

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

2019



# LAND USE

ACCESS/TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT



# Who are we?

CHAIR

Michael Evers (Zone H)

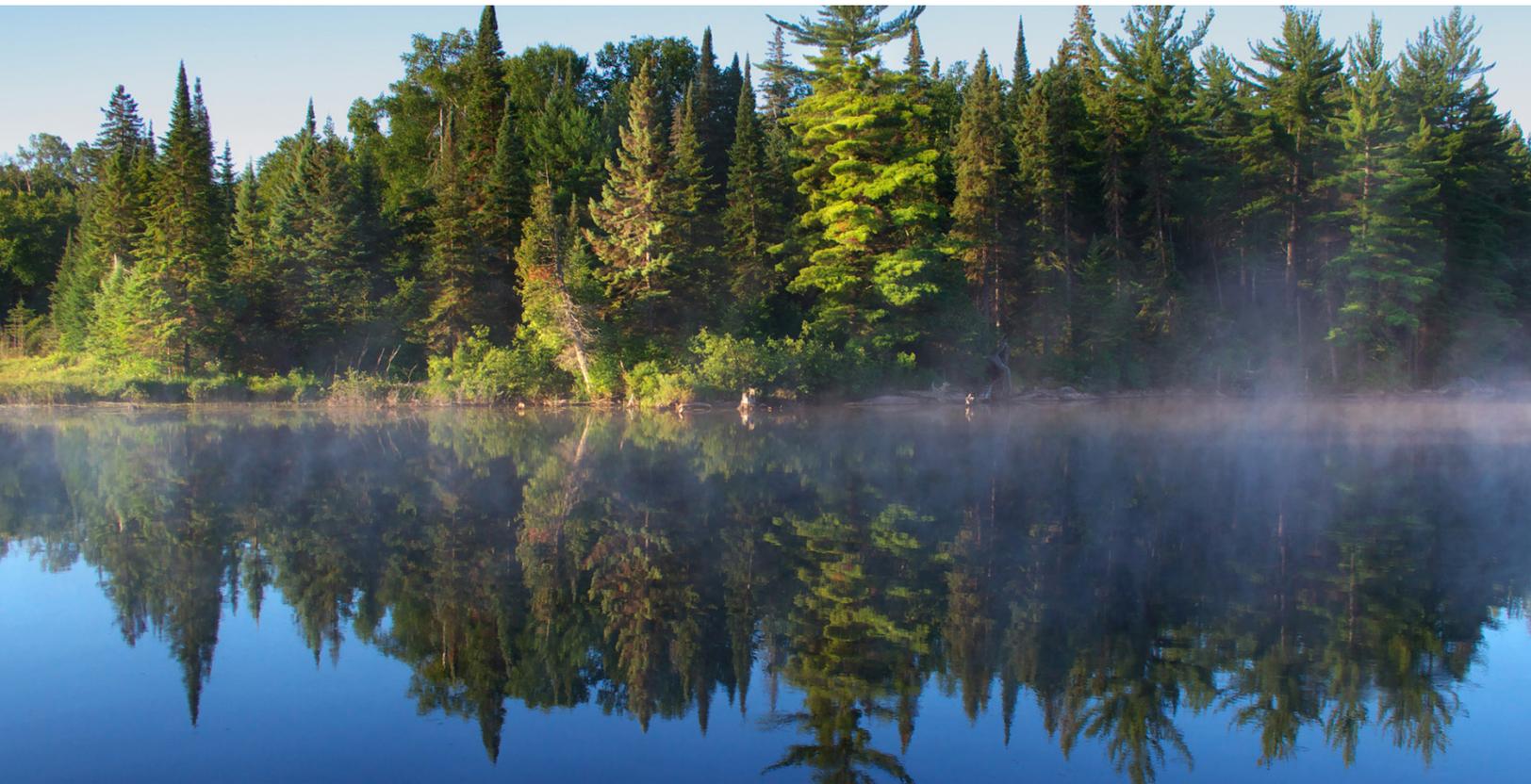
MEMBERS

David Chenier (Zone C)  
Roy DeCorte (Zone A)  
Bob Emery (Zone F)  
Stephen Huntley (Zone G)  
Brian Moore (Zone J)  
Roy Polsky (Zone D)  
Lauren Tonelli (Staff Liaison)

# Crown Land

Crown lands in Southern Ontario do not have forest management plans and have not been actively managed. The committee is concerned about the amount of available wildlife habitat.

