



Ontario Hunter Education Program

Ontario hunters have one of the best safety records anywhere in the world. Mandatory hunter education was introduced in Ontario at the urging of the OFAH in 1960 and, since then, more than one million people have been trained to think "safety first" when taking part in a hunt. Working under the direction of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the OFAH administers this important program.

The Ontario Hunter Education Program continues to see very strong momentum, and 2012 was another great year for recruitment with 396 courses and 2,795 more students than in 2011. We are very proud to report that from 2001 to 2012 we have experienced 11 years of consecutive growth. The number of students put through the program each year has increased by 11,000 during this time span.

Hunter Education by the Numbers

Total courses to date	1,764
Average # of courses per instructor.....	6.5
Average # of students per course	11.65
2012 students.....	21,300

Instructor Training

During 2012, a number of hunter education instructors decided to retire. For the first time in a number of years we have fewer than 300 instructors. Along with the MNR we looked at the instructor applications on file and decided to do more training, as more and more areas are underserviced. There are not enough instructors to meet the demand in the Oshawa, Whitby and Pickering area of south central Ontario. We also need to keep ahead of future retirees. In November, 34 instructor trainees were selected. All of them forwarded the information and the paperwork required, and dates are being selected for training. We are confident that these 34 will all be trained by March 30, 2013.

We understand that the Firearms Safety Education Service of Ontario (FSES) is also in the preliminary stages of training. In July they mailed a letter to all hunter education stand-alone instructors, asking them to resubmit their firearms instructor applications along with a \$50 application fee. They have an entirely new application form which is 14 pages long. It is our

hope that the CFO will train these stand-alone hunter education instructors first. At this point, the FSES is not accepting any more applications and they are asking those interested in applying to check their website to see when they will be accepting applications again.

Knowledge Assessment

In late November 2011, we mailed a Knowledge Assessment to all hunter education instructors. The evaluation of these assessments was very time-consuming. They have all been marked and the overall average on this knowledge assessment was 52.2/55, or 94%. We were pleased with the results and communicated them to the instructors so that they can further learn from the feedback.

Hunter Education Conference

The 21st Annual OFAH Hunter Education Instructors Conference was held this past spring in Parry Sound. It was a great success with 52 instructors in attendance. A range of speakers spoke on many topics including: Charlotte Hooper concerning the new MNR licensing system; Bob Raymond (a champion marksman) spoke about selecting and tuning a scope; and Martin Geleyne from the Ontario Hawking Club spoke on hunting regulations for his group. Our keynote speaker was Lois Deacon, Director of the MNR's Enforcement Branch. During the conference, Robert Paxton from Little Current, who contributed to his community and the province in many ways, was inducted into the Ontario Hunter Education Hall of Fame. Several years of service presentations were also made.

Cross Training

We met with FSES regarding cross training some instructors who are not dually certified. Currently, there are about 35 instructors who teach hunter education only. We have also met with FSES and the MNR to discuss training instructors in areas of need. They are not promising to train all instructors, but are willing to listen to our input and recommendations. Our opinion is that half of these applicants will be trained in the near future, which will help our programs. We continue to meet with the MNR, along with the FSES, to further advance safe firearms handling and hunting in Ontario.

Other Program Improvements

Our annual financial audit was prepared in July and was submitted to the MNR by the end of August. As always we were fiscally responsible and came in below the workplan budget. A new insert was created for the Student Kits. Along with the CFO's office, we are now providing students with an information sheet called "What Do I Do Next?" which contains information regarding obtaining your first Hunting version of the Outdoors Card, and information for students on how to obtain their firearms licence (PAL). Our hope is that this will further help students after they get home from their course, as well as alleviate a lot of phone calls that we field. We want to make it as easy as possible for students to get their paperwork processed.

We continue to meet and have dialogue with the MNR on a number of items, including updating the Hunter Education Program Standards, as well as a more formalized instructor audit protocol.

Students continue to visit the www.ohep.net website for course information and schedules. We are also happy to see that quite a few instructors have also developed their own websites to provide information for their students.

Young Hunter Education Scholarship (YHES)



In 2012, the YHES fund received three large donations which will help youth enjoy the experience of taking their hunter education course in preparation for their first hunt. Donations totaling \$6,500 were received from the SCI Foundation in Arizona, the Ottawa Valley Chapter of Safari Club International, and OFAH Zone F.

