

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS





OUR MANDATE

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters takes action on outdoor issues, supports fish and wildlife conservation and outdoor education at the grassroots level, and stands up for the traditions of fishing, hunting and trapping.

We are the **VOICE** of anglers, hunters on all issues related to fishing, hunting, and fish and wildlife conservation management to...

LEAD the fishing and hunting community as champions of conservation

RESTORE fish and wildlife populations and the habitats that support them

SUPPORT grassroots community involvement in conservation

COMMUNICATE conservation issues

ADVOCATE for evidence-based fish and wildlife conservation management

INFLUENCE government decisions to benefit anglers, hunters and conservation

CULTIVATE the next generation of conservationists

PROTECT the rights and traditions of anglers and hunters

PROMOTE the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources

ENHANCE the quantity and quality of sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities

ENGAGE youth and the public in fishing and hunting

EDUCATE and provide awareness on the benefits of fishing and hunting

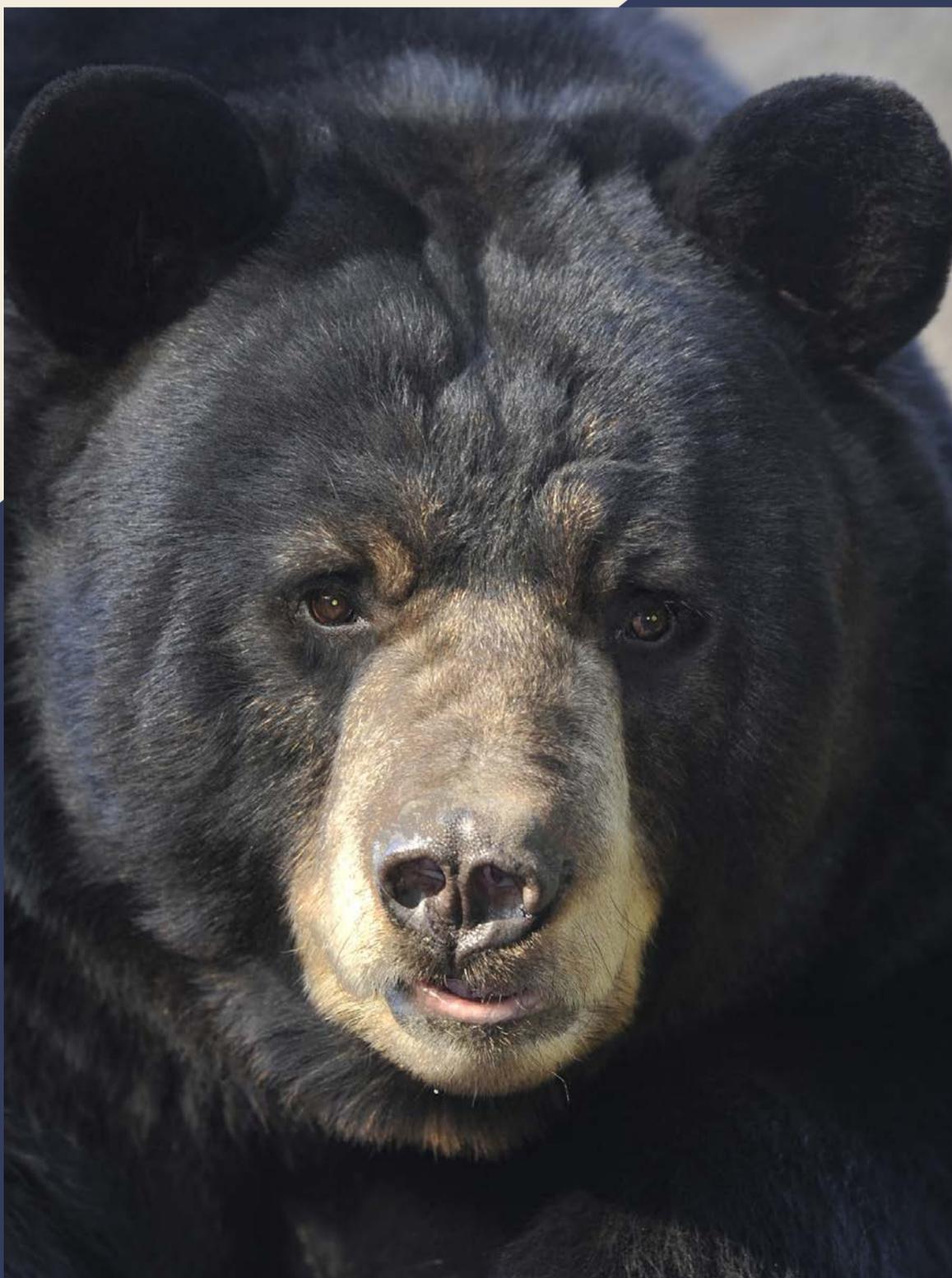
ENCOURAGE safe and responsible participation in fishing and hunting

INVEST in conservation, science and research

PROTECT the rights and traditions of anglers and hunters

IT'S BACK: ONTARIO'S SPRING BEAR HUNT

After a 21-year long advocacy effort by the OFAH, the MNRF finally announced the full return of the spring bear hunt in March 2020. We can all celebrate, whether you hunt spring bears or not, the collective accomplishment of bringing back an opportunity that many believed was lost forever. With that in mind, the OFAH will ensure that black bear management in the province is science-based, and results in maximum sustainable hunting opportunities while guaranteeing healthy black bear populations for future generations.