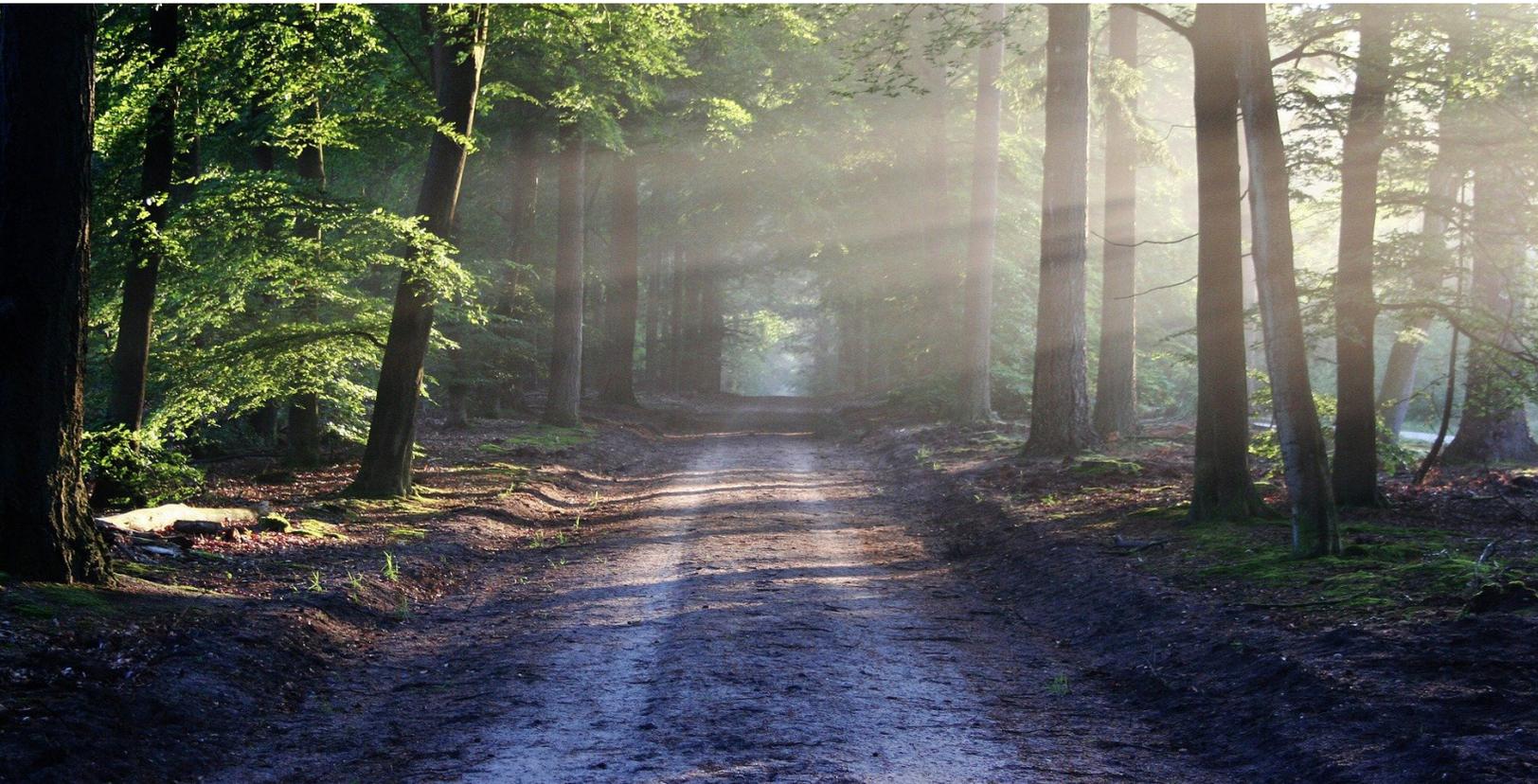
Some parcels of Crown land that are designated “for park purposes,” has caused confusion on which government agency, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) or Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), should be responsible for the management. Recent information indicates that MECP has limited staff to effectively handle the extra workload and want MNR to continue their management role with Crown lands, whether they have “parks or forestry” designations.



# Roads

There is no provincial definition of what constitutes a “maintained road” in Ontario and this has led to a lot of uncertainty among hunters. The OFAH continues to advocate for clarity on this issue.

When access roads covered under a forest management plan are turned over to MNRF, those roads are then covered under the Public Lands Act.



# ALUS Peterborough

Kate Powell assumed the role of part-time coordinator for this program.

There was a delayed haying project for bobolink, and two tall grass prairie projects.

OFAH Zone representatives on the committee have expressed a strong desire to help establish ALUS programs in other parts of Ontario. The committee will continue to discuss how the OFAH, OFAH Zones, and member clubs can help support existing and future ALUS Canada programs throughout Ontario.



