



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021





# OUR MANDATE

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.

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

**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

**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

**INVEST** in conservation, science and research

Visit [www.ofah.org/finance](http://www.ofah.org/finance) to view the 2021 financial summary

# NFHC INFLUENCE DURING THE ELECTION

As the lead organization of the National Fishing and Hunting Collaborative (NFHC), the OFAH advocated with all major political parties leading into the 2021 federal election. Those priorities included the promotion of fishing and hunting, firearms policy, chronic wasting disease, conservation funding, aquatic invasive species and the re-establishment of the Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel (HAAP).

Connecting with politicians to showcase the importance of fishing and hunting today, and into the future, is an important part of OFAH advocacy.

**WE FISH. WE HUNT. WE TRAP.  
WE VOTE.**



# LONG-TERM ADVOCACY LEADS TO MORE PROVINCIAL CONSERVATION OFFICERS

The OFAH has long advocated for a well-staffed and equipped enforcement program in Ontario. In May 2021, the Ministry of Northern Development Mines Natural Resources and Forestry announced a plan to hire 25 more Conservation Officers in an effort to better protect our natural resources, prevent illegal activity, promote public safety and provide public outreach.

This commitment added some much needed horsepower to the enforcement program that has fewer than 200 front line officers tasked with covering more than 1-million square kilometers across the province.



# FALCONRY IMPROVEMENTS

After successful joint influence in 2019, the OFAH and the Ontario Hawking Club teamed up once again to improve falconry in the province.

In March 2021, the NDMNRF announced that all licensed falconers -- including licensed apprentices -- may capture one wild juvenile Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk or merlin per year.

"The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's announcement to allow for the full spectrum of falconry activities to be practiced in the province is met with utter relief, joy, appreciation, and gratitude," wrote OFAH Provincial Director at Large, Maya Basdeo, in an OFAH Insider blog post following the announcement in March 2021.



## SUBMITTED: A LOOK AT OUR ERO INPUT



Evidence-based science forms the backbone of OFAH advocacy. Our professional policy staff use their expertise in natural resources to review proposals, hold governments accountable and to advocate for increased opportunities for anglers and hunters in Ontario.

The OFAH policy team reviewed and wrote 28 different submissions to the Environmental Registry of Ontario in 2021. The topics ranged, but weren't limited to: **the importance of moose aerial inventories, invasive wild pigs, fisheries management plans, fishing regulations changes, new fall wild turkey hunting seasons, changes to private land use in provincial parks and conservation reserves, improved hunter reporting and financial penalties for non-compliance.**

# TANGIBLE ACTION ON INVASIVE WILD PIGS

Since 2014 the OFAH has been pressuring the provincial government to address the issue of invasive wild pigs in Ontario before their populations expand out of control. Finally, in 2021, we saw some tangible regulation changes that will provide long-term restrictions on invasive wild pigs.

The province committed to phasing out Eurasian wild boar farming in order to prevent any further wild pigs from escaping farms. Wild pigs have also been listed as a restricted invasive species under the Invasive Species Act, which means that no one is allowed to release them into the wild, hunt them or trap them.



**HELP THE OFAH FIGHT THE SPREAD OF WILD PIGS**

a destructive mix of feral domestic pigs and Eurasian wild boar. Follow these instructions to set up your trail cameras for wild pigs and report your findings.

**PLACE CAMERAS** where there is sign of wild pigs. If that's not possible, choose locations being used by other animals (like deer trails) that are within wild pig habitat: wetlands, deciduous forests, the edges of crops (especially corn and soybeans), pastureland, forest-field edges and near water sources.

**BAIT** can significantly help attract wild pigs. Salt licks, especially blue cobalt blocks, can attract pigs and are easy to maintain. Corn works better, but straight corn can harm deer during the winter and should be mixed with whole oats at a ratio of 1:1. Soaking corn in water with yeast and sugar in a closed container for at least three days makes it a better pig bait and less attractive to deer.