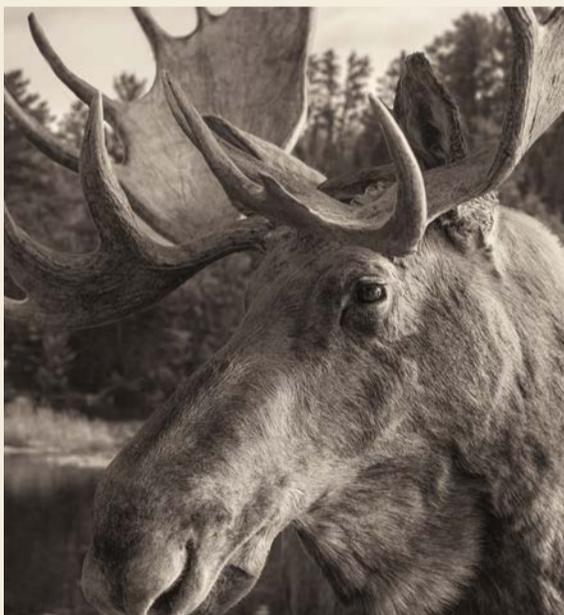


PROTECTING ONTARIO FROM CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Long-standing OFAH pressure to prevent CWD from entering Ontario resulted in some significant progress in 2020:

- The MNRF adopted a new CWD Prevention and Response Plan which included many of OFAH's recommendations; and,
- The MNRF is also going to clamp down on the movement of animals in the deer farming industry and further regulate high-risk animal parts and products.

We have been advocating for these changes for decades, so this represents a major accomplishment in the fight to keep CWD out of Ontario. All OFAH members should be proud knowing their voice helped drive this change.



OFAH MAKES A STAND ON FIREARMS BANS

Where does the OFAH stand on the firearms ban introduced in early 2020, you ask? It's question we heard a lot last year. The answer is simple: ***"It criminalizes legal firearms owners, will negatively impact businesses, and do nothing to address gun violence in Canada."***

Among our advocacy efforts in 2020, we:

- Addressed member and supporter questions about the firearm bans and what it means for them in a list of frequently asked questions made available to the public;
- Undertook a comprehensive analysis of the prohibitions and scrutinized its flaws in a letter to Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Bill Blair; and,
- Surveyed firearms owners across the country to gain a better understanding of how the newly prohibited firearms are used. This information was used in a report to address the misconceptions about how prohibited firearms were previously used.

PRELIMINARY REPORT

Canadian use and value of non-restricted firearms prohibited under SOR/2020-96



Produced by the OFAH
September 2020

REPRESENTING ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

OFAH was represented on the Hunting, Fishing and Resource-based Tourism Ministerial Advisory Council for the Government of Ontario to look at fishing and hunting as an important sector to help stimulate significant and sustainable economic and environmental benefits for the people of Ontario. We also wrote Premier Ford promoting the importance of fishing and hunting during a pandemic to help with physical well-being, mental health and to help boost the economy.



MORE TURKEY HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES



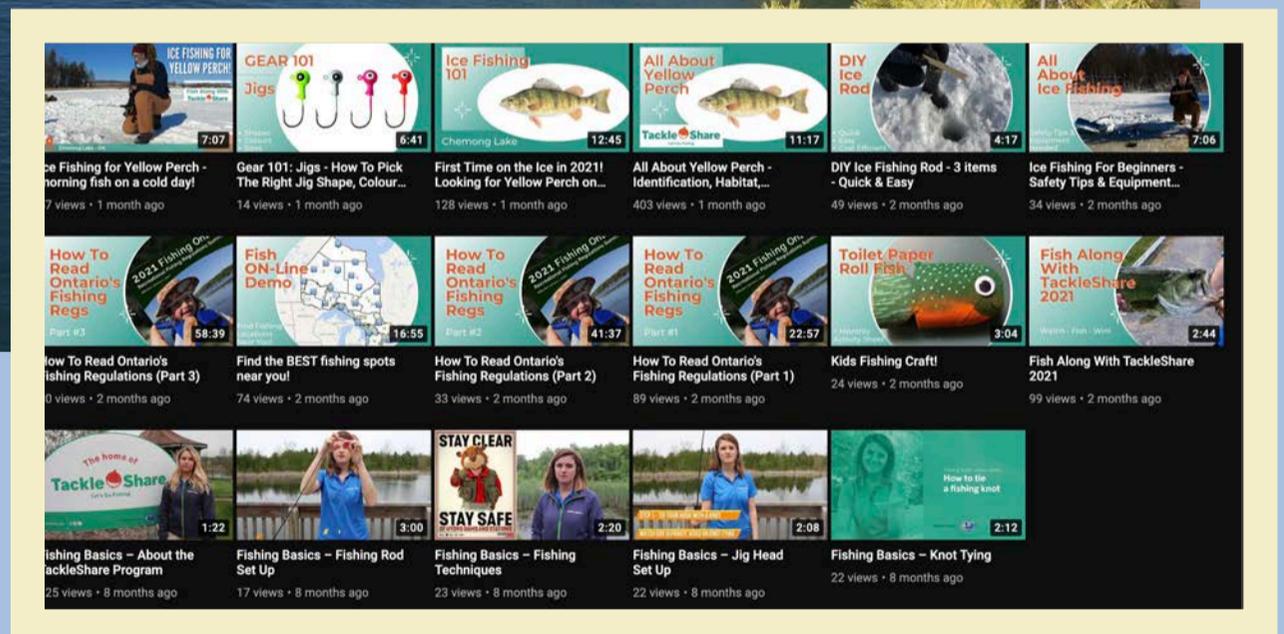
The OFAH constantly advocates for more sustainable opportunities to fish and hunt across the province, so we were pleased to see the MNR announce they would open WMU 72 for fall turkey hunting.

“The OFAH is constantly engaging the MNR to make sure that sustainable wild turkey hunting opportunities are not being left on the table,” OFAH Wildlife Biologist, Dr. Keith Munro, explained when the announcement was made. “We’re excited for the new opportunities this proposal would bring.”