These donations will be used wisely for families in need across the province. Young people between the ages of 12 and 17 can apply for financial assistance to help cover the cost of the hunter education course. YHES ensures that financial barriers do not prevent youth from pursuing their interest in becoming a hunter. Single parent, low-income families are the priority recipients, but other factors are also considered. It is worth noting that many instructors generously discount and even waive course fees for those in need.

Through YHES, clubs, groups and individuals can help ensure a bright future for hunting. Visit www.ohep.net to apply for assistance, to make a donation to YHES, or to learn more.

Ontario Wild Turkey Hunter Education

Attendance at the spring wild turkey hunter education courses totalled 2,816 (37 scheduled events/locations). This resulted in a smaller average class size of 75 students, which was more manageable. This total attendance (for seminars only) was a sharp fall from 2011, and was due to the amazing success of the DVD program. As a result, there were no fall courses scheduled for 2012. As requested by the MNR we only employed one turkey instructor per seminar in 2012, but with the smaller class sizes and an additional hunter education instructor on site, operations went smoothly, as usual. The additional hunter education instructor will continue to assist with marking and course operations.



Photo: Randy Therrien

Wild Turkey DVD Program

The OFAH Hunter Education department developed a seamless workflow for the Wild Turkey Hunter Education DVD, with over 10,000 DVD's being sold since April 1, 2011. This home study DVD program has proven to be very successful. In 2012, over 6,000 DVD's were sold. We have noted a sharp increase in DVD sales accompanying hunter education courses, so we can again expect diminished seminar numbers for 2013, as many students will purchase the DVD and have an instructor administer their exam. DVD's were sold daily, even throughout the summer months. Our thanks to the 230 hunter education instructors who not only signed up for this program, but also provided guidance and great promotion in their communities. Many instructors have links on their website which explain how students can purchase their DVD and take the home-study course.

Wild Turkey Course Numbers

The following is a summary of 2012 activity:

2012 students.....	2,816
DVD purchases	6,260
2012 total	9,076

Visit www.ofah.org/seminars for more information about the Wild Turkey Hunter Education course.



Education and Outreach

With support from our sponsors, partners, members and member clubs, the OFAH hosts a wide range of education and outreach initiatives. We know that engaging youth, women, and families in traditional outdoor activities is the best way to continue our outdoor heritage and inspire tomorrow's conservationists.

OFAH | Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre



It was an exciting 2012 for staff and volunteers at the OFAH| Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre, as we experienced the addition of new displays and

programs. June marked the grand opening of our brand new Excalibur Archery Range and Stoeger Airgun Range, located in the lower level of the Heritage Centre. Representatives from both donor companies, along with local media, attended the highly anticipated event.

Our MNR enforcement exhibit in the upper level was also unveiled in June, and features a modern-day Conservation Officer uniform surrounded by a mural of images depicting the past, present and future of MNR enforcement, and the positive connection with anglers and hunters.

In July, the Heritage Centre hosted the McCallum family for a day of reflection and to unveil a memorial plaque to commemorate the financial donation from the late Harold McCallum.

August marked the popular Get Outdoors Summer Day Camp. An additional camp was added to accommodate 85 youth who participated in a variety of activities both at the Heritage Centre and offsite at locations such as the Sir Sandford Fleming College Atlantic Salmon Hatchery. Thanks to financial support from OFAH Zone E, the camp will continue to run for the next three summers.

With many strong connections between the Ontario curriculum and our conservation education programs, a total of 1,932 students from kindergarten through grade twelve visited the



Heritage Centre to take part in field trips, increasing the grand total of student visitors since opening day in 2010 to 4,737. The spring semester of 2012 also marked the launch of our secondary education programming, offering high school students the chance to discover their role in conservation.

In addition to the field trips, range rentals, birthday parties, various community outreach initiatives and private events, a total of 2,419 visitors stopped by to visit the Heritage Centre in 2012, including people from the area, other provinces and even other countries.

Shimano Fishing Pond

The Shimano Fishing Pond had another busy season as summer staff and volunteers assisted with fishing bookings from various community groups, including students, day cares, retirement homes, and special care agencies.

The Shimano Fishing Pond was also the site of our second annual fishing event, partnering with Peterborough's New Canadians Centre and sponsor Coleman Canada. For many, it was their first time casting a line and trying out a truly Canadian tradition. In 2012, 1,449 anglers made use of the fishing pond.



