

OUR  
MANDATE

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

- **PROTECT** the rights and traditions of anglers and hunters
- **PROMOTE** the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources
- **ENHANCE** the quantity and quality of sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities
- **ENGAGE** youth and the public in fishing and hunting
- **EDUCATE** and provide awareness on the benefits of fishing and hunting
- **ENCOURAGE** safe and responsible participation in fishing and hunting
- **LEAD** the fishing and hunting community as champions of conservation
- **RESTORE** fish and wildlife populations and the habitats that support them
- **SUPPORT** grassroots community involvement in conservation
- **COMMUNICATE** conservation issues
- **ADVOCATE** for evidence-based fish and wildlife conservation management
- **INFLUENCE** government decisions to benefit anglers, hunters and conservation
- **CULTIVATE** the next generation of conservationists



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



If there is an issue of importance to anglers and hunters in Ontario, then it is important to the OFAH. The following pages highlight a small sample of OFAH involvement in 2016. For more information on all of OFAH's important conservation and advocacy work, visit [www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org).

OF  
AH  
ACTION

## TELLING OUR STORY

The OFAH partnered with Shimano Canada to produce a short video that tells the story of who we are, what we do and why we fish, hunt and trap. The video was created for an all-Canadian audience to popularize our sometimes forgotten heritage and the modern relevance of fishing, hunting, and trapping. The video will be used going forward in many ways to help promote our outdoor heritage.



**SHIMANO**

Visit [www.ofah.org/tellingourstory](http://www.ofah.org/tellingourstory) to watch the video

## #CAMODAY ENGAGEMENT



Through social media the OFAH asked the outdoors community to show their true colours in support of Camo Day. We reached over 250,000 online users, many of whom proudly participated by wearing camo and sharing pictures and comments. Camo Day is used to raise awareness of National Hunting Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day, which recognizes the contribution of these activities to Canada's heritage and the economy.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The OFAH has advisory committees that meet during the year to address province-wide issues related to land use, access, native affairs, sporting dogs, small game, migratory birds, wetlands, agriculture, big game, firearms, recreational shooting, hunter education and fisheries.



**TACKLESHARE** Operated by the OFAH and sponsored by Ontario Power Generation, the TackleShare program gives anglers the opportunity to go fishing at no cost. In 2016, TackleShare removed fishing barriers by providing equipment and knowledge to get people started through one of 140 TackleShare Program Loaner Sites across the province and the Travelling TackleShare Program. Visit [www.tackleshare.com](http://www.tackleshare.com) for more information.

## OPPOSING WOLF/COYOTE RESTRICTIONS

The OFAH rallied the hunting and trapping communities to form a united front against a proposed government ban on wolf/coyote hunting and trapping in 39 townships in central Ontario. More than 1,800 people opposed the ban through our efforts. The Federation showed we will not stand for a government sacrificing fishing, hunting and trapping opportunities without compelling evidence to support it, and while we were disappointed in the ban, we will continue to speak out and fight this issue.



Read more on this issue at  
[www.ofah.org/wolfcoyoteban](http://www.ofah.org/wolfcoyoteban)