ENHANCE the quantity and quality of sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities

PROMOTING WATER QUALITY

Water quality has a direct effect on the health of fisheries, which is why the OFAH spent time in 2020 advising on issues like harmful blue-green algal blooms. We represented anglers in a bi-national initiative to protect and enhance the Great Lakes and we also made recommendations on lake management plans and supported student research to improve water quality.



TACKLESHARE STAYS STRONG

The TackleShare Program received a renewed sponsorship from Ontario Power Generation in 2020 to continue providing free opportunities to go fishing in Ontario. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the program was still able to provide new anglers across the province with the knowledge and loaner gear to get started in fishing.

ENGAGE youth and the public in fishing and hunting

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS ProShop

ORDER ONLINE AT: WWW.OFAH.ORG/PROSHOP **FREE shipping**

SUPPORTING CANADIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1928

#HERITAGEDAY SEPT. 19, 2020

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL HUNTING TRAPPING & FISHING HERITAGE DAY AND CONSERVATION BY PURCHASING A HERITAGE DAY T-SHIRT AND CAMO HAT.

HERITAGE DAY T-SHIRT - \$20

COMBO SPECIAL T-SHIRT & HAT \$30

OFAH CAMO HAT - \$14

WEAR IT SHARE IT POST IT ON #CAMODAY

While supplies last. Taxes extra. Quantities are limited. *Free Shipping applies to Ontario addresses only. ALL PURCHASES DIRECTLY SUPPORT OUR OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



#CAMODAY #HERITAGE DAY 2020

The OFAH led another successful Camo Day and National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day in September 2020. People showed their outdoors pride by wearing camouflage to school or work to raise awareness and shared many of their photos online to help raise awareness. The OFAH #camoday social media campaign reached more than a half a million online users in 2020 and we even sold some swag to supporters across the province through the OFAH ProShop.

HUNTER EDUCATION GOES VIRTUAL

The Ontario Hunter Education Program unveiled an on-line hunter education course in 2020. Students had the opportunity to do their learning online and then complete their hunter education exam with a qualified instructor through virtual platforms, like Zoom.



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The OFAH and its partners proudly hosted two separate internships in 2020 -- the OFAH/Fitzsimons Financial Group Fish & Wildlife Conservation Internship and the OFAH/BrokerLink Fish and Wildlife Conservation Internship. Interns gained valuable experience working closely with our policy and program teams, both in the field and at the desk, throughout the year.



HFHC TURNS 10

The OFAH | Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre turned a decade old in 2020, while the OFAH also celebrated 10 years of family ice fishing on Family Day. The Heritage Centre, through a transition to virtual learning, and our family fishing events, remains a core element to OFAH youth outreach.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Three OFAH/partner research grants were awarded in 2020 to support students and their research. This year grants were awarded to research on Atlantic Salmon, cervid pathology/disease and waterfowl conservation. Their science will help inform and support sound fish and wildlife conservation management in Ontario.



ENCOURAGE safe and responsible participation in fishing and hunting



The OFAH has developed this toolkit to help municipalities target unwanted behaviour, avoid fishing bans and access restrictions, and to *keep communities fishing*.

Fishing is a proven socio-economic driver for many communities. It's a time-honoured tradition for families and great for people's health by getting them active outdoors. There are approximately 1.4 million licensed anglers in Ontario who contribute more than \$2.2 billion annually to the provincial economy. Many businesses and local economies rely on tourism created through fishing.

LITTERING



- Provide accessible garbage and recycling bins with frequent pick up and removal
- Signage in known angling and/or problem locations
- **Molok Waste Containers**
- Coordinated cleanups (fishing clubs, community groups)
- Fish cleaning stations

TRESPASSING



- Clear signage, in multiple languages with graphics, indicating where fishing is restricted
- Additional lighting
- Fencing and gated entry
- Docks, fishing nodes, and piers
- Provide contact information for enforcement (**Crime Stoppers** 1-800-222-8477, **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry TIPS line** 1-877-847-7667)

PUBLIC URINATION/DEFECATION



- Provide public washrooms or portable toilets
- Social media clean-up campaigns (i.e. responsible/respectful angling outreach)

ofah.org/fisheries/resources

NOISE



- Implement stricter noise bylaws
- Increase enforcement presence
- Social sanctioning campaigns and programs - "see something, say something"
- Encourage anglers to advocate for responsible behaviour through online forums, social media platforms, and angling clubs

PARKING



- Provide accessible parking lots in key locations
- On-street parking meters
- **Smart parking** and parking apps
- Regular public transit route
- Implement parking bylaws for problem areas
- Increase enforcement of parking bylaws

BANK DEGRADATION



- Plant riparian vegetation such as native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers to stabilize the bank
- Section off and restrict access to critical areas
- Foster meaningful community connections by engaging local stakeholder groups in stewardship and habitat improvement projects
- Collaborate with **Conservation Authorities**, and where applicable, **ALUS Canada** on restoration initiatives
- Create areas designated for people to get down to the water's edge, so they don't continue to use the bank

INVASIVE SPECIES



- Education and outreach signage at municipal boat launches, docks and other access points
- Distribute fact sheets on invading species and best practices for anglers to prevent the spread of invasive species
- Collaborate with the **Invading Species Awareness Program**
- Document and submit invasive species observations using the **Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMaps)**
- Provide bait disposal area/containers

OTHER IDEAS AND RESOURCES

Create a working group. Working groups are a proven strategy for finding mutually beneficial solutions to common problems. Have regular meetings and seek input from stakeholders including residents, angling clubs, enforcement, municipal staff, the MNRF, and the OFAH. Publish an accessible municipal map of key locations, including garbage receptacles, public washrooms, where to fish, rules, etc.