OFAH Fish and Wildlife Land Trust Fund

In March 2011, OFAH Zone F passed a draft resolution regarding the establishment of an OFAH Wildlife Trust Fund. The resolution was subsequently approved by the OFAH Board of Directors at the April 2012 meeting, along with a change in the name to the OFAH Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. The purpose is to fund the acquisition of lease of suitable fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation properties, which will focus on conservation, fish and wildlife habitat, and access for the purpose of fishing, hunting and other outdoor pursuits. The properties will be managed under the direct supervision of OFAH Head Office staff, with the assistance as required from our nine OFAH zones, 675 member clubs and members of the Board of Directors. Only when funds are available in the OFAH Fish and Wildlife Land Trust Fund, which have been made available through fundraising specifically for this program will the acquisition of property be considered.

Ontario Family Fishing Events



Twice a year, during February and July, the Province of Ontario declares licence-free fishing opportunities aimed at encouraging families to try fishing. During these designated days, Canadian residents do not need to buy the otherwise mandatory fishing version Outdoors

Card. Launched in 1994, the aim of the program was to break down barriers which prevent Canadian residents from taking the initiative to fish Ontario's waters. By taking part in the licence-free days, children and their families discover the fun of fishing, and develop an appreciation and respect for our natural resources. Ontario Family Fishing Events are highly successful at combining licence-free fishing periods with volunteer-led community fishing events and, as a result, have been repeatedly expanded over their 19-year history. Event hosts included many OFAH clubs, community groups, service groups and other agencies. The OFAH provides promotion and educational materials such as posters, flyers, information booklets, participation certificates, coloring draw entries, and other materials.

In 2012, Ontario Family Fishing Events (formerly Ontario Family Fishing Weekend) was given a new name, new logo and new slogan, but the program is the same great initiative that has been enticing new anglers on to the water for almost 20 years. With a new look to the program, and some diligent marketing, we have received 2.3-2.5 million impressions via the new website, Facebook page, Facebook advertisements, and The Weather Network advertisements. We have also received an overwhelming volume of coloring contest entries in comparison to previous years. This year we successfully added seven new events to the list, meaning 91 provincial events were held in 2012. Overall, provincial participation increased by over 7,000 people this year in comparison to 2011.

Visit www.ontariofamilyfishing.com to learn more or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



OFAH TackleShare

OFAH TackleShare is a province-wide program initiated by the OFAH in response to an overwhelming number of individuals who



expressed an interest in fishing, but had no idea how to get started. For nearly 15 years, the OFAH has invested in this program in order to deliver materials free of charge to beginners who do not have their own fishing equipment. TackleShare distributes this fishing gear to loaner sites, such as public libraries, Ontario Parks, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and other community locations, which in turn loan out the equipment to new anglers, similar to the way that library materials are borrowed.

The OFAH TackleShare Program continues to attract outstanding media coverage for our organization through its loaner sites and the Travelling TackleShare program.

Travelling TackleShare is the mobile component of the program, as it brings fishing equipment to specific locations for special community events. The Travelling TackleShare crew delivers a free, three-hour interactive workshop that teaches the public about fish identification, aquatic habitat, the threat of invasive species and fishing techniques, followed by the opportunity to go fishing using TackleShare equipment. This travelling program was delivered at 11 events in 2012, allowing us to reach out to urban families who discovered that the OFAH takes an important lead role in environmental work in Ontario.

2012 was the most successful year in the TackleShare program's 14-year history, with 148 established loaner sites across the province that enabled 4,700 children and novice anglers to borrow gear from loaner sites and experience the thrill of fishing. Almost



9,000 people participated in Travelling TackleShare this summer, and many of them told us that the presentation made it easy for both kids and adults to learn the basics about fishing. They also wished that there had been enough time to learn more. Strategic planning and early promotion produced increased participation, resulting in loaner site participation doubling that of 2011, and event participation coming in at 3.5 times that of 2011. Additional advertising increased overall program impressions from 2.5 million in 2011 to 4.3 million in 2012.

With financial support from lead sponsor Ontario Power Generation, OFAH TackleShare distributed 470 rod and reel combos, and 333 fully stocked tackle boxes to various loaner sites throughout the province. This is the second year in a row that Ontario Power Generation has been TackleShare's title sponsor. Lucky Strike, Walmart, KTL Canada, Canadian Tire, Ontario Parks, Shimano, Shakespeare and Berkley also provided significant support for this program. Visit www.tackleshare.com to learn more.