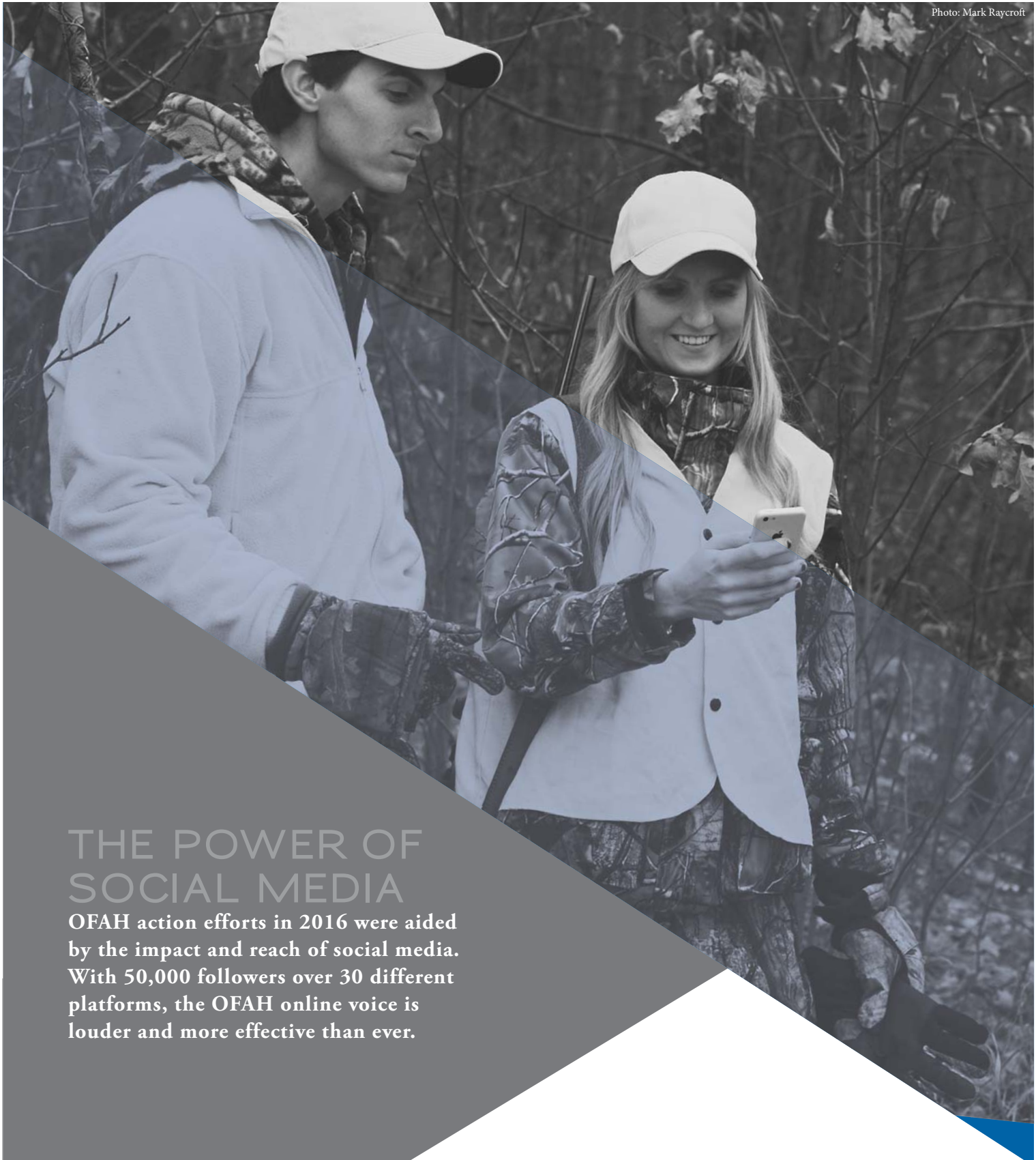
Our push for awareness on this issue reached more than **250,000** online users.

## ANIMAL CRUELTY: DEFEATING BILL C-246

The OFAH communicated with politicians on all sides of Parliament to ensure they understood the implications of the bill, the history of animal cruelty legislation, and what needs to be done to prevent unintended consequences for lawful animal use activities. We took the lead with other animal use groups, including livestock producers, colleges, universities, medical researchers and the outdoors community to resoundingly defeat this bill.



For more information, visit  
[www.ofah.org/animalcruelty](http://www.ofah.org/animalcruelty)



## THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

OFAH action efforts in 2016 were aided by the impact and reach of social media. With 50,000 followers over 30 different platforms, the OFAH online voice is louder and more effective than ever.



