

## Cormorant concerns

April marks the migration of double-crested cormorants back to Ontario, and another season of overabundant wildlife challenges for ecologists, land use planners and wildlife managers tethered by provincial legislation. The OFAH is advocating for cormorants to be removed from protection under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA).

Cormorant populations remain high and continue to spread inland, stripping island ecosystems, de-valuing property and depleting natural resources. It seems practical to control populations using proven measures like egg oiling, culling and nest removal. The problem is that double-crested cormorants are protected under the FWCA and there are also interest groups who are against these methods of direct control. Cormorants are overabundant in many areas and their populations are expanding into inland lakes and rivers.

The OFAH has been working on this issue for well over a decade and in 2016 we will make a renewed call for better cormorant control. We will continue to push the government to actively control cormorants by whatever means is necessary to reduce populations to a level that will curb their ecological destruction. In addition, we will be calling for the removal of unnecessary provincial protection. If cormorant protection under the FWCA is removed, they will fall into the same category as crows, cowbirds and various other bird species that can be hunted under a small game licence with no bag limits.

In 2016, your Federation will continue building support and partnerships with organizations to pressure the Ontario government to address cormorant issues. We will hold governments accountable for the data they produce and the decisions they make. For more information on where we stand on cormorants, visit www.ofah.org/cormorants.

## **Family Day fun**



Many people from the Thunder Bay area took to the ice with OFAH representatives on Family Day weekend to enjoy a little fishing. Pictured above is two-year-old Naya Bhopalsingh, who dropped a line in the water and did her best to reel in the big catch.



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