Women's Outdoor Weekend



For the past 18 years, the OFAH has been actively supporting women's growing interest in hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits through our Women's Outdoor Weekend program. Many women have expressed an interest in making the outdoors a greater part of their personal and family lifestyle, but did not know how to get started. The OFAH initiated the Women's Outdoor Weekend to break down this barrier, and is the only provincial program of its kind to do so. This annual event is held in September at the Kinark Outdoor Centre near Minden, where over 100 participants and volunteers converge for a three day weekend of archery, fishing, fly tying, fly fishing, trap range, rifle range, high ropes course, woodcarving, game calling, orienteering, outdoor survival, and outdoor workshops. Cabin-style accommodations, delicious meals, guest speakers, and evening entertainment make for a memorable experience for all.

In 2012, we were proud to have CHEX TV and the Muskoka Sun present to give great reports on how the OFAH is offering a great opportunity for women to get involved in the outdoors. Visit www.ofah.org/wow/ to learn more, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



OFAH Get Outdoors

Summer Leadership Camp

Once again, great campers, hardworking staff and phenomenal volunteers made the OFAH Get Outdoors Summer Leadership Camp 2012 a program that should be the envy of every conservation-minded organization around the world. To the best of our knowledge, no other summer camp delivers such quality programming for such great value. The four-day experience for OFAH youth members combines outdoor exploration, conservation education and leadership into the experience of a lifetime. Top activities include: leadership, fishing, target shooting, fly tying, archery, kayaking, canoeing, game calling, wilderness survival, animal tracks, tree identification, evening camp fires, stargazing and night hikes but, most importantly, campers spend four days learning about the OFAH and why its members care about their participation in our organization. This year, all 180 spots were filled just 19 minutes after the registration began, and we continued to produce a waiting list through the remainder of the spring. Volunteers are the heart and soul of this camp, and are the key to its 11 years of success. We appreciate all of the great volunteers who give up their personal family vacation time to help OFAH staff with every aspect of camp including program delivery, administration, as well as kitchen and bathroom duties. Visit www.getoutdoors.org/camp to learn more, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Youth Leadership Conference

For nearly a decade, the OFAH Get Outdoors program has welcomed youth to its Youth Leadership Conference, held in conjunction with the OFAH Annual General Meeting and Fish & Wildlife Conference. In 2012, the enthusiastic group of youth members who toured the Toronto Sportsmen's Show exhibits, and took a day trip to the Islington Sportsmen's Club where the youth were able to partake in fly tying, archery, .22 rifle range and 20 gauge shotgun range, visit a hatchery, and learn how maple syrup is made. A special demonstration by Fleming College gave all participants a glimpse into the future of fish and wildlife management in Ontario, and provided some insight to furthering their education in wildlife biology. Visit www.getoutdoors.org/conference to learn more, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Youth Hunting Day Events

The OFAH, in partnership with the Elgin, Perth, and Middlesex Stewardship Councils, launched two annual youth hunting events in 2012 in an effort to recruit youth who want to try hunting but have no one to mentor them. OFAH Zone E partnered with the Delta Waterfowl Rice Lake Chapter to bring an annual mentored hunt to 14 youth on September 14 and 15 (Heritage Day). Prior to the hunt, participants attended the provincial hunter education and firearms safety license training course for 20 hours of classroom training which was held at the OFAH|Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre in Peterborough. The Long Point Youth Camp was another great success this year; 28 youth between the ages of 12 and 15 successfully completed a comprehensive program that included Hunter Education, PAL training, and Wild Turkey training. There are plans in the works to host two camps in 2013 in an effort to keep up with demand.

OFAH Youth Hunt



The OFAH hosted its first annual youth hunting event on Sunday, October 21, with a mentored pheasant hunt where eight youth between the ages of 12 and 15 enjoyed a great guided tour of the Mill Pond game bird egg hatchery at Bird's Eye View Pheasant Farm. Participants were paired with mentors who helped them develop shooting, hunting, processing and cooking skills. There was also skeet shooting, falconry demonstrations, and a game luncheon. Prior to the event, students attended the provincial hunter education and firearms safety license training course on October 12, 13 and 14 at the OFAH|Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre in Peterborough for 20 hours of classroom training. Both the training and the mentored hunt were free of charge to these students. OFAH clubs that want to host a Youth Hunting Event can request a toolkit that includes everything they need to get started, including a DVD copy of the Ontario Stewardship's "How To" guide on successfully planning and implementing a Youth Hunting Day Event.