OFAH video: **Respectful Fishing - What Not to Do**

OFAH video: **Be a Responsible Angler**

ofah.org/fisheries/resources

OFAH UNVEILS MUNICIPAL ANGLING TOOLKIT

The Municipal Angling Toolkit was created and promoted as a resource to assist municipalities in dealing with some of the common issues relating to fishing access, by-laws, trespassing, invading species and more. The OFAH hopes it will be a tool to help avoid fishing bans and access restrictions, and ultimately to keep communities fishing.



KEEPING YOU CONNECTED AND IN THE OUTDOORS DURING COVID-19

The OFAH provided critical information about keeping you and your family in the outdoors in many ways throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Liaised with local public health units to gather information and share relevant communications
- Compiled a list of frequently asked questions about COVID-19 and the impacts on fishing and hunting and made it available online
- Provided advice on how to hunt and fish safely during a pandemic
- Monitored and provided up-to-date information about local closures and restrictions
- Advocated for municipal and provincial governments to allow fishing and hunting to continue throughout COVID-19. These outdoor activities promote mental wellness for individuals and help stimulate the economy in Ontario
- The OFAH also remained connected with members, holding the Annual General Meeting, Board of Directors' meetings and Zone meetings in a virtual format for the first time ever

STAY CONNECTED AT WWW.OFAH.ORG/ENEWS

FOCUS ON LYME DISEASE PREVENTION



THE OPENER NEWS OFAH INSIDER BROWSING SOLUNAR PHOTOS

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS
OUR LOOK AT ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU

Are you prepared for tick season?

For many anglers and hunters, springtime brings trout and walleye fishing and bear and wild turkey hunting. It is also signals the beginning of tick season across a growing segment of Ontario. For those who enjoy the outdoors, the threat of Lyme disease is an increasingly important reality to consider when making plans for your spring pursuits.

Take precautions to prevent tick bites by following these best practices:

- Wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants wherever possible, tucking the shirt into your pants and the pant legs into your socks. The use of ankle gaiters is also an effective option. Shoes should be fully enclosed and wearing a hat is advised to protect the scalp. Whenever possible, wear light-colored clothing, which makes spotting ticks much easier.
- Use insect repellent containing either 20-30% DEET or 20% Icaridin — also known as picaridin. An even more effective option is the clothing-only repellent permethrin, which is not available for sale in Canada, but can be purchased in the United States for use here.
- Speak with your veterinarian about potential tick-repellent treatments, as well as the available Lyme disease vaccine for dogs. Do the same for other pets, with special focus on the head, eyes, neck, ears, tail, between the legs, and in between the toes.
- Where possible, stay on primary trails and avoid walking through brush and tall grass. Ticks find a host by waiting on the edge of vegetation for a passing animal, climbing aboard as their new host brushes past.
- While sitting in potential tick habitat, create a barrier between you and the surrounding vegetation by laying out a tarp, using a portable seat or blind, or by clearing the area of brush and long grass.
- Be cautious when handling dead animals, as ticks may detach from their hosts once they have died, and store game outside of the home whenever possible. Keep in mind that migratory animals may transport black-legged ticks well outside of their normal range.

After spending time in potential tick habitat, shower/bathe and conduct a full-body tick check as soon as possible, focusing on areas with hair, under arms, the belly button, in and around the ears, behind the knees, the groin and buttocks, around the waist, and under any excess skin.

Check your outdoor clothing and gear after returning inside. To kill any ticks on your clothing, put dry clothing into the dryer on high for 10 minutes or wash dirty clothes in hot water, then dry for 60 minutes on high or 90 minutes on low.

If a tick is found embedded in the skin, it should be removed immediately, to reduce the possibility of it transferring the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. For instructions on proper tick removal, follow-up, and the symptoms of Lyme, visit www.canada.ca/lymedisease and stay connected with the OFAH through social media and e-news for more hunting- and fishing-specific tips to help keep you, your family, and your pets safe from ticks this spring.

Did you know the OFAH is hosting a conference on Lyme disease this spring? Flip to page 33 or visit www.ofah.org/conference for more info!

Advocacy in Ottawa

In a 2019 survey, advocacy ranked a close second to "being informed on issues" when it came to importance in deciding to support the OFAH. The outdoors community is constantly threatened by those who don't understand, don't want to understand, or even deliberately spread misinformation. That's why standing up for our community, while pushing forward on key issues, remains a core OFAH focus.

We recently spent time on Parliament Hill discussing topics like firearms, Lyme disease, CWD, invasive species, and migratory birds. We made stops at the Prime Minister's Office, the offices of Andrew Scheer, and MP Blaine Calkins (Chair, Conservative Hunting and Angling Caucus), as well as the offices of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

The issues are important, but the OFAH's well-reasoned and non-partisan approach provides a credible and stabilizing influence for the outdoors community in political discussions that would otherwise feed off misconceptions and an image bred from social-media extremism.

We take great pride in being an advocacy leader, and I hate to think about what things might look like without our voice. Be proud that your support adds strength to OFAH advocacy for your outdoors future.



ANGELO LOMBARDO
Executive Director, OFAH

The life stages of the black-legged tick, from left to right: larva, nymph, adult male, adult female

PHOTO: NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION OF CANADA, ORIGINAL UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Each year, Lyme disease awareness month falls in May, and in 2020, the OFAH ramped up communication efforts around Lyme disease and how it affects anglers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts. Our focus was on prevention and providing anglers and hunters with examples of what they could do to reduce the risk of being bitten by a tick.