CONNECT WITH THE OFAH

## CALL FOR BETTER CORMORANT CONTROL

The OFAH was very active in trying to remove unnecessary protection for cormorants under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. The OFAH partnered with the Ontario Commercial Fisheries' Association to gain support from municipalities for practical cormorant control, and promoted Private Member's Bill 205 that would have adopted the Federation's long-standing request to remove protection. The OFAH will continue to push the provincial government to take action on this issue.



Read more on this issue at [www.ofah.org/cormorants](http://www.ofah.org/cormorants)



## NEW FISHERY FOR ATLANTIC SALMON

The many years of hard work that have gone into OFAH's Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program are paying off. New catch and release fishing opportunities for Atlantic Salmon allowed anglers to target the fish in Lake Ontario's tributaries (FMZs 16 and 17). The Bring Back the Salmon program also stocked more than 70,000 Atlantic Salmon yearlings in the Ganaraska River to increase adult returns and provide high quality tributary fishing opportunities in future years.



Visit [www.bringbackthesalmon.com](http://www.bringbackthesalmon.com)



**MEMBERSHIP** The OFAH continues to represent more than 100,000 members, supporters and subscribers -- and membership is a key element to everything OFAH. Of note in 2016, OFAH liability insurance coverage was increased from \$3-million to \$5-million. For more information about this and other membership benefits, visit [www.ofah.org/membership](http://www.ofah.org/membership).

**HUNTER EDUCATION** In 2016, the Ontario Hunter Education Program trained 21,000 new hunters and the Wild Turkey Hunter Education Program trained another 8,300 people. For more information, visit [ohep.net](http://ohep.net).



## AND THE SURVEY SAYS...

In April, the OFAH asked turkey hunters for their thoughts on turkey management. Over 1,300 hunters responded with great feedback on season opener dates, additional hunting opportunities, reporting, youth hunting, seal requirements, and much more. The OFAH shared the perspectives of turkey hunters with MNR and some of these suggestions turned into reality as a part of regulation changes for the 2017 season.



1 3 5 9  
people  
responded  
to the survey

Read more about the OFAH and wild turkey management by visiting [www.ofah.org/wildturkey](http://www.ofah.org/wildturkey)

## STOPPING ANGLER HARASSMENT

The OFAH came to the defence of anglers in Toronto who were being harassed by anti-fishing groups. We expressed our concerns with the Mayor and the city staff, and it appears that fishing is now secure in Toronto's parks. The OFAH works in many ways to promote urban fishing, including support for the "Fishing in Your Backyard" urban fishing strategy that was released in 2016.





## LYME DISEASE AWARENESS

The OFAH worked hard to raise awareness about Lyme disease within the hunting and outdoors community. The information was intended to help anglers, hunters and trappers understand the risks, recognize the signs and symptoms, and offer tips on how to prevent exposure to potentially harmful tick bites. This is just one of the many education and awareness campaigns the OFAH offered to keep the outdoors community informed.



Read more on this issue at [www.ofah.org/lymedisease](http://www.ofah.org/lymedisease)

**Did you know?** The OFAH is represented on the Lyme Disease Stakeholders' Committee.

## CALLING OUT THE ECO REPORT ON MOOSE

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) had a prime opportunity to look closely at the state of moose management in Ontario and provide some tangible recommendations in her annual report. Instead, all we got was a regurgitation of concerns and ideas that the OFAH, and the moose hunters of Ontario, have been discussing for many years. The OFAH went public, calling out the commissioner on her weak recommendations and general lack of awareness about moose management in Ontario.

**RECORD FISH REGISTRY** The OFAH is proud to be the driving force behind the Ontario Record Fish Registry, the official provincial standing for recreational anglers who land the most remarkable fish in Ontario public waters. A new burbot record was added in 2016. Check out [www.ofah.org/recordfish](http://www.ofah.org/recordfish).



To see more OFAH action on moose, visit [www.ofah.org/moose](http://www.ofah.org/moose)