



ANNUAL REPORT

The Voice of Anglers and Hunters



2015

ROOTS IN CONSERVATION



Recognizing the value of natural resources and driven by a passion for their activities, anglers, hunters and trappers pioneered the notion of conservation.

The basic principles that guided historical conservation efforts formed what is now known as the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. The model incorporates various ideas about wildlife being held in the public interest, the use of laws to allocate our resources, allowing everyone an opportunity to hunt and using science as the basis for wildlife policy, to name a few. Many of these principles continue to guide modern fish and wildlife conservation management.

It was in this same spirit of conservation that the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters was established in 1928 by a concerned group of outdoor enthusiasts who insisted that government take inventory of our fish and wildlife resources. The conservation values of the organization's founding members remain deeply rooted to this day and help guide the OFAH's everyday efforts.

Conservation is not simply an idea or a distant milestone for the OFAH. Conservation is the foundation for everything achieved since 1928, and for everything the OFAH and its members aspire to accomplish in the future. The following themes provide a framework to showcase OFAH efforts and achievements in 2015:

- A conservation-first mentality fuels passionate volunteerism that powers grassroots action on issues and events important to local communities.
- The OFAH actively engages, supports and contributes to the science needed to develop a better understanding of fish and wildlife management, and uses this understanding to provide a strong, unified and effective voice towards the protection of our rights and traditions, and in influencing positive change for anglers, hunters and trappers.
- The OFAH takes pride in providing professional representation in the interests of the outdoor community for hundreds of programs, projects, initiatives and issues related to conservation.
- The OFAH maintains a strong pulse on fishing, hunting, trapping and other conservation issues in an effort to keep the outdoors community well informed on the information that matters most.

The accomplishments of the OFAH in 2015 illustrate how anglers, hunters and trappers have continued the tradition of being conservation leaders.

While anglers, hunters and trappers remain the same driving force behind the OFAH's conservation success as they were 88 years ago, many other conservation-minded individuals who don't fish and hunt are now recognizing the OFAH's valuable role in conservation today.

WHAT'S INSIDE



**PRESIDENT
GLENN RIVARD**

A MESSAGE FROM...



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
ANGELO LOMBARDO**

It has been another great year for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH). As you read through the pages of this year's OFAH Annual Report, you will find some examples of our many accomplishments and contributions to conservation, the progress that has been made on critical issues and the challenges we continue to face as an outdoors community.

We've created this annual report with an eye towards providing outdoors enthusiasts with an overhead view of what the Federation does to ensure the conservation of our fish and wildlife resources across Ontario.

Whether you're a member of the OFAH, an angler, a hunter, a trapper or simply someone who enjoys and appreciates the outdoors, there is something in here for you.

You'll read about the OFAH's efforts to protect the rights and traditions of anglers, hunters and trappers, and how we represent your interests in all areas of the province. You will see how we contribute to the science, research and assessment that is required to advocate for sound resource management of Ontario's fish and wildlife resources, and what we have done to influence decisions that matter to the entire outdoors community. You will also see examples of how the OFAH and our members continue to put boots to the ground to help improve the health and sustainability of our fish and wildlife populations, as well as the many ways we keep anglers and hunters up-to-date on the fishing and hunting issues that matter most.

Some of our conservation initiatives in 2015 included work with community fish hatcheries, hunter education, Atlantic Salmon, invasive species and youth education just to name a few. From school classrooms to salmon streams, and urban centres to backcountry lakes, our conservation programs and initiatives made a huge difference.

While this report attempts to recognize and highlight the OFAH's accomplishments in 2015 in an engaging and informative manner, it could never fully represent the day-to-day contributions that are made possible by OFAH members, clubs, supporters, board of directors, advisory committees, volunteers, partners and staff.

Some of those high-profile accomplishments in 2015 included our work on the massive expansion of the spring bear hunt, our push for better regulations for wolf and coyote hunting, moose management and firearms along with continued work on discharge bylaws and increasing Sunday gun hunting opportunities. The OFAH was also engaged in many fisheries related issues, including the return of the Lake Simcoe Cisco fishery.

You can rest assured that the OFAH understands the importance of conservation and maintaining our strong heritage of fishing, hunting and trapping in Ontario. Along with our many accomplishments in 2015, this annual report will also show the many important initiatives and issues that OFAH continues to work on to ensure a vibrant future for hunting, fishing and trapping in Ontario.

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Annual Report Notice:

This publication is subject to errors and omissions.

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PROTECTING RIGHTS AND TRADITIONS

WHAT WE DO: The OFAH provides a unified voice for anglers, hunters and trappers on a variety of natural resource issues. The future of fishing, hunting and trapping depends on a broader social understanding and acceptance of these activities. The majority of Ontarians do not fish, hunt or trap, so they do not fully understand the significant ecological, economic, cultural and social benefits these activities offer to society as whole.

HOW WE DO IT: The OFAH works hard to reach these people and gain more social acceptance through positive representation of our heritage activities and defending against anti-propaganda and misrepresentation. On behalf of anglers, hunters and trappers, the OFAH stays on top of important issues and provides a strong voice in the protection of our fishing, hunting and trapping future.

TELLING OUR STORY



My Canadian heritage includes hunting.

#ourheritage



It is the role of the OFAH to promote the value of fishing and hunting to our economy, to showcase the important social aspects of these activities among friends and family, and to recognize the deeply-rooted cultural aspects of fishing and hunting in the history of Canada. The OFAH promotes a positive image of hunting and fishing while ensuring conservation of the resource is paramount. September 2015 marked the first National Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day that recognized the cultural, social and economic importance of these activities in Canada.

The OFAH pushed for the official recognition of this day and was proud to highlight it by encouraging folks to wear camouflage and share their events and social media messages about what heritage activities mean to them. Over 38,000 people were engaged in sharing their stories via Facebook and Twitter.

CREATING A POSITIVE IMAGE

The OFAH leads by example by being an ambassador for the fishing and hunting community. We promote a positive image for the activities that we are so passionate about, whether it is on television, on the radio, in the news or online.

We promote a positive image by donating deer hides, keeping public fishing areas clean and mentoring the next generation of anglers and hunters, among other things.

The better the image we portray on the ground, the more credibility we build with the non-angling and non-hunting public and government decision-makers. In 2015, the OFAH supported increased fines for trespassing and worked hard to educate the fishing and hunting community on the importance of positive imaging.



DEFENDING AGAINST MISCONCEPTIONS

Do fish feel pain?

Fish are not humans or mammals. They live in a separate physical and mental world where they behave differently. Yet there are still groups claiming that fish feel pain and experience fear when caught by hook and line. A literature search on the subject by OFAH staff found a recent scientific review which exposes the deficiencies and misinterpretations of the claims at "fish pain".

The review found studies claiming to have found that "fish feel pain" have failed to do so, often because they were unable to distinguish between unconscious detection of noxious stimuli (technically known as "nociception") and conscious pain. Understanding the terminology and difference between the two, is the first critical step in answering this question:

Nociception: the unconscious sensory detection of injurious stimuli

Pain: (according to the International Association for the Study of Pain): an unpleasant sensory/emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage; pain is always subjective; pain can be reported in the absence of tissue damage and the definition of pain should avoid tying pain to an external electing stimulus.

Fish provide us with food and recreation.

Any official guidelines for treating them should be based on sound science, neurological realities, and objective indicators of well-being, NOT feelings.

Pain is a result of specific patterns of activity in certain well-studied regions of the brain (the cerebral cortex). Pain is not felt at the level of sensory receptors, peripheral nerves, or pathways within the spinal cord or brain. The fish brain does not contain a true cerebral cortex which is essential for the experience of conscious pain, which is a psychological state.

ofah.org/fisheries/research

Groups opposed to fishing, hunting and trapping are often well funded, and continuously try to influence public opinion. Unfortunately, many of their tactics involve fear-mongering, propaganda and misrepresentation of fish and wildlife issues.

The OFAH defends science-based fish and wildlife management and counteracts any misinformation that is out there. In 2015, the OFAH stood behind anglers that were harassed for fishing in urban parks, and we also spoke out on the differences between poaching and regulated hunting while Cecil the lion made headlines worldwide.

Our work in dispelling the myths around fishing, hunting and trapping will be relentless. The OFAH will continue to provide a loud voice on behalf of our membership, and provide statistics and science to back up our positions.

While the OFAH provides a collective voice for Ontario anglers and hunters, we also play a role in empowering our membership to speak out individually on issues that impact fishing and hunting.

In 2015, the OFAH rallied support to encourage people to comment on moose management proposals and decisions. We also gained support from many Ontario municipalities that want to see the spring bear hunt returned to Ontario.

At the same time, the government was seeking comments on bear baiting and, through various media sources, the OFAH reached out to hunters and guided them through the public consultation process.

The OFAH also continued to ask for municipal support for better cormorant control in Ontario.

Also at the municipal level, the OFAH worked on many bylaw-related issues, including a new discharge of firearms bylaw in Port Hope. That issue brought out hundreds of members and non-members who supported our opposition of the proposal.

RALLYING SUPPORT

Moose Project Phase 2

Thank you to every individual who took the time to comment on the Moose Project phase 1 and 2. Our members and supporters, the OFAH also comments on factors that affect moose populations with our recommendations.

Drastic Tag Cuts!

WILL YOU SPEAK OUT?

OFAH INFLUENCE

WHAT WE DO: The OFAH maintains a strong presence in all political and government circles to promote the interests of the fishing, hunting and trapping community, as well as positively influencing decisions made at all levels of governments.