NAVIGATING THE NEW MOOSE TAG PROCESS

As a service to our members and supporters, the OFAH helped moose hunters navigate through the new MNRF moose tag allocation system by speaking with hunters 1-on-1. We also explained the steps involved in the new process and detailed it within the pages of Ontario OUT of DOORS Magazine, with some assistance from MNRF staff, who provided some clarification and attempted to answer the many questions hunters had about the changes.

THE OPENER / OFAH INSIDER 

IN-DEPTH LOOK

2021 moose hunting changes

Major changes are coming to moose hunting in Ontario next year. Here's what every moose hunter needs to know

Starting in 2021, the MNRF is replacing the two-pool system with one that allocates tags to hunters based on points. Hunters will earn a point for every year they have applied to the draw since last receiving an adult tag through the draw or a tag transfer. In year one, a hunter's point total will be based on their draw history from 1993 to 2020 and will be cumulative, meaning that any breaks in applying will not reset your points. Point totals will be available in early 2021, but hunters can see their moose draw history now by creating an account at www.huntandfishontario.com and clicking on Draw Entries and Results.

Higher-demand tags will be awarded based on the number of points a hunter has, with tags going to the hunter (no more group applications) with the most points applying for a specific tag. Some lower-demand tags (likely the same tags currently available as surplus) will be allocated by random draw. If a hunter claims a tag awarded based on points, their point total will reset to zero.

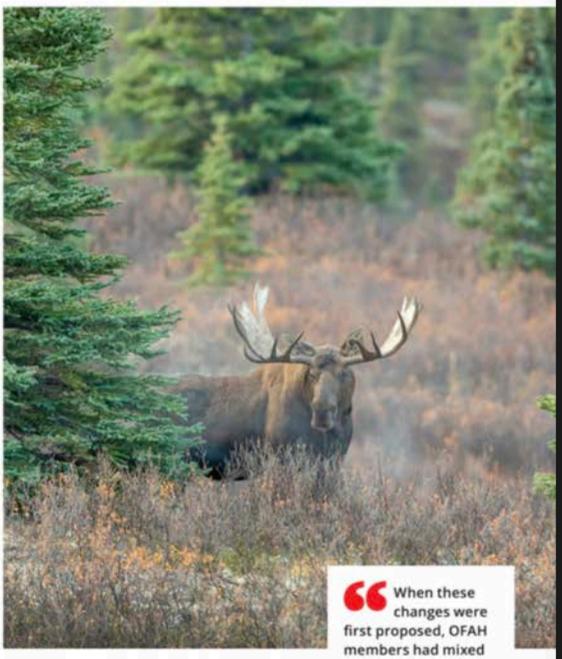
Under the new system, hunters can choose whether to claim a tag they are allocated. If you are awarded a tag but chose not to claim it, your point total is not reset and you gain a point. The tags that go unclaimed in the first allocation will be made available in a second allocation, which effectively replaces the surplus system. The ability to transfer tags will be further restricted starting in 2021.

The tags that hunters are applying for will also be different.

In 2021 a calf tag will no longer automatically come with a moose licence and WMU-specific calf tags will be allocated through the same system as adult tags. Hunters wishing to calf hunt in a specific WMU will have to apply for that tag and that tag will only be good for that unit — hunters can no longer use their calf tag in any unit with an open moose season. Hunters will also be able to apply for bull tags and cow/calf tags and hunters holding a cow/calf tag can choose whether they harvest a cow or a calf. While bull and cow/calf tags will be for a specific season (i.e., gun or bow), calf tags will be good for the entire length of moose season.

How hunters pay for moose hunting opportunities is also changing. For \$15, hunters will be able to apply to the "allocation system" and if a hunter claims a tag or chooses to party hunt with someone who has a tag, they will be required to buy a moose licence for \$35. Hunters who claim a tag will be required to pay the following: \$30 for a calf tag, \$150 for a cow/calf tag, and \$200 for a bull tag. The OFAH will be monitoring the impacts of this pricing to make sure it doesn't create financial barriers to participation.

Additionally, in 2021 the gun season for adult and calf moose in southern Ontario (WMUs 45-50, 53-63) will begin the third Monday in October.



“When these changes were first proposed, OFAH members had mixed reactions. The OFAH's goal is a system that works for all, so we are committed to making sure that the MNRF hears hunters' concerns loud and clear. We are also pushing for a review all of the changes in three years and a commitment to fixing parts that aren't working.**”**

— Dr. Keith Munro, OFAH wildlife biologist



ONE OF THE
WORLD'S LARGEST
FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS



21%



\$45.4 BILLION

IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



\$13 BILLION
ANNUALLY

THE GREAT LAKES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE

ENORMOUS BENEFIT



EXPLAINING THE BENEFITS OF THE GREAT LAKES

The OFAH partnered with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) to produce a two-minute video on the benefits that the Great Lakes provide. The video focused on the biodiversity of the Great Lakes, its economic impact and job creation, among other things. You can watch the video through the OFAH YouTube Channel.



HELP THE OFAH FIGHT THE SPREAD OF WILD PIGS

a destructive mix of feral domestic pigs and Eurasian wild boar. Follow these instructions to set up your trail cameras for wild pigs and report your findings.

PLACE CAMERAS where there is sign of wild pigs. If that's not possible, choose locations being used by other animals (like deer trails) that are within wild pig habitat: wetlands, deciduous forests, the edges of crops (especially corn and soybeans), pastureland, forest-field edges and near water sources.

BAIT can significantly help attract wild pigs. Salt licks, especially blue cobalt blocks, can attract pigs and are easy to maintain. Corn works better, but straight corn can harm deer during the winter and should be mixed with whole oats at a ratio of 1:1. Sourcing corn by soaking in water with yeast and sugar in a closed container for at least three days makes it a better pig bait and less attractive to deer.