OFAH Wild Turkey Registry

In 2012, 122 people registered their birds on the OFAH Wild Turkey Registry. The top typical score was held by William Sheppard of Erin, whose bird scored 89.90; it weighed 26 pounds, had an 11.9 inch beard and matching 2 inch spurs. The non-typical category score was held by Joseph Tetreault at 76.50 with a 23-pound double-bearded giant. Beard number one measured nine inches, while beard number two came in at a close 7.75 inches. The matching spurs were one inch each. Wild Turkey Registry pins and registry certificates were mailed in early December to the successful hunters.

Ontario Angler Awards



The OFAH Ontario Angler Awards (OAA) is a province-wide program that promotes and recognizes recreational fishing efforts by resident and nonresident anglers.

In 2012, there were a total of 3,727 Angler Award entries. June saw

the highest number of entries at 895, and the lowest month was December at 24.

Thousands of people visit www.ontarioanglerawards.com annually, generating tremendous profile for the OFAH and program sponsors, including the Government of Ontario, Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows, SAIL, and *Ontario OUT OF DOORS*.

OFAH Record Fish Registry

The OFAH Record Fish Registry is the official registry for recreational anglers who land the most remarkable fish in Ontario waters. The angler of each new record receives a beautifully hand-crafted, hand-painted, fiberglass replica of their fish, created by internationally-acclaimed Advanced Taxidermy and Wildlife Design. In 2012, two potential records were submitted to the registry in the categories of Fallfish and Longnose Gar but they cannot be declared as confirmed records until February 15, 2013. May's issue of *Ontario OUT of DOORS* magazine featured an Ontario Record Fish Registry advertisement and encouraged anglers to refer to the current listings and submit their potential records.

We continue to promote the OFAH Ontario Record Fish Registry through a display of current record replicas at the OFAH | Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre. In the fall of 2012, we extended the OFAH Ontario Record Fish Registry mural to accommodate the addition of new replicas and the increasing size of the new records. We have also added some substantial signage on the wall to increase program recognition. Visit www.ofah.org/fishresources for a current listing of record fish acknowledged by the OFAH Ontario Record Fish Registry.





OFAH Membership

Members are the lifeblood of the OFAH. The Federation was formed by conservation-minded anglers and hunters 84 years ago, and remains strong to this day through the loyalty and dedication of its members.

Membership Growth

Congratulations to every OFAH member. In 2012, the OFAH achieved an all-time OFAH membership record of 85,178. Strength in membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and the cornerstone of 84 years of world-leading conservation action. Indeed, that is a bold statement, but one that deserves to be repeated, particularly to anyone who somehow thinks that fishing and hunting opportunities come without a personal investment. For the betterment of conservation, and hunting and fishing traditions, the founders of our great organization had the wisdom to empower their fellow sportsmen. OFAH members knew that big city politicians, even at the turn of the 19th century, could easily forget outdoor priorities, unless their government ever underestimated the voting power and grassroots determination of hardworking people prepared to stand up for it.

Since 1928, joining the OFAH remains the single greatest investment a conservation-minded angler and hunter can make. As always, our success in membership retention and growth is the result of a solid team effort by OFAH staff and members who work diligently to remind fellow anglers and hunters about the importance of an OFAH membership. Even the best featured membership promotions cannot compare to the powerful influence from one hunter to another when he/she asks, "are you an OFAH member?"

Member Services

Monthly Giving

Through the OFAH monthly giving program, 2,545 OFAH members kept their membership current and contributed to conservation in Ontario. In 2012, the total contributions from this program exceeded \$400,000. In addition to the convenience of automatically donating a fixed amount monthly, all members in this program receive a tax receipt for the donation that exceeds their membership fee. In 2012, monthly giving and expired member calling campaigns

generated 171 new donors to the monthly giving program, with an increase in donations totalling \$2,000 per month. In June, we mailed a coaster set to our 2,500 monthly donors as a "thank you" for their continued commitment to conservation in Ontario. We made a request to our monthly donors to consider increasing the amount of their monthly contribution, and had excellent results with 41 donors responding and increasing their donations by a total of \$3,500 a year.

OFAH Life Members

Life members are among the most dedicated and loyal supporters of our fish and wildlife conservation work. This exceptional group grew again in 2012; we now have 543 Life Members.