HOW WE DO IT: Through our membership, board of directors, advisory committees and staff, the OFAH identifies and actively pursues opportunities to effect change that matters to the fishing, hunting and trapping community. Whether you are interested in invasive species, sporting dogs, habitat, fish stocking, access or hundreds of other important issues, the OFAH provides a strong and effective voice for Ontario's anglers, hunters and trappers.

ON PARLIAMENT HILL AND ACROSS CANADA

BILL C-42: Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act

Canadian firearms owners were relieved to see the long gun registry scrapped in 2012. The OFAH continues to push for practical firearms laws in Canada and in 2015 we helped bring in changes to legislation for law-abiding firearms owners through Bill C-42, the Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act. This is one of many examples of how the OFAH is helping to make fishing, hunting and trapping relevant and important to decision makers at the highest level of government, as well as within the general public.

The OFAH continues to be at the forefront of any discussion that affects anglers, hunters and trappers in Canada. As the co-chair of the Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel, the OFAH provides advice and recommendations to the Government of Canada in all matters related to fishing, hunting and trapping. On everything from firearms legislation to the Fisheries Act, the OFAH is providing a strong voice for Ontario's anglers, hunters and trappers on Parliament Hill.

During the 2015 federal election, the OFAH approached each of the major parties with questions that are important to anglers and hunters. With a new federal government in power, the OFAH will be working hard to make sure campaign promises are kept. For many years the OFAH fought to eliminate the ill-fated and wasteful long gun registry. We will work with the new government to ensure that they keep their promise not to bring back the registry, and to guard against the introduction of other unnecessary firearms laws. The Federation will also continue to work with MPs, MPPs and municipal councillors to advance issues related to fishing, hunting and trapping.



ACTION IN 2015:

- **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE • MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS • AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES**
- **GPS TRACKING COLLARS FOR DOGS • FIREARMS ADVOCACY**
- **LAND CLAIMS • HARVESTING CLAIMS • FISHERIES ACT**

AT QUEEN'S PARK AND THROUGHOUT ONTARIO



IT'S BACK: After a 17-year battle the Spring Bear Hunt is expanding

The announcement of a massive expansion to the spring bear hunt pilot project was rewarding news to the OFAH and its members. Over the last 17 years **NO ONE** has done more to bring back the spring bear hunt than the OFAH. The OFAH fought hard to prevent the cancellation of the spring bear hunt, taking it all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada.

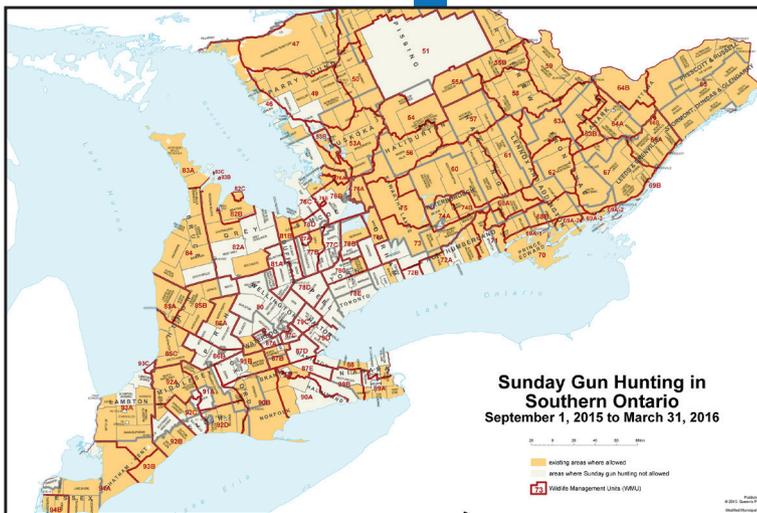
At the end of a three-year court battle, the OFAH **was the only group left defending the rights of black bear hunters**. We never stopped believing that the spring bear hunt was the right thing for Ontario, and it is great to see that our hard work has paid off.

However, the fight isn't over yet -- we still have work to do to see the permanent return of spring bear hunting to Ontario. For full details, visit www.ofah.org/springbearhunt.

ACTION IN 2015:

- COYOTE AND WOLF HUNTING • LAKE SIMCOE CISCO • MOOSE MANAGEMENT
- CROWN LAND ACCESS • ALGONQUIN LAND CLAIM • CORMORANT CONTROL

IN YOUR COMMUNITY



ACTION IN 2015:

- DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS BYLAWS • ATV BYLAWS
- MUNICIPAL BOW HUNTS • URBAN FISHING

SUNDAY GUN HUNTING: Municipalities increase hunting opportunities

The OFAH is bringing hunting opportunities to a municipality near you. More than a decade ago, many hunters couldn't have dreamed of having the opportunity to get up on a Sunday morning and head out hunting. Thanks to the hard work of the OFAH and local hunters, more than 172 municipalities have approved Sunday gun hunting. 2015 marked the 10-year anniversary of Sunday gun hunting in southern Ontario and in 2016, the OFAH will be working with our members to bring additional municipalities on board.

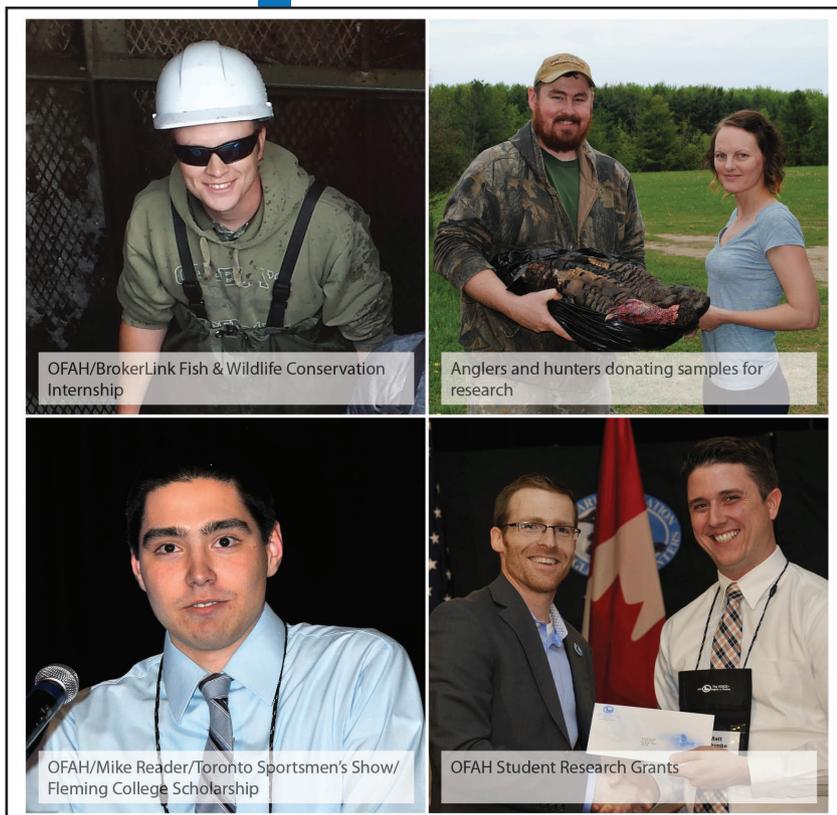
We made submissions and presented deputations to council, while working with our members to arm them with the information they need to make a difference in their communities.

SCIENCE AND SOUND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

WHAT WE DO: The OFAH takes pride in our science-based approach to fish and wildlife management. Using a team of staff biologists and the advice of various professionals throughout North America, the OFAH advocates for enhanced science-based resource management. Our goal is to improve the understanding and application of fish and wildlife management in Ontario to optimize resource conservation -- to always put the resource first and provide as many sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities as possible.

HOW WE DO IT: The OFAH pushes for government investment in the science, assessment and monitoring that is required to optimize fish and wildlife conservation management in Ontario. The OFAH also supports relevant science and research to the greatest extent possible through direct financial investment, in-kind contributions, and critical review. In 2015, there were a number of examples where science-guided OFAH positions led to positive outcomes.

INVESTING IN SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND THE NEXT GENERATION



Sound science is at the root of all OFAH policy and advocacy. Why? Because we represent over 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters and 725 clubs that rely on our voice to be effective and defensible to hold governments accountable in making sound, science-based fish and wildlife management decisions.

A VOICE THROUGH REPRESENTATION



The OFAH has representation on more than 50 different committees and groups at the bi-national, national, provincial and municipal levels. These groups discuss issues that are relevant to anglers and hunters, and provide advice to governments and other decision makers.

This level of professional representation allows the OFAH to be vigilant and influence important fishing, hunting and other conservation issues.

Many of these groups would not have perspectives from the fishing and hunting community if not for the OFAH.

From biodiversity to big game management, and Lyme disease to urban fishing, OFAH's professional representation provides a strong voice for anglers and hunters wherever it is needed in Ontario.

HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE



LEADING THE CONVERSATION:

The OFAH doesn't simply wait for government proposals on issues that are important to anglers, hunters and trappers. The OFAH works hard to identify and recommend practical solutions to real conservation issues.

RESPONDING TO PROPOSALS:

The OFAH invests significant time scrutinizing and responding to government proposals and decisions that have a potential to impact anglers, hunters and trappers. On behalf of our membership, the OFAH responded to over 25 proposals in 2015. Moose management was one of the most discussed topics in 2015. The OFAH continued to actively participate in MNR's Moose Project, urging the government to manage more than just moose hunters. This prompted the MNR to make a commitment to address other factors like predation and habitat.