SET CAMERAS to capture 3-5 photos per trigger, with a delay between triggers that will prevent the memory from filling up too quickly. Check cameras as needed based on the memory capacity and battery life and adjust settings if necessary. Cameras should be moved to a new area after a maximum of five months in one location. Be prepared to move your camera if you find pig sign in another location.

REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS OF PIGS (even if you're unsure) to the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or info@invadingspecies.com. Include the date, location (address, GPS coordinates, etc.) and a photo. Make sure all young pigs are reported.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about wild pigs, and this project, visit www.ofah.org/wildpigs.

Consult relevant land use and wildlife regulations for your area before setting up a trail camera or putting out bait. Always exercise caution when working around wildlife.

WILD PIG SIGNS

WILD PIG TRACKS look like deer tracks but the front toes are more rounded and point slightly outward and the dew claws are wider than the front toes.

WILD PIG **DEER**

ROOTING is when wild pigs use their snout to dig up soil while feeding.

WALLOWING are pig-sized indents in the mud, often filled with water.

KEEPING INVADING SPECIES OUT OF ONTARIO

The Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) received continued funding in 2020 to address the increasing threats posed by invasive species in Ontario -- and the year was a busy one with the program responding to emerging threats and reaching millions of people with information about invasive species prevention, monitoring, early detection, and management in Ontario.

Highlights of 2020 include:

- The Invading Species Hotline and EDDMapS Ontario handled thousands of calls and reports of invasive species received from the public;
- Great Lakes (e.g. Asian Carps) messaging and campaigns;
- Lake Simcoe and Rainy River-Lake of the Woods watersheds aquatic invasive species (AIS) messaging;
- New videos for high profile species and/or pathways in Ontario;
- Participated in the Green Shovels Collaborative – a new coalition of conservation organizations working together to build/deliver conservation focused projects – to develop a citizen science Wild Pig Surveillance Program;
- With Ontario Trillium Foundation funding, the ISAP developed a new Water Steward Program to train volunteers to assist the ISAP with encouraging recreationalists, such as boaters, to take deliberate actions to prevent the spread of AIS; and
- Worked with Parks Canada to continue monitoring water soldier in the Trent-Severn Waterway with the ultimate goal of eradication through annual herbicide applications.

Position the camera facing North whenever possible to prevent it being triggered by the sun. The distance from camera to target area will depend on the trigger range of each camera.

Put the bait as far from the camera as you can while still getting reliable triggers. This will help get clear pictures of groups of pigs.

Secure game camera with a lock or security box.

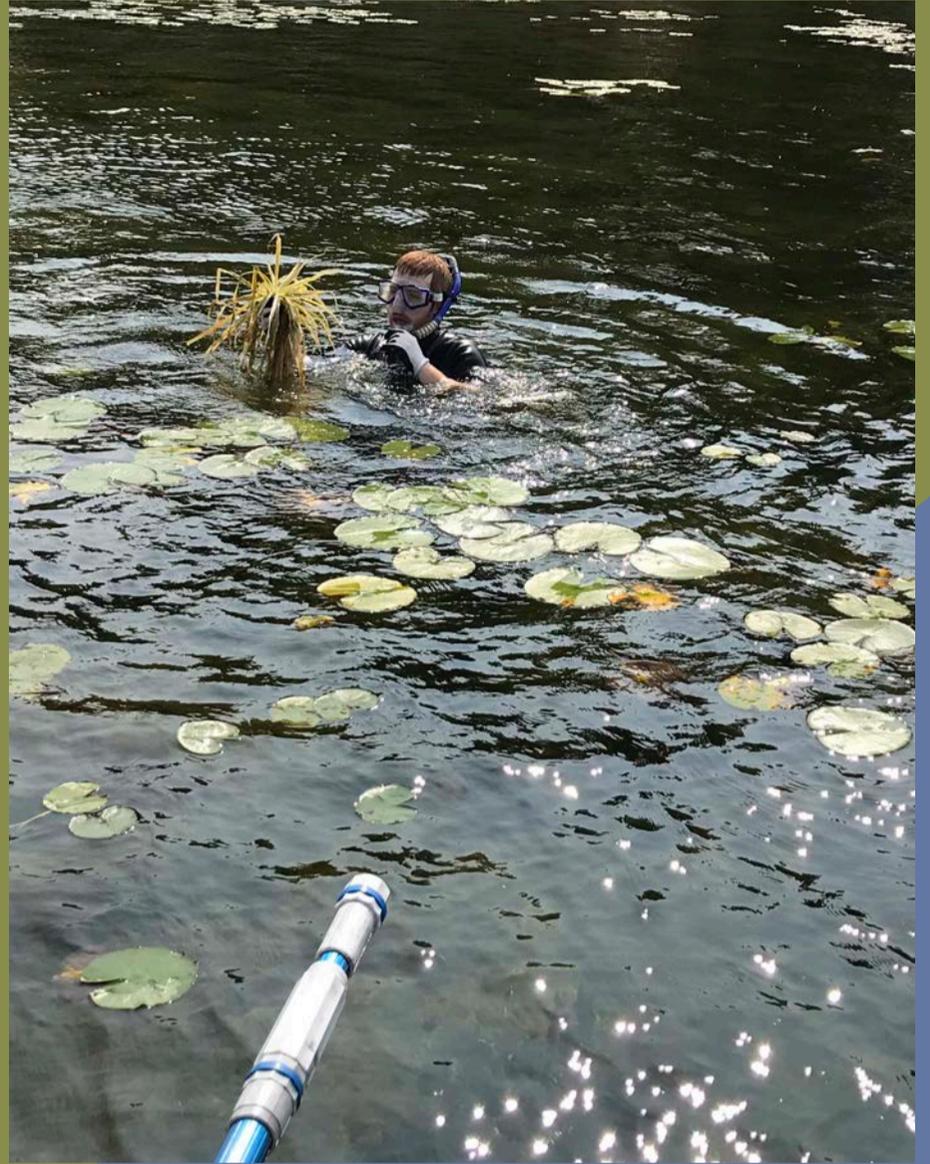
Set camera approx. 1m up a tree or fence post.