OFAH Member Club Growth

We currently have over 675 OFAH affiliated clubs. The "no-cost" primary club comprehensive general liability coverage that hunting, fishing and conservation clubs receive when they join as a 100% OFAH affiliated club continues to be one of the main draws for new club recruitment. If you are part of a hunting, fishing or conservation club/camp, and are looking for insurance coverage, an OFAH club membership is what you need. Our club membership continues to gain interest, with many of the enquiries relating directly to insurance questions on the broad coverage that is included. The OFAH is extremely proud of the insurance program that is offered to our clubs and individuals, and we can say with confidence that it is the best program available.

Member Benefits

Brokerlink Insurance

Our partnership with Brokerlink Insurance was a huge success in 2012. Many OFAH members took advantage of great savings on home and auto insurance policies that are available to them through our partnership. We continued to encourage our members to call for a "no obligation" quote to take advantage of great savings that other OFAH members are already enjoying. The OFAH is also pleased to announce that Brokerlink Insurance has once again committed to the \$5,000 OFAH/Brokerlink Fish and Wildlife Conservation Internship program for 2013. This is a great opportunity for a student who is currently enrolled in a post-secondary fish and wildlife program to gain valuable work experience while still in school.

Mark's Work Warehouse

2012 proved to be another productive year for our partnership with Mark's Work Wearhouse. Once again, OFAH members showed their support of this program by continuing to show their OFAH/Mark's discount card when shopping. Total volume sales reached \$615,000 over the course of the year. Be sure to show your discount card on all purchases, even if the item is on sale, as this will result in a larger donation back to the OFAH and, therefore, toward the conservation of fish and wildlife in Ontario.

AIL

OFAH members continue to take advantage of great life insurance policies being offered through AIL insurance. From final expense planning to an increased AD&D policy, AIL can be of assistance. The \$4,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy included in your membership provides some coverage for you in the event that you are severely injured, or worse.

BMO

The OFAH/BMO MasterCard is the official MasterCard of anglers and hunters in Ontario. Every time you make a purchase using the OFAH/BMO MasterCard, a percentage of that purchase is donated back to the OFAH to be put towards the conservation of fish and wildlife in Ontario. Visit www.ofah.org for details.

TSC Stores

TSC Stores continued to offer OFAH members a variety of savings opportunities within their stores. OFAH members can save up to 15% on a variety of products every time your OFAH member discount card is scanned. Each year, TSC makes a contribution based on the total volume of OFAH sales in the calendar year, which directly supports the conservation of fish and wildlife in Ontario. Be sure to check out the monthly specials on our main website at www.ofah.org.

The Brick

OFAH members can save anywhere between 10-40% off a purchase of home appliances, televisions or furniture. Remember, when you take advantage of the OFAH discount program at The Brick, your purchase is directly supporting the conservation of fish and wildlife in Ontario.

The UPS Store

OFAH members can save anywhere between 5-15% off a variety of products and/or services. Simply show your OFAH membership card to take advantage of these savings. In November, the UPS Stores ran a fundraising campaign to help support fish and wildlife in Ontario. The OFAH is pleased with the efforts and acknowledgment by The UPS Store of the importance of raising funds for conservation.

Manulife Financial

This is a reminder to all OFAH members who are looking to save on health and dental costs; to select from a variety of different coverage options, contact Manulife Financial. They offer everything from health and dental plans to life insurance policies. The more policies that are purchased, the greater the donation back to the OFAH.

Affinity Partner Recruitment

We are always looking for quality retail and service providers that can offer our members discounted prices on products or services

that they regularly purchase. If you know of a company, or have a suggestion, please pass the information on to us.

Great North Wildlife Affiliates (GNWA) - Individual Coverage

There were no changes made to the individual coverage provided by the GNWA in 2012.

Great North Wildlife Affiliates (GNWA) - Club Coverage

There were no changes made to the Primary Club Comprehensive General Liability coverage in 2012. As always, we are reminding all OFAH affiliated clubs that they must maintain a 100% affiliation with the OFAH for their no-cost Primary Club Comprehensive General Liability coverage to be valid. This means that every member of the club must also be an OFAH member.

Sustaining Members

GOLD: AIL Canada; Bass Pro Shops; BoaterExam.com/HunterExam.com; Brokerlink; Cabela's; Coleman; DT Powersports; Excalibur Crossbow; Fox 40; H.M. Dignam Corporation Limited; Imagewear; Le Baron Outdoor Products; National Fishing League; Ontario Stewardship; Pioneer; Pure Fishing (Berkley); Shimano Canada Limited; Stoeger Canada Ltd.; The UPS Store; Toronto and Region Conservation Authority; Toronto Sportsmen's Show; TSC Stores; Zeiss Sports Optics (Gentec International).