ACTION IN 2015:

- SPRING BEAR HUNT
- ANGLER USE OF BAIT
- FOREST MANAGEMENT
- LAKE TROUT MANAGEMENT
- INVASIVE SPECIES ACT
- FISH STOCKING
- GREAT LAKES ISSUES
- MINING EFFLUENT AND REMEDIATION
- SPECIES AT RISK
- WETLANDS
- RELAXING CABLE RESTRAINTS

ACTION IN 2015:

- SMALL GAME REGULATIONS REVIEW
- ENHANCING YOUTH HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES
- EXPANDING HUNTING IN PROVINCIAL PARKS
- CALL FOR BETTER SURPLUS MOOSE TAG ALLOCATIONS
- WILD TURKEY HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

KEEPING ANGLERS AND HUNTERS INFORMED

WHAT WE DO: During a time when government agency offices and staff are less accessible, the OFAH works hard to keep anglers, hunters and the general public informed on fish and wildlife management news, opportunities and information.

HOW WE DO IT: The OFAH uses every possible means to keep anglers and hunters up-to-date on the latest fishing and hunting techniques, gear, resource management issues, government proposals and ways that you can get involved. From classrooms to cutting-edge television programming, the OFAH stays on top of the information that is important to anglers and hunters.



ONTARIO OUT of DOORS

If you only read one magazine relating to hunting and fishing in Ontario, chances are pretty good it's *Ontario OUT of DOORS* (OOD). In fact, for the third year running, OOD was the country's "Best Read Outdoors Magazine." According to the Print Measurement Bureau's 2015 spring readership survey, OOD readers spend an average of 61 minutes enjoying each issue. OOD publishes 10 issues a year and is available by subscription, on newsstand, digitally and in an OFAH membership package.

OFAH ONLINE

The presence of the OFAH online is far-reaching -- thanks in large part to an extensive redesign of our main website at www.ofah.org.

The site serves as our main hub of information and provides a gateway to some 30 other web properties managed by our staff. Keeping those sites up-to-date is paying off as OFAH web properties received more than 27-million page views in 2015.

Our online presence doesn't end there. The OFAH remains active in promoting who we are and what we do in social media through 20-plus profiles on Facebook and Twitter.



**SEARCH:
ONTARIO
FEDERATION OF
ANGLERS AND HUNTERS**



@OFAH

**KEEP UP-TO-DATE
ON THE FISHING
AND HUNTING
ISSUES THAT
MATTER MOST.**

**JOIN OUR
E-NEWS LIST:
WWW.OFAH.ORG/ENEWS**

DOORS MAGAZINE

Ontario
OUT of DOORS

- **900,000 average monthly page views**
- **100,860 average monthly users on www.oodmag.com**



“THE OUTDOORS SEGMENT OF TELEVISION IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING IN NORTH AMERICA AND WE INTEND TO KEEP AHTV AT THE TOP.” -- AHTV HOST MIKE MILLER

- **5,500,000 viewers**
- **2,200,000 homes reached**



- **40 shows**
- **NINE different stations across Ontario**

FACE TO FACE



An effective way to connect to our members and the general public remains in-person contact.

On-the-ground efforts to inform anglers, hunters and trappers about the outdoors continued in 2015, with OFAH staff attending events, workshops, meetings, open houses and trade shows from one end of the province to the other.

- **COMMUNITY EVENTS**
- **COYOTE WORKSHOPS**
- **FISHING AND HUNTING OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO**
- **ATTENDING ZONE AND CLUB MEETINGS**
- **STRONG REPRESENTATION AT TRADE SHOWS**

OFAH PROGRAMS

The OFAH continues to operate a number of programs, either independently or in partnership with other organizations, to enhance fish and wildlife awareness and habitat, hunter education and youth involvement in the outdoors.

These programs not only allow us to reach members on a consistent basis, but they assist in educating and engaging the public as a whole.



- **INVASIVE SPECIES**
- **HUNTER EDUCATION**
- **ATLANTIC SALMON**
- **COMMUNITY HATCHERY**
- **FAMILY FISHING**
- **TACKLESHARE**
- **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

INVADING SPECIES AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) generates public education and awareness of aquatic and terrestrial invading species in Ontario. They also play a key role in monitoring and tracking invading species found in the province. In 2015, ISAP welcomed the official signing of the Invading Species Act, kept the public informed about Asian carps and were on the Trent-Severn Waterway controlling water soldier, to list a few of the highlights. Since invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity of Ontario's waters and woodlands, the OFAH has delivered the Invading Species Awareness Program for the last 24 years in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR).



ONTARIO'S
**INVADING
SPECIES**
AWARENESS PROGRAM



VISIT
WWW.INVADINGESPECIES.COM

INVASIVE SPECIES
SIGHTINGS

3,000 +

150 +

EVENTS ATTENDED BY
ISAP STAFF TO RAISE
AWARENESS ACROSS
ONTARIO

EDD **MapS** *Ontario*

Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



IS TRACKING MORE THAN **150** SPECIES

1,500 CALLS TO THE INVADING SPECIES HOTLINE

CALL: 1-800-563-7711

SOCIAL MEDIA



SEARCH:
INVADING
SPECIES AWARENESS
PROGRAM



@INVSPECIES

ONTARIO HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Ontario Hunter Education Program, an OFAH and MNRF partnership, trains new hunters to understand the natural world, and to become knowledgeable, safe and responsible hunters.

Participants learn about ecosystems and wildlife management, hunting laws and regulations, hunter responsibilities, identification, biology, hunting techniques for big game, small game and waterfowl, hunting and survival equipment and role of hunters in society.

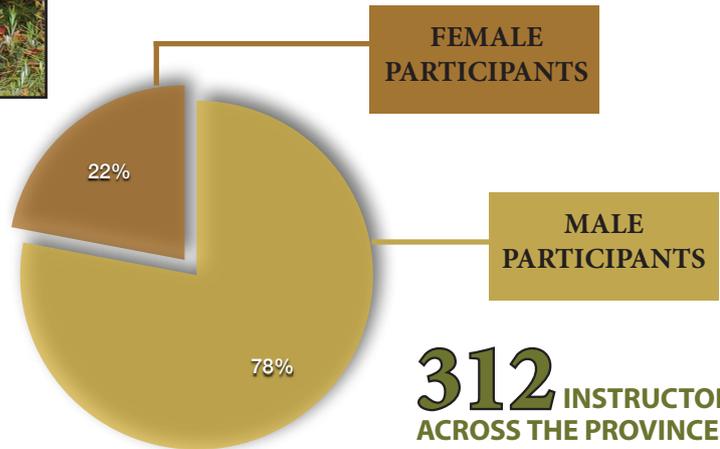
The program also reinforces firearms safety.

WWW.OHEP.NET

22,905

NEW HUNTERS TRAINED

WOMEN = FASTEST GROWING SEGMENT OF PARTICIPANTS



312 INSTRUCTORS ACROSS THE PROVINCE

TRAINING

15 NEW HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS CERTIFIED



HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE

52 REGISTERED INSTRUCTORS

WILD TURKEY HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

9,720 PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED IN 2015

17 WILD TURKEY SEMINARS

ATLANTIC SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM



13

HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS COMPLETED

3,785

TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED

656

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS PUT IN

1,592

HOURS OF WORK

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program (LOASRP) is in its 10th year and continues to work towards bringing Atlantic Salmon back to Lake Ontario.

The OFAH and the MNRF, together with Ontario Power Generation, the LCBO, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and many other partners maintained the program in 2015.

The OFAH supported a proposed catch and release Atlantic Salmon fishery for Lake Ontario tributaries (FMZs 16 and 17) and helped develop a new five-year strategy for the program (2016-2021).

The OFAH is involved in all four areas of this long-term program: fish production and stocking; habitat restoration; research and assessment; and education and outreach.



41

CLASSROOM AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

63

CLASSROOMS PARTICIPATED IN RAISING AND STOCKING FRY

VISIT
WWW.BRINGBACKTHESALMON.CA

SOCIAL MEDIA



SEARCH:
LAKE ONTARIO
ATLANTIC SALMON
RESTORATION
PROGRAM



@ONTARIOSALMON

COMMUNITY HATCHERY PROGRAM

MILLIONS
OF FISH STOCKED INTO MORE THAN
100 PUBLIC BODIES
OF WATER



900 DEDICATED
HATCHERY
VOLUNTEERS

60,000
HOURS SPENT RAISING
AND STOCKING FISH
FOR PUBLIC WATERS

\$149,971
OF FUNDING WAS
DISTRIBUTED TO

41 COMMUNITY
HATCHERIES

SOCIAL MEDIA



SEARCH:
COMMUNITY
HATCHERY
PROGRAM



@COMMUNITYHATCHE

The Community Hatchery Program (CHP), in partnership with the MNRF, administers grant funding and provides support to Ontario's community fish hatcheries.

To be eligible for CHP funding, hatcheries must be operated by volunteers, and raise fish for public waters. In 2015, the CHP hosted a Walleye culture workshop to help community hatcheries raising Walleye improve their production and improve or enhance hatchery operations. The CHP also completed a province-wide check-in with community hatcheries. Results from the check-in confirm community hatcheries have resounding support for the current program, with a few good suggestions about improvements moving forward.

The OFAH is proud to play a key role in the CHP, which is making a positive contribution to Ontario fisheries and engaging community members in fisheries management throughout the province.

VISIT WWW.COMMUNITYHATCHERIES.COM

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR WEEKEND

The OFAH's Women's Outdoor Weekend (WOW) program celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Kinark Outdoor Education Centre in Minden.