Wild pigs eat mostly vegetation like crops, roots, tubers, and mast.

Cut any vegetation that may obstruct camera view or cause false triggers.

Young pigs, or piglets, are smaller than adults and may have spots or stripes on their backs.

RESTORE fish and wildlife populations, and the habitats that support them



ALUS CONVERTS MARGINAL FARMLAND

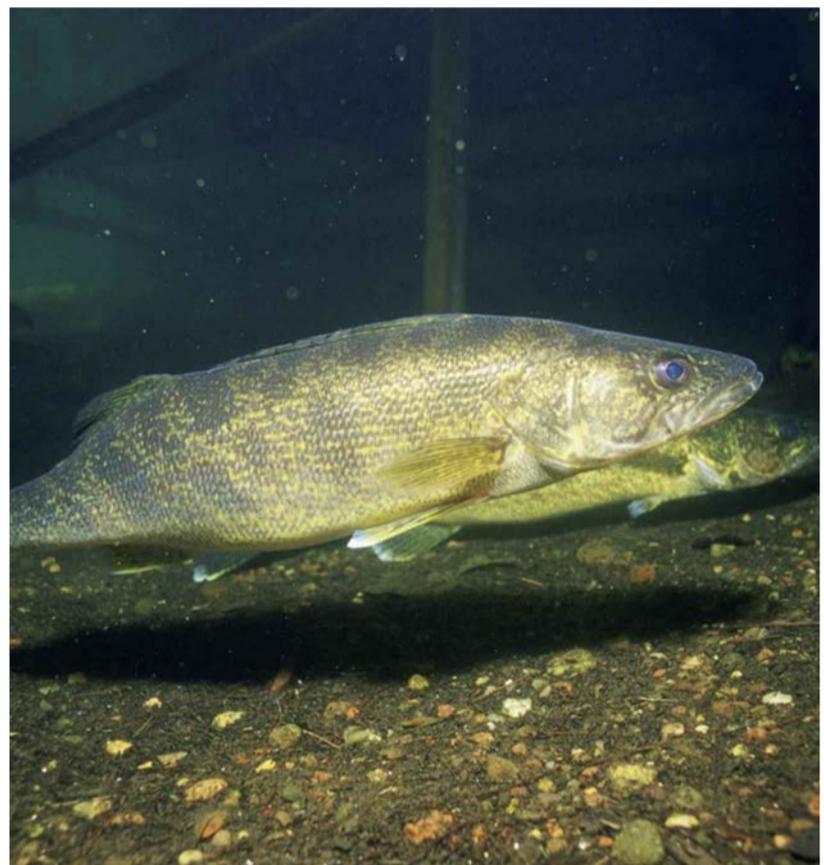
The ALUS Peterborough program's efforts in 2020 helped to re-naturalize, or protect, 69.4 acres of marginal farmland across the region, while helped to provide ecosystem services in producing cleaner air, cleaner water, better biodiversity, and enhanced habitat for wildlife.

RAPID RESPONSE TO WATER SOLDIER

A new population of invasive water soldier near Kingston was identified, assessed and treated by the OFAH's Invading Species Awareness Program staff and partners. This rapid response effort was key in stopping the spread.

SUPPORTING HATCHERIES DURING COVID

The Community Hatchery Program continued supporting its hatcheries during COVID restrictions. At a minimum, it helped keep insurance, hydro, and rent paid, even if hatcheries were unable to raise fish. The CHP also received funding to continue supporting community hatcheries for the next two years and has continued to produce support materials (e.g. videos) to create a Community of Practice amongst the volunteer-run hatcheries.



A YouTube video player interface for the video 'Hooked ON Hatcheries - Episode 3 - Walleye Harvesting, Transporting, and Stocking Procedures'. The video thumbnail shows a young girl in a pink jacket holding a large walleye fish. The video title is 'Hooked ON Hatcheries EPISODE 3 Walleye Harvesting, Transporting, and Stocking Procedures'. The video player includes a progress bar at the bottom showing 0:34 / 15:13, a volume icon, and a 'MORE VIDEOS' button. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are visible, along with the handle '@communityhatcheries'. The video player also features a logo for the 'Community HATCHERY Program' and a map of the Great Lakes region.

STOCKING ATLANTIC SALMON DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Program persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic, and found ways to deliver the classroom hatchery and habitat restoration programs despite the challenges of 2020. Additionally, our partners at the MNRF were able to raise and stock fish during the COVID global pandemic.



[Home](#) [About](#) [Atlantic Salmon](#) [Classroom Hatchery](#) [How to Help](#) [Program FAQ](#) [Newsletter](#)

Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program

Restoring Lake Ontario's Lost Treasure



ADVOCATE for evidence-based fish and wildlife conservation and management



GOVERNMENT ACTION ON WILD PIGS

Fierce OFAH advocacy triggered action on wild pigs with MNRF committing to a pilot project to control and manage wild pigs under the Invasive Species Act. They also committed to working with Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and their farmers to prevent escapes.