# Moose Emphasis Areas and the Decommissioning of Roads

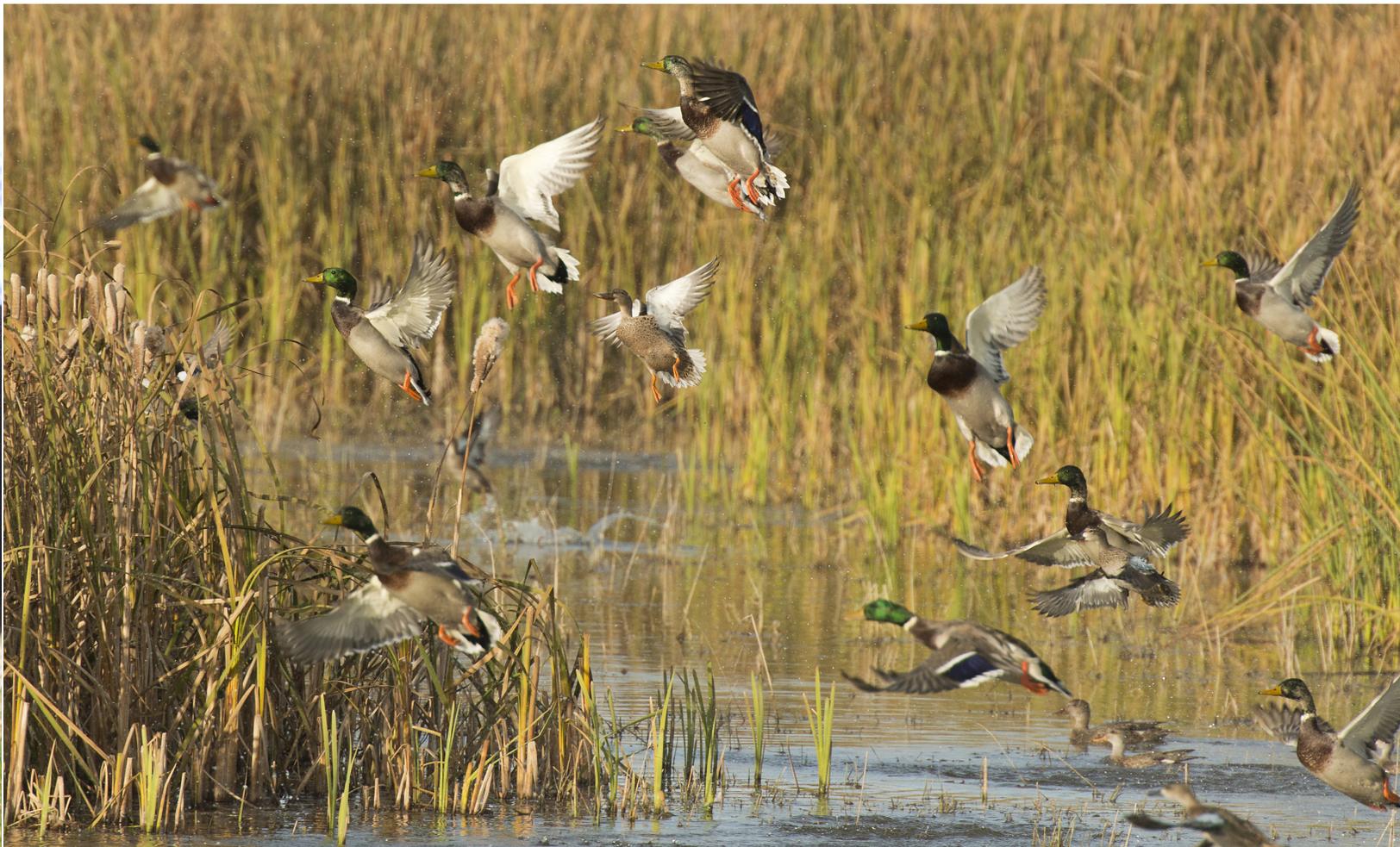
The Sudbury Forest Management Plan is proposing to establish Moose Emphasis Areas (MEA), which would limit road access by decommissioning any new roads that are being built in those areas.

The committee recommended that any decommissioning should be clearly signed with a date prior to the decommissioning.



# Update on Gravelly Bay

A public meeting was held in Port Colborne to discuss the future of waterfowl hunting in Gravelly Bay. OFAH and Delta Waterfowl representatives were present to voice opposition and question the legality of Port Colborne's jurisdiction into the bay. Port Colborne Council agreed to a 600-foot setback that doesn't affect the current stationary waterfowl hunting blinds.



# Pelee Island Pheasant Hunt

In the past 10-15 years, licence sales began to drop.

The OFAH Zone J Executive Committee and members are looking to start to work weekends to clear existing trails and meet with landowners to help reinstate their maintenance plans.



# Forest Management Plans for Landowners

There is concern from Eastern Ontario that private land forest management does not often consider wildlife habitat, especially for white-tailed deer. OFAH staff will write a letter, with support of key partners, to MNR to request that government continue to invest in incentives and resources that private landowners need to properly manage their forests.



# Bill 132 Update

The OFAH submitted comments on Bill 132 on proposed changes to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, Aggregates Resources Act, Crown Forest Sustainability Act, Public Lands Act, and Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act. Changes associated with the FWCA were around allowing MNRF to take quick action with wildlife disease prevention and management, such as CWD.



# Bill 156 Update

This bill is intended to protect farm animals, food supply, farmers and others from risks created when trespassers enter places where farm animals are kept or when persons engage in unauthorized interactions with farm animals.