Despite the rainy conditions, 80 women were eager to get out and enjoy a weekend packed with outdoors activities, including archery, fly-fishing, trap and rifle ranges, fishing, a high ropes course, wood



carving, orienteering, outdoor survival, night hikes, evening campfires, a pig roast, and more. Yvonne Brown from Fishing 101 For Women and Lezlie Goodwin from Ontario Out of Doors gave excellent presentations on the basics of fishing and hunting, respectively. The 50/50 and raffle draws raised several thousand dollars that will be used to run future OFAH women's programming.



80

WEEKEND PARTICIPANTS

17

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

ONE

GREAT WEEKEND!



ONTARIO FAMILY FISHING EVENTS

A record number of winter events were held province-wide, but participation numbers were impacted due to cold temperatures during the Family Day Weekend.

The OFAH/OPG TackleShare program was very proud to host one of these events: the OFAH Family Ice Fishing Day.

The largest of the 35 winter events, the ice fishing day on Chemong



Lake attracted over 500 participants, many of whom were both new Canadians and new anglers. Diligent marketing and promotion of this event attracted increased media attention and recognition for the OFAH.

A record 73 summer events were held with 11,065 participants trying to land a fish. In 2016, we enter the final year of a five-year partnership with the MNRF and hope to continue delivering the program.

14,682

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

73

SUMMER EVENTS HELD IN 2015

35

WINTER EVENTS HELD IN 2015

GET OUTDOORS SUMMER LEADERSHIP CAMP

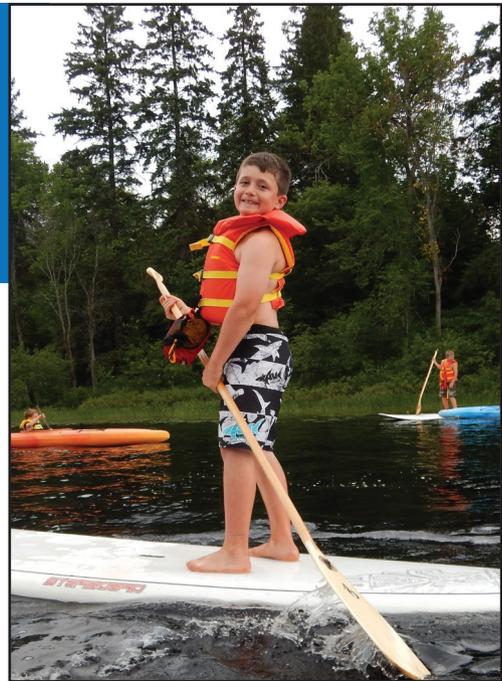
A total of 245 youth participants left their world of technology behind and came together to discover their place in the outdoors. Great campers, hard-working staff, and phenomenal volunteers made the 2015 OFAH Get Outdoors Summer Leadership Camp one that should be the envy of every conservation-minded organization around the world.

No other summer camp delivers quality programming for such a great value. The four-day experience for OFAH youth members combined outdoor exploration, conservation



education, and leadership into the experience of a lifetime. Campers enjoyed activities such as kayaking, canoeing, archery, a fishing tournament, swimming, fly tying, .22 range, ATV riding, a wild game calling competition, wolf howl, night hiking, wildlife discussions, conservation initiatives, sunset campfires, and stand-up paddle boarding.

Most importantly, campers spent four days learning about the OFAH and why members care about the importance of conservation and their participation in our organization.



245
CAMPERS
TOOK PART

2,500
ROUNDS FIRED ON
THE .22 RANGE



80 PARTICIPANTS

GET OUTDOORS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In 2015, the Get Outdoors Youth Leadership Conference was themed "Reaching New Heights" to encourage our youth members to push themselves out of their comfort zone.

On the Friday, 80 youth were bused to Boulderz Climbing in Etobicoke for indoor rock climbing. On the Saturday, the Dufferin Northern Peel Anglers

and Hunters Association again invited youth members to enjoy a day of trap shooting, .22 target shooting, archery, fly tying, 3-D archery and a nature hike. We continue to have strong support from our sponsors Stoeger Canada, Graywood and Winchester Arms who provide the high quality firearms and ammunition for the participants.

ONTARIO RECORD FISH REGISTRY

In April, registry officials declared a new record Longnose Gar caught by Steven Grail on July 19, 2014 on the Ottawa River weighing in at 21.20 pounds.

There was one potential new record submitted to the registry in the Channel Catfish category. (See right)

33.36 lb
CHANNEL CATFISH

OFAH
Ontario Record Fish
Registry





OFAH/OPG TACKLESHARE PROGRAM LOANER SITES

The OFAH/OPG TackleShare Program has over 145 loaner sites across the province, encouraging thousands of new anglers to become involved in recreational fishing. Twenty new loaner sites were added in 2015, including 10 in the Greater Toronto Area.

These loaner sites include Ontario Parks, public libraries, conservation authorities, and other community organizations. With continued financial support from our lead sponsor Ontario Power Generation, the OFAH/OPG TackleShare Program distributed over 200 rod and reel combos, and over 275



fully-stocked tackle boxes to various loaner sites. Ontario Parks and Conservation Areas continue to provide the greatest number of loans throughout the summer.

Also, the OFAH/OPG TackleShare Program continued to support the Learn to Fish program through the MNRF at six Ontario Parks. These parks were each supplied with 35 rod and reel combos, five fully-stocked tackle boxes, OFAH/OPG TackleShare bobbers and learning material.

We continue to receive strong support from program sponsors: Canadian Tire; Lucky Strike; Ontario Parks; Walmart; KTL Canada Inc.; Plano; Shimano; and Rapala.

6,547

PEOPLE BORROWED FISHING GEAR

145

LOANER SITES ACROSS ONTARIO

ZERO

COST TO PARTICIPANTS

OFAH/OPG TRAVELLING TACKLESHARE PROGRAM

The OFAH/OPG Travelling TackleShare Program brings fishing equipment to specific locations for special events.

At these events, TackleShare provides an educational workshop that includes introductory fishing instruction and aquatic habitat conservation, followed by the opportunity to go fishing.

This travelling component was delivered at 21 public events this summer, and several extra private events.

New in 2015, the travelling component also toured southwestern Ontario

and held events at 10 loaner sites to strengthen local partnerships and publicize the availability of free fishing equipment for loan.

The OFAH/OPG TackleShare Program also loaned its Travelling TackleShare rods and reels out to member clubs and other organizations for an additional 8 separate events this summer.

This program reaches out to urban families who discover that the OFAH is important in leading environmental work in Ontario, and is the pinnacle of youth outreach programming.

35

SUMMER EVENTS HELD



18,377

PARTICIPANTS

OFAH | MARIO CORTELLUCCI HUNTING AND FISHING HERITAGE CENTRE

The Heritage Centre celebrated its fifth anniversary by hosting our 10,000th student in 2015. The HFHC hosted busy spring and fall educational field trips that provided 1,522 students with unique learning opportunities outside of their classroom. Plans are underway for the construction of an outdoor classroom to provide additional opportunities for students to connect to nature.

Our Get Outdoors Summer Day Camps expanded to five weeks which allowed 100 youth participants to take part in outdoor pursuits including ATVing, fishing, wild game calling, and fly tying. These camps are a success thanks in part to the annual financial support from OFAH Zone E, which has renewed their commitment to this camp with a \$15,000 donation spread over the next five years. The HFHC continued to see strong use of the Stoeger Airgun and Excalibur Archery Ranges, and Shimano Fishing Pond through rentals, birthday parties and other private events.



10,000 +
TOTAL STUDENT VISITORS
SINCE OPENING

1,500 +
STUDENT VISITORS IN 2015



NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The National Archery in the Schools Program experienced steady growth in 2015. Twenty-six new schools signed up, bringing the number to 39 Ontario schools actively introducing archery fundamentals to their students. Contact with schools wanting more information about the program is happening every



week. Over 750 NASP information kits were sent out to schools that already have their board's approval. This direct mailing should generate a lot of program interest moving forward. Follow up phone calls will be made to assess each school's interest in running NASP to continue the growth of this accessible sport for youth of all ages and abilities.

14 CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS

39 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING

128 TEACHERS TRAINED TO DELIVER NASP

GRASSROOTS ACTION

WHAT WE DO: The OFAH is a grassroots organization committed to the conservation of Ontario's fish and wildlife. OFAH members not only contribute to fish and wildlife management through their licence dollars, but also donate countless hours to on-the-ground conservation activities that benefit all of society.

HOW WE DO IT: A commitment to community conservation continues to be the backbone for OFAH involvement in fish and wildlife management throughout the province. Stocking fish, habitat and species restoration, community events and advocating for change are some of the many activities that OFAH members, clubs and zones take part in each and every year. In 2015, the OFAH continued to put their boots to the ground with the ultimate goal of improving the health and sustainability of our fish and wildlife populations.

OFAH GOVERNANCE

Many fishing, hunting and access issues are identified at the local level by OFAH members in their communities. Many communities have one or more OFAH clubs, and every OFAH member belongs to one of nine OFAH zones that have regular meetings to discuss these issues. OFAH zones and clubs work hard in their communities to resolve issues, carry out important conservation work, host events and offer many other services.

Many issues coming from zones, clubs and individual members are brought to the OFAH Board of Directors – a group of volunteers that represent all zones, and bring a diversity of practical knowledge, experience and perspectives that represent the fishing and hunting community at large.

Agriculture, big game, fisheries, land use and access, firearms, native affairs, small game, sporting dogs and migratory birds advisory committees meet to discuss issues and make recommendations that help the OFAH Board of Directors determine what actions to take.

The board of directors set policy and strategic direction that help guide staff in the day-to-day operations of the organization.