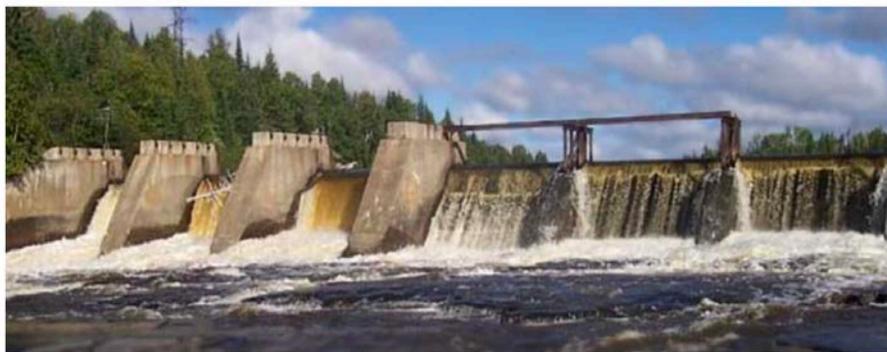
CHANGES FOR WOLF AND COYOTE HUNTERS

OFAH advocacy led to changes for wolf and coyote hunters by making an exception to small game calibre firearms restrictions. Wolf and coyote hunters can now use centrefire rifles and shotguns loaded with slugs or shot larger than #2 during big game seasons. Hunters are also no longer required to purchase a big game licence (if they don't want to) just to comply, while hunting wolves and coyotes during a big game season.

Ontario drops plan to remove Black Sturgeon River dam

The future of the dam has been under study since 2013.

Mar 30, 2020 3:34 PM By: TbNewsWatch.com Staff



The Camp 43 dam was built in 1959 for Great Lakes Paper Company logging operations (MNRF photo)

THUNDER BAY — The Camp 43 Dam on the Black Sturgeon River, northeast of Thunder Bay, will be repaired rather than demolished.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced the decision after engineers examined the 60-year-old structure and found that it was "at high risk of failure," according to a recent letter to stakeholders.

Given the risk to property and the environment downstream, the ministry says the dam needs "urgent and critical" repairs.

"Consequently, the ministry will not be proceeding with the proposed partial demolition of the Camp 43 dam...nor will it be carrying out any further steps under the related class environmental assessment," the letter states.

About the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas

The Crown Land Use Policy Atlas is the source of area-specific land use policy for Crown lands in a large part of central and mid-northern Ontario. The interactive map browser is a major component of this site. It allows users to view the boundaries of Crown land use areas as well as associated land use policies. Land use policies are presented in policy reports specific to each land use area and can be accessed using the interactive map browser. Using the interactive map browser implies you have read and agreed to the Terms of Use for the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas. To review the Terms of Use, please select the following link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-use-policy-atlas#section-3>

Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader must be downloaded on your computer in order to view saved maps and policy reports. The contents of this site are frequently updated. Please review the site to ensure any maps and any policy reports that have been saved or printed reflect the most current information available. For help with using the interactive map browser, please consult the Help Section or the Interactive Map Browser Tutorial. For more information about the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas and its components, please visit the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas home page by the following link: <https://www.ontario.ca/rural-and-north/crown-land-use-policy-atlas>

Some of the information in this website may not be compatible with assistive technologies because it is considered unconvertible or has not yet been made accessible. If you need any of the information in an alternate format, please contact the [Natural Resources Information and Support Centre \(NRISC\)](#).



DAM REPAIRS TO BENEFIT FISH

The Black Sturgeon River Dam received emergency repairs in 2020 after long-term OFAH advocacy. Since the beginning, the OFAH has been pushing for the dam to have fish passage to keep invasive Sea Lamprey out, while allowing for the passing of native fish species.

CLUPA ADDS SOUTHERN ONTARIO TO ONLINE MAP SYSTEM

The OFAH was pleased to hear that the MNRF's Crown Land Use Policy Atlas will be updated to include southern Ontario after years of OFAH advocacy to improve the cumbersome online mapping system.



FALCONRY ADVOCACY

The OFAH partnered with the Ontario Hawking Club to advocate for improvements to falconry in Ontario. Increasing the number of wild take permits by licensed falconers and adding Northern Goshawk to the list of species that can be captured, were approved and are being added to the Ontario hunting regulations.

ONTARIO'S FIRST CORMORANT HUNT

For decades, the OFAH has been advocating for better management of cormorants in Ontario and in 2020 we saw the first official cormorant hunting season. The OFAH had hoped the government would implement a targeted control program but they have decided (against our cautionary recommendations) to only move forward with a hunting season.

OFAH ZONES

COVID-19 MAY HAVE SLOWED US DOWN, BUT IT COULDN'T STOP US FROM OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION



The year that was in 2020 was chock full of challenges for the OFAH as a whole, but especially at the Zone level, due to the situation and uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic. The normalcy that we were used to with our grassroots activities was upended in a way nobody expected. In 2020, we couldn't host our annual youth camp weekends or get involved in the countless fishing derbies or shooting range days that our members are accustomed to participating in. Our youth hunts, many external committee meetings and National Archery in the Schools days were impacted, and so too were many of the habitat enhancement projects we had planned, the award presentations we would normally put on, and of course, our in-person club and Zone meetings. These things just couldn't happen the way we were used to. And unfortunately, those examples listed above are only just some of the things that were impacted by the situation we faced in 2020. In saying all of that, sometimes though with challenge, comes opportunity -- and that is important to remember, especially in this situation.

COVID slowed us down, but it certainly didn't stop us in following through on our commitment to conservation and spreading the message of the OFAH across the province. Even though we couldn't connect with our members face-to-face from March on in 2020, that didn't stop OFAH Zones from keeping in touch and reaching the membership in new ways through virtual meetings on the Zoom platform, while also utilizing the power of social media to stay connected. Being able to reach out and connect with folks through the click of a button provided new and necessary exposure for the organization and allowed us to continue to shine a bright light on great things we accomplish, not just on a yearly basis as an organization, but a day-to-day basis, at the Zone level and beyond.

We persevered through it all and many more eyes were opened to the great work of the OFAH thanks to those efforts, so even amid the challenges, there's that to be proud of.

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* as of March 28, 2021

