



ANNUAL REPORT

The Voice of Anglers and Hunters



2015

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.