The OFAH was founded on the strength of grassroots, and it is a continued culture of volunteerism that enables the OFAH to make a difference for anglers, hunters and conservation. If it wasn't for OFAH members at the grassroots level, many issues may get overlooked which could result in lost fishing and hunting opportunities.



ON-THE-GROUND EFFORTS



FISH STOCKING

A total of 27 OFAH clubs operate community fish hatcheries that stock fish into public waters throughout Ontario communities in an effort to create additional fishing opportunities.



HABITAT RESTORATION

In addition to programs like the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program, many OFAH clubs made a difference for fish and wildlife by improving habitat and organizing clean-up events.



COMMUNITY PRESENCE

The OFAH has a presence in all corners of the province, and in 2015, coordinated and supported a wide variety of community events that included everything from fishing derbies and conservation dinners to women's outdoor weekends and invasive species control events.



CITIZEN SCIENCE

In 2015, individual members and clubs contributed to fish and wildlife management through a variety of citizen science activities. One of many examples saw OFAH volunteers from the Kirkland District Game and Fish Protective Association help conduct a winter moose tick survey to help determine tick severity.



YOUTH EDUCATION

In support of Waterfowler Heritage Days, the OFAH organized three youth waterfowl hunts and one pheasant hunt in the fall.



ACCESS TO SERVICES

Approximately 40 different OFAH clubs across Ontario provide access to firearms ranges. Many hunters who are also firearms enthusiasts consider this access a valuable community service.

OFAH ZONE REPORTS



ZONE A CHAIR - JEREMY FUNK

Our 2015 zone meetings in Sioux Lookout, Red Lake and Ear Falls saw a strong attendance and good representation, which is quite an accomplishment given the distance across our zone. In addition to the zone meetings, we hosted one of the OFAH's Northern Ontario open houses in Dryden. Head office staff spoke at length with our members and the general public touching on many fish and wildlife-related issues.

From a more general club perspective, our member clubs have and will continue to offer programs and activities second to none and I know our members will continue to work behind the scenes on advisory groups, committees and panels, while looking out for our collective interests.

In addition to our many successes as individuals, clubs and as a zone, we are all very proud and supportive of the OFAH's undertaking of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Our members are ambassadors for this great program, and we are all very proud of the strong foothold NASP has secured in the northwest -- Kenora, Dryden, Rainy River, Sioux Lookout, Red Lake, and Fort Frances all have a course running or have laid the groundwork to do so in 2016. Moose numbers are down and hunters were challenged with new regulations

and specific guidelines regarding harvest in 2015, though hunters I spoke with said moose harvest numbers were only slightly down, and not nearly as bad as anyone would have thought. Furthermore, most of the hunters that I talked to had voluntarily committed to and followed through with not shooting cows that were with calves prior to the two-week calf season. This leads me to believe that a positive attitude towards conservation of our moose population is present in Ontario hunters, and if the OFAH at any level had even a slight impact on that attitude, it is something we should all be proud of.

ZONE B CHAIR - DEBBIE RIVARD

In January, Glenn Rivard, Debbie Rivard, and Jeremy Funk trained teachers in Kenora and Rainy River to deliver NASP in their schools. The Rivards also trained nine teachers in Atikokan. We continue to receive inquiries regarding the program as it gains in popularity. The Central Canada Outdoor Show and the Northwest Trappers Association Show were held on the same weekend at the end of February. Thanks to the volunteers, we were able to have a booth at both shows. We also had a booth at the Geraldton show in April, which provided good exposure for the OFAH. An Environmental Registry posting for the Stocking Plan for the Ontario Waters of Lake Superior was

posted during the summer. The focus of the stocking plan will be on stocking Chinook Salmon, and short- and long-term goals and objectives for the future of Chinook stocking. The plan is very specific to stocking salmon in the Kaministiquia River with the goal of establishing a self-sustaining population of Chinook Salmon, while not negatively impacting other species. The number of eggs collected and collection sites are clearly identified in the plan; however, this does not provide the entire picture of the overall Chinook fishery.

The Thunder Bay Salmon Association, with the assistance of the MNRF electroshocking boat, collected approximately 34,500 salmon eggs for their hatchery. While collecting eggs on the Nipigon River, members cleaned up garbage at Alexander landing. The TBSA received reports of clipped salmon caught in the Kaministiquia River at Old Fort William and Kakabeka Falls.

In Shuniah, there has long been a large part of that municipality closed to hunting. The former mayor of the municipality was strongly opposed to any hunting in this area. Last fall, a new mayor was elected in Shuniah. Gilles Dumais, 1st vice chair, Zone B, set up the initial meeting with Mayor Wendy Landry, which included himself and the Rivards, to discuss the opening of the closed area. Subsequently, Glenn Rivard talked with the OPP and municipal administration in regards to this and attended a council meeting where we made a presentation to council. After

council took into consideration residents' comments, the bylaw was revised and will see bowhunting allowed in this area during any open season in accordance with the provincial regulations.

The OFAH held four open houses in Zones A, B, C, and D, which provided an opportunity for anyone to come and ask questions about the OFAH -- staff did an excellent job of answering all questions on a wide variety of topics.

The Black Sturgeon River Dam environmental assessment process continues. In the spring, the MNRF hired a service provider to do the field work and prepare an Environmental Study report, including a detailed analysis and assessment of the proposed project to decommission Camp 43 dam and reconstruct a new barrier at the Camp 1 location.

Four other alternatives include: repair Camp 43 dam and build a trap and sort facility; repair the dam and control fish passage via stop logs; repair the dam with no fish passage; or do nothing.

ZONE C

CHAIR - PETER SWORD

The zone held two meetings and one executive meeting during 2015, all in Kenogami. In conjunction with the April zone meeting, Glenn Rivard and OFAH staff held another instalment of the Northern Ontario open houses, which was well attended. Concerns were heard on fishing issues in FMZ 8, 11, and 12, while issues regarding moose, bear, and wolves were also discussed.

Our zone was well represented externally in 2015, sitting on the Northeast Regional Advisory Committee, the Kirkland Lake Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee, the Temagami Local Citizens Committee, and FMZ 12 Council. We also participated in a winter creel on St. Anthony Lake in the Kirkland Lake District, a Roadside Moose Tick Survey in WMU 28, and On-Ice Safety Training in Kirkland Lake. Looking ahead, planning continues on a number of waterpower projects locally, while a wind project is also being proposed for the Cobalt area.

Meanwhile, negotiations and planning continue on a tenure model for the Temagami Forest Management Unit -- participants include the Temagami First Nation, area municipalities, and the forest industry.



Train derailments continue to occur and cause issues in the zone. The most recent was in the Gogama area, causing much concern for local residents, as plenty of clean up and restoration was needed.

Zone directors were active with comments on the Environmental Registry, submitting stances on Phase II of the Moose Project, the extension of the spring bear pilot project, and the bait review. Other issues at hand heading into 2016 include restrictive fishing regulations of FMZ 11, and significant moose tag reductions in WMUs 28 and 40.

ZONE D

CHAIR - ROY POLSKY

Our zone dealt with many issues such as road closures and abandonment, access restrictions, FMZ fishing regulations, and many wildlife issues. Many of these issues were discussed at length during our three zone meetings in Val Caron, Sheguindah and Parry Sound. At those meetings we also welcomed a host of guest speakers that touched on many topics important to our members and the outdoors community as a whole.

Throughout the year, our zone made a habit out of giving back to conservation with a series of donations totalling \$13,000 to OFAH member clubs and organizations to help with various educational, and fish and wildlife projects. Those donations included \$2,500 to Manitoulin Streams restoration, \$2,600 to the Youth Trappers Course for purchase of trapping kits and OFAH memberships, and \$4,000 to the United Walleye Clubs (\$2,500 to help defer the cost of a shocker boat and \$1,500 for school micro-hatchery and education programs).

The zone also donated \$1,250 to the OFAH Annual General Meeting and Fish & Wildlife Conference, and another \$875 to the Manitoulin Streams Youth Hunter Initiative and \$500 to the annual Ontario Hunter Education Instructors' Conference. Gore Bay and District Fish and Game Club was the recipient of \$600 for micro hatcheries, we donated \$850 to the Trailsmen's Rod and Gun Club to help cover cost of signage and \$100 to the Long Point Youth Camp.

The fishery on Lake Nipissing remains a concern to area anglers. The Fisheries Management Plan for Lake Nipissing was released in April and some of the changes included the introduction of a minimum size limit of 46 centimetres (18 inches), and the opening of bass season being moved up one week. First Nations representatives also committed to not set nets until the opening of the recreational Walleye season.

The MNRF released a report on the status of Lake Mindemoya's Walleye population on the Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) that was conducted in the fall of 2013. It showed an abundance of Yellow Perch, Rock Bass, and Walleye. There was also an increase in Rainbow Smelt, which had been introduced into the lake between 2005 and 2009. The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre conducted a FWIN on LaCloche Lake. From a wildlife perspective, the MNRF set up a committee to deal with the nuisance elk problem in the Algoma/North Shore area, while the Manitoulin Deer Advisory Committee met in April and analyzed all of the data that was provided. The committee recommended to increase the number of antlerless deer tags in WMUs 43A and 43B. Additionally,

the MNRF conducted a Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance program in WMUs 42, 46, 47, 49, and 50 during the fall gun season.

The newly formed Sudbury and District Fish and Wildlife Advisory Group held its first meeting and started a discussion on a wide range of issues.

Wild turkeys were a topic of discussion in 2015, as well.

The MNRF has acknowledged that the turkeys in the Kagawong area are wild, but they have no plans to do anything about it. The wild turkeys in the West Arm/French River area are holding their own following two severe winters.