SILVER: Northern Ontario Aquaculture Association; The Brick.

BRONZE: Commercial Press & Design Inc.; Grant Custom Products; Idris Insurance Brokers Ltd.; Long Point Waterfowl; Lucky Strike Bait Works Ltd.; Ruffed Grouse Bistro; The Vincentress Ltd.; W.I. Villager Ltd.

84th OFAH Annual General Meeting and Fish & Wildlife Conference



The 84th OFAH Annual General Meeting and Fish & Wildlife Conference welcomed over 700 outdoors enthusiasts to the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre in Mississauga in March.

In addition to the annual general meeting, the three day event featured speakers on a range of outdoor-related topics, award presentations, delicious food, and great entertainment. Tim Hudak, Leader of the Conservative Party of Ontario was the featured speaker at the President's Reception on Thursday evening. Associate Minister of National Defence, Julian Fantino, delivered the keynote address at the Conservation Awards Gala on Friday evening.

Once again, the Friday speaker series was livestreamed over the Internet. Saturday evening was when we celebrated OFAH Executive Director Mike Reader's retirement after more than a decade at the helm, and 25 years with the OFAH. The OFAH Get Outdoors Youth Leadership Conference also welcomed an enthusiastic group of youth from 8 to 18 years of age for two days of activities and field trips.



Fundraising

OFAH members and member clubs help raise funds that make fish and wildlife conservation initiatives possible.

38th Annual OFAH Conservation Lottery

The OFAH Conservation Lottery is our largest fundraiser and is a terrific way to support the OFAH and conservation. Once again, lottery winners took home fantastic prizes while supporting conservation efforts in their communities and beyond. The 38th lottery grand prize winners hailed from Cayuga, Pembroke, Newburgh, Hanmer and Tecumseh. A complete list of winners was posted at www.ofah.org and was printed in the August HOTLINE.

The line-up of prizes totaled more than \$302,000, a record amount. Thanks to Dodge (Chrysler Canada), our major vehicle sponsor, G3, who provided boats, and Yamaha, who continued their sponsorship with ATV's and outboard motors.

Anyone selling more than five books of tickets was eligible to order *Opening Morning* by Trevor Tennant; 270 framed prints were sold.

Our 2012 lottery ticket sales (club and individual) were down from 2011, with a total of 38,693 books sold. Thanks to all of those who purchased and sold tickets; what a great way to support the OFAH and conservation!

OFAH Ontario Wildlife Calendar and Christmas Cards

The 2013 OFAH Ontario Wildlife calendar was mailed in October and featured a total of 35 member photographs; eight of which were selected to appear as featured months. Donations for the 2013 Ontario Wildlife Calendar continued to pour in until year end, with an average donation of \$18. OFAH Christmas card sales also generated revenues, and not only did we reach our sales goal, we also reordered to keep fulfilling orders.



Merchandise

Our members continue to show their dedication to the OFAH by purchasing merchandise and wearing OFAH branded apparel.

Nevada Lottery

The OFAH has been involved in the provincial break open ticket program since 1993 and we, along with all other municipal and provincial charities, continue to see sluggish sales in these lottery programs. Our number of open and active locations remains fairly steady at 19. We appreciate the effort made by some of our Directors to approach local businesses and request their support as a break open ticket seller for the OFAH. Please keep up those efforts, as every box sold nets \$188.24 for your Federation. We continue to attend and participate in the provincial charity meetings hosted by the Ontario Charitable Gaming Association, and we hope to take advantage of some funds that have been made available for provincial charities to pursue variations on the standard break open ticket program products and practices. Our locations sold 80 boxes of tickets during the first three quarters of 2012, which garnered the OFAH net proceeds of just over \$15,000. Our 2013 proceeds are earmarked for Heritage Centre educational programs.

Conservation Dinners

In 2012, OFAH head office assisted with four fundraising dinners across the province that generated approximately \$69,000 in important funding for local, community-based fish and wildlife projects. By all accounts, these fundraising dinner events provide an evening of entertainment, good food, exciting auctions and raffles, and a chance for like-minded conservationists to spend an evening together raising funds to support the heritage activities they treasure. Eighty five percent of the money raised is returned to the community.