to restrict hunting for exaggerated safety and noise concerns was not accepted. Their effort to hype the recreational boating vs hunting conflict, three Kayakers were photographed posed in front one of the hunting blinds to emphasize their safety point. When informed by OFAH representatives and verified by the Niagara Regional Police that interfering with a lawful hunt was an offense under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act this trumped up initiative backfired.

Once again on relatively short notice representatives from OFAH Port Colborne and District Conservation Club, OFAH Zone J and Delta Waterfowl presented to Council requested continuation and importance of hunting citing social, environmental, and economic benefits to the community. Documented evidence of safety and noise complaints was lacking. Complaint incidents are documented by agencies responsible and MNRF who addresses hunting had only 1 complaint to look into.

OFAH Past Chair Alfred Marinelli, a highly respected conservationist who served on municipal council in the 70’s, chaired the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority as well as leading the local Port Colborne OFAH affiliate spoke from the heart when he described his waterfowling exploits from the 50’s when his blind consisted of poles and blankets. He stated that he’s constantly observed no major problems with this heritage activity even in recent years. When asked by council how far he thought a shell would travel Alf said some 150 feet—considerable less that the 600’ buffer.

Municipal noise by-laws are superseded by Provincial legislation that regulates hunting. MNRF officers do not enforce Municipal By laws

Port Colborne Council’s compromise decision intended to appease both complainants and hunters is still work in progress with several important jurisdictional details and questions yet to be worked out.

The fairness in conducting these contentious deliberations demonstrated by Council and Municipal staff has been appreciated even if some jurisdictional concerns remain

Yours In Conservation,
Felix (Gary) Barbetti
OFAH Zone J Tag Bags
Sealable and large enough to hold your license paperwork for the upcoming License System changes. Available at the OFAH Zone J membership meeting for the discount price of $4 each.
Message from The Chair:

Our August Zone meeting always brings home the fact that fall hunting will quickly be here! This summer has been a whirl-wind but very enjoyable. Taking my kids fishing almost daily has been amazing! Our 31st Annual OFAH Zone J Youth Camp was AWESOME!

Our Youth Camp has been the highlight of the year ever since I took over as Chair from Camp founder Don Fairbairn. This year, Don and his wife Muriel came out to visit the Camp at Wellington Street Sportsmans Club. This was the Club that held the very first OFAH Zone J Youth Camp back in 1988, mainly because it’s members have the mantra “Anything for the kids!!” Here we are, 31 years later and this amazing Club still has that same mantra!!

A huge shout out to WSSC President Rick Grimes, WSSC members and families for making the Youth Camp such a resounding success! This year, for the first time ever, 100% of the campers arrived on Friday night!! Some years, we have only had a couple of tents but not at WSSC!! Thanks to WSSC for providing hot dogs to everyone while setting up camp! That gesture is sincerely appreciated!

We kick off the camp with a small opening ceremony then Greg Balch gives his Community Wildlife Workshop. Greg gets every one excited to learn about animals, trapping and history of Canada. Then outside to watch a birds of prey demo by South Shore Bird Control followed by a community campfire.

Sponsors such as Brokerlink, Royal City Fishing Club, Aylmer District Trappers Council, OFAH, Tackleshare and GetOutdoors make our camp fun to attend. Volunteers from WSSC, OFAH Zone J, Brokerlink, Royal City Fishing Club, Aylmer District Trappers Council and folks who attended our camps as youth all come together to give our youth an experience like no other camp can and all for FREE!!

This was the first year that we included a trapping workshop in our regular round of activities and we were a little hesitant at how it would be received. Shaun Meehan of the Aylmer District Trappers Council took on this challenge and hit a HOME RUN!! This workshop was the most talked about and the most popular of all the workshops we have ever had at one of our camps. Thank you Shaun!!

This year, delegates from Tavistock & District Rod & Gun Club visited the camp to see how it all comes together because our 32nd and 33rd OFAH Zone J Annual Youth Camp will be hosted by their Club!!! Mark your 2020 calendar!! Registration opens April 1st and the camp will be held Father’s Day weekend.

As the dog days of summer heat up, I tend to drift off and reflect on cool fall days out setting traps or sitting in the blind. Maybe it’s time to start some target practice and trap shooting to hone my skills a little and shake the rust off.

I hope to see you at our OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting on Sunday August 18th at the Wheatley Legion. We always have a great slate of speakers and the Legion provides a delicious perch fish lunch for us!!

Yours In Conservation,
Brian Moore
Chair OFAH Zone J
OFAH Zone J

Photos courtesy of Rimas Miknev

OFAH Zone J
32nd Annual Youth Camp

June 19-21, 2020
Tavistock & District Rod & Gun Club
South of Stratford, ON

Registration opens
April 1, 2020
THE CONVERSATION ON CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

CONFERERCE REPORT
PREVENT. DETECT. RESPOND.

VISIT WWW.OFAH.ORG/CCAC TO READ THE FULL REPORT
Southwest Outdoors Club

Is a Non-Profit Organization that consists of likeminded individuals who share an interest in the environment, conservation, and our outdoor heritage which includes hunting and fishing. Our vision is to work together to protect and improve the outdoors.

SWOC’s activities take into consideration principles of environmental protection and up-to date knowledge of our local eco-systems, include but are not limited to the following:

- Wild Turkey Reintroduction (Point Pelee N.P and Wheatley P.P. Birds)
- Fish Tagging and Stocking
- Annual Big Boyz Fishing Tournament
- Habitat Creation
- SWOC Big Buck and Bull Day
- Sponsoring Wildlife Research
- Building Trails
- NWTF Club (Southwest Gobblers)
- Species At Risk Stewardship
- Youth Outdoor & Safety Education
- Wheatley Fish Fest Partner
- High profile Kids Fishing Derby
- Youth Hunts Tree planting
- Hosting OFAH Meetings
- SWOC Stewardship Awards
- Big Rack Night/Christmas Party
- Traveling Kids Trout Pond

Know the 3 Cs: Choose, Clean, Cook!

Follow this advice to help you make decisions about eating the fish you catch

**Choose S.A.F.E.**
- **S**maller fish
- **A**void larger fish, organs, skin
- **F**ollow the advice in the [Guide to Eating Ontario Fish](#)
- **E**at leaner species (walleye, perch, and panfish)

**Clean & Trim**
Remove fillet, cut away skin and fat, and discard organs.

**Cook**
Cook fish on a grill or a broiler pan (oven) so that fat drips away. If you deep-fry fish, do not reuse the oil.
Fishing for better insurance?
Reel in a group discount with OFAH.

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Proudly supporting the OFAH and its members for over 20 years.

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