In March the Trailsmen's Rod and Gun Club was the recipient of the Mary Pickford Award, while the Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association received the Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence.

Zone D was also home to an OFAH Northern Ontario open house where members and the general public were invited to ask questions of OFAH staff, while another open house was held in the zone to address the Wiikwemkoong Island Boundary Claim Negotiations.



This meeting provided information regarding the land claim and proposed land alternative. There is a lot of opposition to the land transfer alternatives, as it will affect all those who fish, camp, berry pick, canoe, etc., and navigate the waters of the Georgian Bay in the Kilarney Park, Philip Edward Island, and all of the small islands in the area.

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ZONE E

CHAIR - GORD TRYLINSKI

Zone E made a commitment in 2015 to support a number of different events and causes with donations that totalled nearly \$20,000.

Our donations helped out the Renfrew County Youth Mentorship Program, Griffith & Matawatchan Fish & Game Club, Bancroft District Fish & Game Protective Association, Haliburton Highland Outdoors, Peterborough Children's Water Festival, South Central Ontario

Fish & Wildlife Association, the Darlington Waterfowl Hunt and Long Point Waterfowl.

We also donated to the OFAH/Mario Cortellucci Hunting & Fishing Heritage Centre, which continues to host and educate visitors of all ages on conservation, the Champlain Dog Club and the OFAH Annual General Meeting and Fish & Wildlife Conference.

Activities held by various clubs and organizations within the zone included the Renfrew County Youth Mentorship Program, which had 20 participants in the firearms safety and hunter education, course, while the Griffith & Matawatchan Fish & Game Club had seven youth pass the firearms safety and hunter education and also hosted a lake clean-up day.

The Bancroft District Fish & Game Protective Association had an open house in the spring and a fall grand reopening to showcase upgrades to their ranges and facilities, including wheelchair accessibility. The Haliburton Highland Outdoors Association hosted a meeting and gave an informed presentation and tour of their fish hatchery.

In Peterborough, the Children's Water Festival was a success, providing fun and educational activities

for all and the South Central Ontario Fish & Wildlife Association held their annual fishing day, which was a success.

The Darlington waterfowl hunt was extended due to the favourable weather conditions and an abundance of birds, and Long Point Waterfowl had 30 youth pass firearms safety and hunter education courses before going on an upland game hunt.

The Eganville & District Sportsman's Club held their annual gun show at the Eganville arena, which was a great fundraising success.

ZONE F

CHAIR - ED GIFFIN

In 2015, OFAH Zone F held three meetings at the Royal Canadian Legion in Perth.

At that first meeting we welcomed MNRF District Manager Dan Thompson and Fish & Wildlife Biologist Scott Smithers to update us on the deer herd status, deer



jaw data, Deer Removal Authorizations (DRAs) and the Snow Depth Index in the Kemptville District. Smithers indicated that no deer modelling was done in the Kemptville District and that the MNRF would not be conducting the annual hunt camp surveys in the Kemptville District. He reported that the moose population ranges from stable to slightly rising, and that regional MNRF staff are taking over fisheries management in FMZ 18. The region will coordinate broad-scale monitoring as well.

At our meeting in August, we approved a motion that OFAH Zone F would send out hunt camp surveys to all of our affiliated hunt camp clubs with a covering letter indicating the importance of this information, and why OFAH Zone F has taken on this survey initiative.

At our AGM and elections, we had a pair of guest speakers and staff from OFAH head office on hand. We were provided updates on the spring bear hunt restoration, the NCC/OFAH hunting agreement, and reviewed liability insurance coverage for members and affiliated clubs.

The meeting also recognized and paid tribute to Len Dickinson for his many years of outstanding contribution to conservation in Zone F, as he retires from his position as secretary/treasurer and OFAH director.

Also of note, our zone continued to support conservation projects and activities in 2015, providing funds to the Grenville Fish & Game Club for their special events trailer; Osgoode Township



Fish, Game & Conservation Club for their kid's fishing derby and firearms education program; Kingston Fish & Game for their Kid's Perch Derby; the Youth Hunter Education Scholarship (YHES) Fund; Long Point Youth Camp; Lanark Stewardship Council for work on Nature in Deed; South Lancaster for their kid's fishing derby; the Ontario Hunter Education Conference; Wild Harvest Initiative; West Carleton Sportsmen Association kid's ice fishing derby; and the Ottawa Region Walleye League for its annual kid's ice fishing derby.

ZONE G
CHAIR - ROB HARE

At our zone meeting held at the Georgina Sportsmen's Alliance, we hosted guest speaker Meredith Purcell, a PhD Candidate at Trent University. Her thesis is on moose genomics, and aims to identify the factors influencing genetic diversity, which could impact the ability of moose to adapt to a changing climate. As part of her research, she is collecting moose samples to obtain DNA data to help understand why some moose populations are doing better in comparison to others.

After 13 years the herring fishery on Lake Simcoe reopened, which is great news. For the second consecutive year, MNRF Aurora District and local OFAH clubs conducted a survey of spawning Walleye in Lake Simcoe. Spawning surveys have begun and are to be conducted on the Talbot River, Beaver River, Pefferlaw

River, Black River and the Holland River. In addition to surveying Walleye, they are also looking for spawning Muskie.

Zone G's March meeting was hosted by the Islington Sportsmen's Club and the guest speaker was from Advanced Taxidermy, while Uxbridge Shooting Sports hosted the August meeting.

In 2014, MNRF found wild rice growing as a result of our Lake Simcoe wild rice restoration efforts and we learned in 2015 that this population has grown. Since seeding in the fall of 2014, the amount of wild rice plants has more than tripled.

Invasive species were an issue in the area in 2015. Two Asian Grass Carp were found in a pond near Toronto's waterfront. A spokesperson from the Toronto Region Conservation Authority said that its staff discovered the first fish while relocating fish from Tommy Thompson Park. The second carp was found a day later in the same pond.

Wild Parsnip is also in the area. The plant is a member of the same family as carrots, giant hogweed and parsley, and was brought over from Europe and Asia likely by early European settlers who grew it as an edible root. Another invasive plant, Water Soldier, was discovered in the Black River, upstream of the dam in Sutton, by Aurora District MNRF staff during routine wetland evaluations. Follow-up assessments found 30 square metres of Water Soldier and two satellite colonies about six square metres each. It is unclear how this population reached this location.

In Lake Simcoe Muskellunge Restoration Project news, we stocked 66 Muskie from Blue Jay Creek Hatchery into the Talbot River and 400 Muskie from the Sir Sandford Fleming Hatchery at Thorah Centennial Park, on the eastern side of Lake Simcoe, north of Beaverton. The purpose of this program is to reintroduce a self-sustaining population of the once-native Muskellunge into Lake Simcoe. This is the 11th year and our biggest year yet.

In total, approximately 4,000 Muskie were stocked across multiple events. The OFAH Zone G Youth Camp had another very successful year with 16 female youth attending the camp where



they learned a tremendous amount and had great fun doing so. Stephen Huntley, Mike Ennis, Jim Kelly and Christine Finter were integral in the success of the event.

The Pickering Rod and Gun Club was generous in its donation of a canoe for camp. Camp simply would not take place without the support of the Islington Sportmen's Club, which donates the use of their facility free of charge.

At our November zone meeting and elections hosted by the Ajax Rod and Gun Club, OFAH head office staff member Chris Robinson provided an update on the status of the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program and the classroom hatchery program.

ZONE H
CHAIR - WAYNE FORGRAVE

Springwater Provincial Park was closed in September 2012 and reopened in 2015 under a five-year agreement between the province and the Beausoleil First Nations. It is operated by the First Nations, but will be open to the public for camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and other recreational activities.

In 2015, Simcoe County acquired properties to the north and east of the Charlebois Tract that have resulted in a large contiguous forest block of approximately 650 acres, comprising the Charlebois, Thompson, and Martin Valley Tracts.

The Thompson Tract, within the Municipality of Penetanguishene, has been the only non-hunting forest in the area. These additions to the forest have resulted in a forest block that now crosses

the three municipal borders of Tiny, Penetanguishene, and Midland.

As there is no hunting permitted in Midland due to a no discharge bylaw, and the Penetanguishene portion was

already designated non-hunting, forestry staff recommended that the entire block be designated non-hunting.

The difficulty in continuing to permit hunting on a portion of this forest block and not on others is enforcement, as well as confusion on the part



of area residents and hunters alike. To try to continue hunting in a situation like this will only create tension between the hunting and non-hunting community in the area. It must be stressed that this does not represent a change to the recreation policy, and hunting continues to be a recognized activity in over 95 percent of the Simcoe County Forests. In the summer of 2015, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit was advised by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change that laboratory tests of blue-green algae bloom in Little Lake, on Barrie's northern border, indicated the presence of the toxin microcystin. Blue-green algae are common in the warm summer months, occurring naturally in area lakes and rivers. People have been advised that if blooms are visible, they should not use the water for drinking, food preparation, bathing, or showering; children, pets, and/or livestock should not be allowed to swim in or drink the water; avoid eating fish caught from areas where an algae bloom is present; and Boiling the water won't destroy the toxin. The Ministry of Transportation closed the entrance to the Shale Beach area from Highway 26 on June 17, 2013. Inappropriate use of the beach by certain members of the public had raised a number of concerns regarding health and safety, and environmental damage to the beach itself.

Visitors can still access Shale Beach either through Craigeith Provincial Park or on foot. When the entrance closed, MTO committed to developing a long-term strategy for the area, and there have been negotiations to transfer ownership of the lands to Craigeith Provincial Park. The MTO is also partnering with the MNRF to make improvements to Shale Beach, including a vault toilet, an accessible boardwalk, and parking improvements. The entrance to Shale Beach is not expected to reopen before the transfer and improvements are complete.

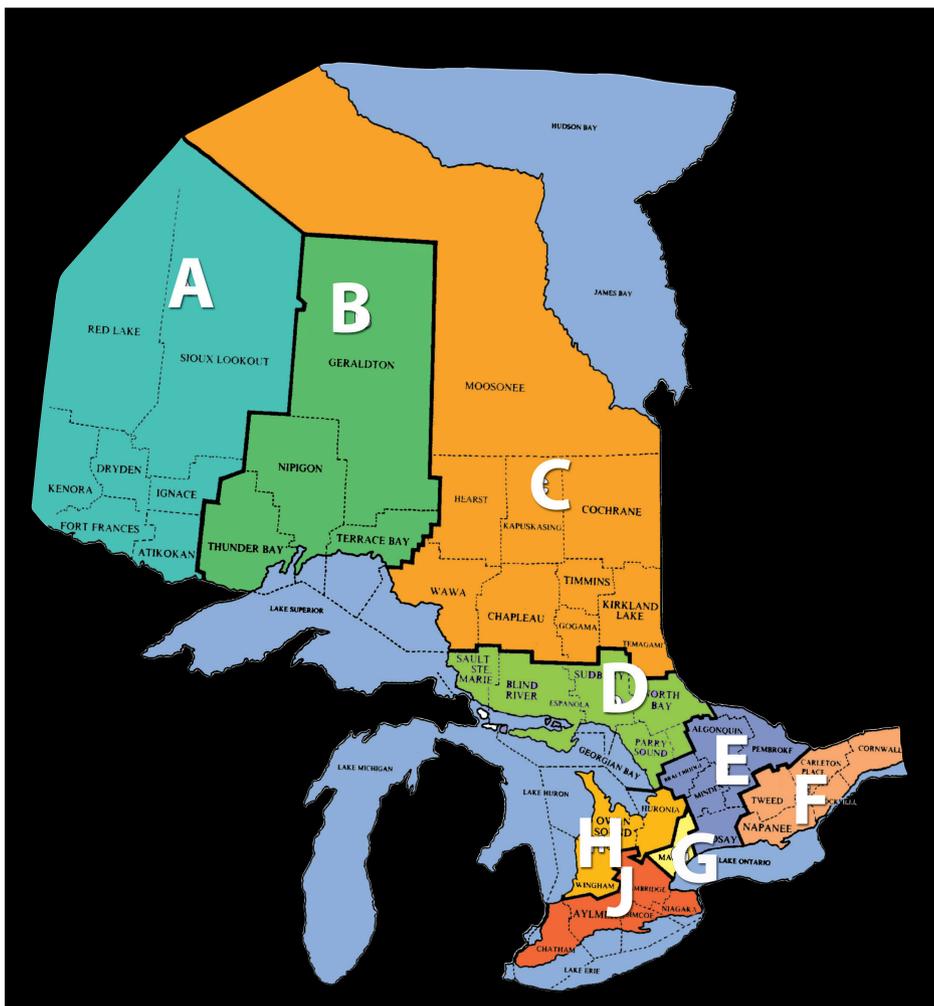
ZONE J
CHAIR - BRIAN MOORE

Zone J has the largest number of members of any zone, and the executive remains very busy and keeps engaged with current issues.. Lakes Erie and St. Clair remain key fisheries producers that are susceptible to change. We are pleased with the management approaches taken by FMZ 19, the Lake Erie Percid Management Advisory Group, and the Great Lakes Protection Act, as far as it goes and OFAH participation therein. We remain concerned with the lack of stakeholder representation on FMZ 16. OFAH Zone J continues to be disadvantaged in this regard and requested regulatory



changes continue to be dismissed (e.g. Walleye season in the Thames River). Habitat and fisheries recruitment is not being adequately considered for several questionable cost barriers in our main watersheds (Springbank Dam, Misner Dam, obsolete Grand River dams). We held our 27th annual Youth Campout on Father's Day weekend, which was hosted by the Brant Rod and Gun Club. Seventy-five youth participated in many outdoor activities such as archery, pellet guns, lure making, solar energy cooking, fishing and composting. Greg Balch supports this program with his educational display that explains the cycle of life, and purpose and value of various species, including our part in that matrix as stewards and consumptive users. Several members of a tournament bass fishing club in the London area helped the youth build custom bass lures that they took home to use. Thank you to the many donors who ensure we can provide this camp at no cost. Zone J executive members have been active with fisheries management, land access, hunting issues, club meeting presentations and municipal council presentations. We continue to work with municipalities to improve access and opportunities. Over the past year, a very hot topic throughout the zone has been the reduction of tags for both moose and white-tailed deer. Additionally, we continue to build good working relationships with our local clubs, supporters, partners and individual members, and we will continue to work hard and together find ways to protect, promote, and create new outdoors opportunities.

OFAH ZONES



**NOW THAT
YOU'VE
READ
ABOUT
WHAT OUR
ZONES
DO, HOW
ABOUT
LEARNING
MORE?**

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OFAH.ORG/
ZONES**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

OFAH zone meetings keep the OFAH going strong because they are a source of grassroots ideas and membership initiatives.

New faces and fresh ideas are always welcomed on zone executives, local committees and citizens' groups, as well as at the table of the OFAH Board of Directors. Mentorship is strongly encouraged and urgently needed at the local and provincial levels. While each zone may offer a slightly different format, most meetings are conducted quarterly, either on a Saturday or Sunday morning. To help break up the travel, these meetings move across the zone and are generally hosted by various OFAH member clubs. Moving these meetings across the zone gives more OFAH members a chance to affordably participate whenever a zone meeting is hosted near their community.

SUPPORT FISHING AND HUNTING

Are you passionate about fishing and hunting? Have you ever thought about the variety of outdoor opportunities we have in Ontario and how many of them you take part in? Those opportunities and seasons didn't happen by accident. They happened because people and organizations like the OFAH cared enough to act. An OFAH membership is so much more than a bag of swag and a card. Those who stand with us receive benefits that mean so much more.

As an OFAH member:

YOU make a difference

Every OFAH membership and donation helps take fish and wildlife conservation programs further.

YOU are heard

An OFAH membership means "I'm taking a stand" on issues important to the future of fishing and hunting. If you're not an OFAH member, who's representing you on outdoor issues? The government? The animal rights movement?

YOU stay informed

An OFAH membership includes a members-only section of Ontario OUT of DOORS magazine, called "HOTLINE". This 16-page section is included in every issue of OOD and contains all the latest news related to fishing and hunting, including OFAH action and calls to action to protect and enhance fishing and hunting opportunities.

YOU are covered

You carry \$5 million in Excess Members' Personal Public Liability Insurance, as well as an Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance Policy (\$5,000). This liability insurance coverage is exclusive to OFAH members while engaged in hunting, fishing, target shooting, non-commercial trapping and/or conservation work.

MOST importantly

Your membership with the OFAH represents your commitment to conservation.

There are many reasons why people become OFAH members. However, one of the most tangible reasons is the significant efforts of the OFAH as highlighted throughout this Annual Report. The examples include, but are not limited to, our work on the massive expansion of the spring bear hunt, the implementation of new firearms legislation with Bill C-42, the Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act and creating new opportunities through increased Sunday gun hunting opportunities. From a fisheries perspective, the OFAH also supported fish stocking in local communities, represented anglers on all active Fisheries Management Zone councils and worked to create additional opportunities (i.e. the return of the Lake Simcoe Cisco fishery).

As anglers and hunters, we have an inherent responsibility for conservation and, when you join the OFAH, you have access to volunteer opportunities and local grassroots involvement that plays an integral role in the accomplishments of the organization.

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE OFAH

The OFAH is extremely fortunate to be associated with organizations that are as dedicated to the continued conservation of Ontario's fish and wildlife as we are.

Our partners represent both retail and service providers, offering OFAH members outstanding discounts on their everyday needs, while also committing to a financial contribution to the OFAH each year, based on member usage. So the next time you have a need, or a want, remember to support the businesses who support conservation.

For more on our affinity partners, contact OFAH head office or visit us online at www.ofah.org.



THE OFAH WANTS YOU
TO JOIN OUR

100,000

MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS
AND SUBSCRIBERS



DID YOU KNOW
THE OFAH IS A
REGISTERED
CHARITY?

WWW.OFAH.ORG/DONATE

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE OFAH?

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR OFAH MEMBERSHIP

DONATE TO CONSERVATION

**CALENDAR OR
CHRISTMAS CARD
PROGRAM**

**PARTICIPATE IN THE
OFAH MONTHLY
GIVING PROGRAM**

PARTICIPATE IN OFAH PLANNED GIVING

**PURCHASE OR SELL TICKETS FOR OUR
CONSERVATION LOTTERY**

GRASSROOTS INVOLVEMENT

**JOIN AN OFAH
AFFILIATED CLUB**

**ATTEND AN OFAH
ZONE MEETING**

**ENCOURAGE
OTHERS TO JOIN**



BMO  Bank of Montreal



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*denotes Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- * President
- * 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- * Treasurer
- Executive Director
- * Past President
- Past President

- Glenn Rivard
- Kerry Coleman
- Debbie Rivard
- Frank Wick
- Angelo Lombardo
- Bill Blackwell
- Rob Hare

- Murillo
- Oxford Mills
- Murillo
- Ajax
- Peterborough
- Port Elgin
- Keswick

ZONE A

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- * Secretary/Treasurer
- 2nd Alternate Director

- Jeremy Funk
- Roy DeCorte
- James Tetreault
- Dennis Kristjanson
- Kelly Pollock

- Sioux Lookout
- Atikokan
- Cochenour
- Ear Falls
- Dryden

ZONE B

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- * Secretary/Treasurer
- 2nd Alternate Director

- Debbie Rivard
- Gilles Dumais
- Doug Rivard
- Matt Wituluk
- Todd Robinson

- Murillo
- Thunder Bay
- Thunder Bay
- Gorham
- Thunder Bay

ZONE C

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- Secretary/Treasurer & 2nd Alt. Director
- * Director

- Peter Sword
- David Chenier
- Robert Allen
- Tom Woollings
- David Allen

- New Liskeard
- Haileybury
- Iroquois Falls
- Kirkland Lake
- Larder Lake

ZONE D

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- Secretary/Treasurer & 2nd Alt. Director
- * Director

- Roy Polsky
- Glen Polsky Jr.
- Rolly Frappier
- Debbie Halverson
- Dan Polsky

- Val Caron
- Hanmer
- Espanola
- Copper Cliff
- Sturgeon Falls

ZONE E

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- Secretary/Treasurer & 2nd Alt. Director
- * Director

- Gordon Trylinski
- Eric Smith
- Steve Roettger
- Alan Fennell
- Brian Sheppard

- Pembroke
- Arnprior
- Pembroke
- Cannington
- Port Hope





ZONE F

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- * Secretary/Treasurer
- 2nd Alternate Director

- Ed Giffin
- Wendell Crosbie
- Merrill Elliott
- Shawna Rousseau
- Warren Backler

- Inverary
- Balderson
- Carleton Place
- South Lancaster
- Smiths Falls

ZONE G

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- * Secretary/Treasurer
- 2nd Alternate Director

- Rob Hare
- Stephen Huntley
- Jim Kelly
- David Dixon
- David Boxall

- Keswick
- Beeton
- Schomberg
- Port Perry
- Bradford

ZONE H

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- * Secretary/Treasurer
- 2nd Alternate Director

- Wayne Forgrave
- Jack Doherty
- Michael Evers
- Wally Motz
- Glenn Meads

- Midhurst
- Owen Sound
- Innisfil
- Kincardine
- Priceville

ZONE J

- * Chair
- * 1st Vice Chair
- 2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Director
- * Secretary/Treasurer

- Brian Moore
- Pud Hunter
- Ray Boilard
- Kathy Moore

- Watford
- Aylmer
- Fonthill
- Brantford

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

- * Jim Magee Drumbo
- * John Sullivan Mount Brydges
- * Neil Wiens Shuniah

PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

- * Dan Elliott Aylmer
- * Tony Jackson St. Pauls Station
- * Jack Osadzuk Owen Sound
- * Bruce Tufts Elginburg
- * Joseph Wilson Mono

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Land Use/Access/Trails
- Native Affairs
- Sporting Dogs/Small Game/Migratory Birds/Wetlands
- Agriculture Liaison
- Big Game
- Firearms/Recreational Shooting/Hunter Education
- Fisheries



HEAD OFFICE STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director

Administrative Assistant

Administration Liaison

Special Advisor - Conservation Issues

Angelo Lombardo

Jane Beggs

Giselle Hatton

Craig Selby

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Manager of Government Affairs & Policy

Manager of Communications

Web Developer

Web Developer

Zone/Member & Club Services Liaison

Greg Farrant

Shawn Cayley

Jay Callaghan

Tim Gane

Brian McRae

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Chief Financial Officer

Accounting Manager

Accounting Services Representative

Accounting Clerk

Human Resources Assistant/Planned Giving Officer

Sue MacCallum

Steve Doris

Diane McGrath

Shauna Giles

Jill Neill

Ontario OUT of DOORS

Publisher

Associate Publisher

Circulation/Financial Manager

Production Coordinator/Conference Coordinator

Subscriptions Clerk/Classified Sales Representative

Editor-in-Chief

Managing Editor

Art Director

Digital Content Editor

National Sales Director

Sales Representative

Sales Representative

Angelo Lombardo

Steve Doris

Sheila Prophet

Mark Cousins

Janet Neale

Lezlie Goodwin

Ray Blades

Tamas Pal

Bill Hodgins

Stephen Bates

Mike Miller

Linda Chick

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICES

Manager of Fish & Wildlife Services

Fish & Wildlife Biologist

Senior Wildlife Biologist

Land Use Policy and Habitat Specialist

Fisheries Biologist

Fish & Wildlife Information Liaison

Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program Coordinator

Atlantic Salmon Habitat Technologist

Community Hatchery Program Coordinator

Invading Species Awareness Program Coordinator

Monitoring & Information Management Specialist

Matt DeMille

Dawn Sucee

Mark Ryckman

Rob Cole

Tom Brooke

Andrea Vanderburg

Chris Robinson

Matt Burley

Matt Smith

Sophie Monfette

Alison Kirkpatrick



FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICES (continued)

Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Liaison
Invasive Species Outreach Liaison
Invasive Species Communications Liaison
Water Soldier Technician
Invasive Species Intern
Invasive Species Intern
Ontario Invasive Plant Council Coordinator
Ontario Invasive Plant Council Project Liaison
Ontario Invasive Plant Council Liaison

Brook Schryer
Emily Johnston
Emily Walsh
Robert McGowan
Brad Immerseel
Autumn Linklater
Kellie Sherman
Colin Cassin
Amanda Warne-Lorscheider

HUNTER EDUCATION

Hunter Education Program Manager
Wild Turkey Hunter Education Program Coordinator
Hunter Education Program Administrative Assistant

Dave Pind
Justin Millett
Tammy Gunter

MEMBER SERVICES, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

Manager of Business Development & Corporate Messaging
Graphic Artist
Subscription Marketing Representative

Robert Pye
Rachel Chatten
Tracy Smith

YOUTH EDUCATION

Youth Education Manager
Conservation Education Coordinator
Conservation Education Liaison
Merchandise and Show Liaison/NASP Coordinator

David Ryrie
Alex James
Jessica Ferguson
Tim Watts

OFFICE SERVICES

Office Services Manager
Office Services Facilities Maintenance Technician
Office Services Facilities Maintenance

Denise Hetherington
Dave Bonner
Patrick Howe

MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING

Information Technology Manager
Membership Services Coordinator
Member Program Processing Clerk
Individual Membership Clerk
Club and Member Services Clerk
Membership Processing Clerk
Membership Processing Clerk
Membership Processing Clerk
Membership Processing/Shipping Clerk

Mike McGrath
Kimberly Staples
Cathy MacKay
Mary Ellen Hickson
Nicole Bruce
Gail Anderson
Krista Lake
Hailey Wall
Jenny Hennig

TV & RADIO

Angler & Hunter Television Host
Angler & Hunter Radio Host

Mike Miller
Randy Jennings



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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters Incorporated

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters Incorporated for the year ended December 31, 2015. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated February 24, 2016 (see below).

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters Incorporated.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements based on the audited financial statements of The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters Incorporated for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters Incorporated for the year ended December 31, 2015 are a fair summary of those financial statements. However, the summary financial statements are misstated to the equivalent extent as the audited financial statements of The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters Incorporated for the year ended December 31, 2015.

The misstatement of the audited financial statements is described in our qualified audit opinion in our report dated February 24, 2016. Our qualified audit opinion is based on the fact that we were unable to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of certain revenues. Our qualified audit opinion states that, except for the effects of the described matter, those financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Federation as at December 31, 2015, and its results of operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

McCull Turner LLP

Licensed Public Accountants

Peterborough, Ontario
February 24, 2016

THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS INCORPORATED

Financial Summary 2015

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2015	2015	2014
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 1,905,016	\$ 2,467,358
Investments	1,664,074	1,725,932
Accounts receivable	1,754,705	1,008,988
Inventories	36,418	258,673
Prepaid expenses	522,983	552,272
	5,883,196	6,013,223
Land, buildings and equipment	2,448,686	2,566,705
	\$ 8,331,882	\$ 8,579,928

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 437,208	\$ 442,303
Deferred revenue	1,400,828	1,564,777
	1,838,036	2,007,080
Net assets		
Invested in land, buildings and equipment	2,448,686	2,566,705
Internally restricted	439,678	564,107
Unrestricted	3,605,482	3,442,036
	6,493,846	6,572,848
	\$ 8,331,882	\$ 8,579,928

Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2015	2015	2014
Revenue		
Membership fees	\$ 3,385,998	\$ 3,498,246
Program fees	2,455,816	2,279,652
OOD magazine revenues	3,824,371	3,941,802
Fundraising	1,307,079	1,282,390
Donations	721,730	884,835
Sales	116,152	183,289
Interest and investment income	43,728	39,283
Solar panel revenues	29,436	26,382
Foreign exchange gain/(loss)	42,365	(2,094)
Gain on sale of assets	-	5,000
	\$ 11,926,675	\$ 12,138,785

Expenditures

Membership	\$ 1,906,583	\$ 2,066,346
Programs, public information and education	2,470,103	2,428,366
OOD magazine expenses	3,363,452	3,492,903
Fundraising	1,298,687	920,732
Cost of sales	225,686	179,772
Salaries and employee costs	1,752,279	1,913,526
Office, general and professional	638,571	667,349
Legal/policy	96,571	84,190
Informational programs	-	17,757
Amortization	253,745	218,955
	\$ 12,005,677	\$ 11,989,896

**Excess of revenue over expenditures/
(expenditures over revenue)**

\$ (79,002) \$ 148,889



The Voice of Anglers and Hunters

www.ofah.org