**SET CAMERAS** to capture 3-5 photos per trigger, with a delay between triggers that will prevent the memory from filling up too quickly. Check cameras as needed based on the memory capacity and battery life and adjust settings if necessary. Cameras should be moved to a new area after a maximum of five months in one location. Be prepared to move your camera if you find pig sign in another location.

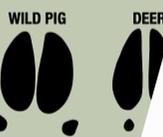
**REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS OF PIGS** (even if you're unsure) to the Invasive Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or [info@invasivespecies.com](mailto:info@invasivespecies.com). Include the date, location (address, GPS coordinates, etc.) and a photo. Make sure all young pigs are reported.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about wild pigs, and this project, visit [www.ofah.org/wildpigs](http://www.ofah.org/wildpigs).

**Consult relevant land use and wildlife regulations for your area before setting up a trail camera or putting out bait. Always exercise caution when working around wildlife.**

## WILD PIG SIGNS

**WILD PIG TRACKS** look like deer tracks but the front toes are more rounded and point slightly outward and the dew claws are wider than the front toes.



**ROOTING** is when wild pigs use their snout to dig up food while feeding.



**WALLOWES** are muddy indents in the mud, often with water.



Photo Credit: U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services

**Position the camera facing North** whenever possible to prevent it being triggered by the sun. The distance from camera to target area will depend on the trigger range of each camera.

**Put the bait as far from the camera as you can while still getting reliable triggers.** This will help get clear pictures of groups of pigs.

**Secure game camera with a lock or security box.**

**Set camera approx. 1m up a tree or fence post.**

**Cut any vegetation that may obstruct camera view or cause false triggers.**

**Wild pigs eat mostly vegetation like crops, roots, tubers, and mast.**

**Young pigs, or piglets, are smaller than adults and may have spots or stripes on their backs.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The OFAH has created a trail camera detection protocol to help people on the ground collect photos of wild pigs used in reporting and mapping the spread of the animals. Learn more at [www.ofah.org/wildpigs](http://www.ofah.org/wildpigs).

# SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL FIREARMS COURT CHALLENGES

In 2021, OFAH Director of Policy and Programs, Matt DeMille, undertook a lengthy and comprehensive analysis to determine what firearms are reasonable and proportionate for hunting in Canada. He compiled the report as part of a primary exhibit of an affidavit he swore for three different court proceedings challenging the May 2020 firearms bans that were instituted by an Order in Council (OIC).

Following the court submissions, the OFAH publicly released the report titled: **What Firearms Are Reasonable and Proportionate for Hunting in Canada**. This report was 15 months in the making with a primary objective to examine the OIC-prohibited firearms, but also address some of the fundamental misunderstandings and misconceptions related to firearms and their relationship with hunting. Lack of understanding and misconceptions are often at the core of many firearms discussions.

You can find the full report at [www.ofah.org/firearms](http://www.ofah.org/firearms).



Matt DeMille, M.Sc.  
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

## WHAT FIREARMS ARE REASONABLE AND PROPORTIONATE FOR HUNTING IN CANADA

AN EXAMINATION OF PREVIOUSLY NON-RESTRICTED FIREARMS PROHIBITED UNDER SOR/2020-96

### MILITARY-GRADE FIREARMS IN CANADA CONT.

#### MILITARY ORIGINS OF HUNTING FIREARMS CONT.

In other cases, popular hunting calibres are distinct from similar military calibres in specifications, but these differences do not translate into discernible differences in function. Two and .223 hunting calibres that are descendants of the 7.62MM NATO and 5.56MM NATO military hunting calibre is a descendant of the military design, and subsequently marketed for civilian applications. In addition to calibres, this type of military descendency is common for civilian applications. The Picatinny rail common on SOR/2020-96 firearms has since been applied on rifles to reduce recoil. There is interest in quick and easy mounting systems for all firearms users, including other accessories. These are only two of the many examples of common features for all firearms users, including other accessories. A discussion of the application and relevance of these and other features for hunting is included in the following section.

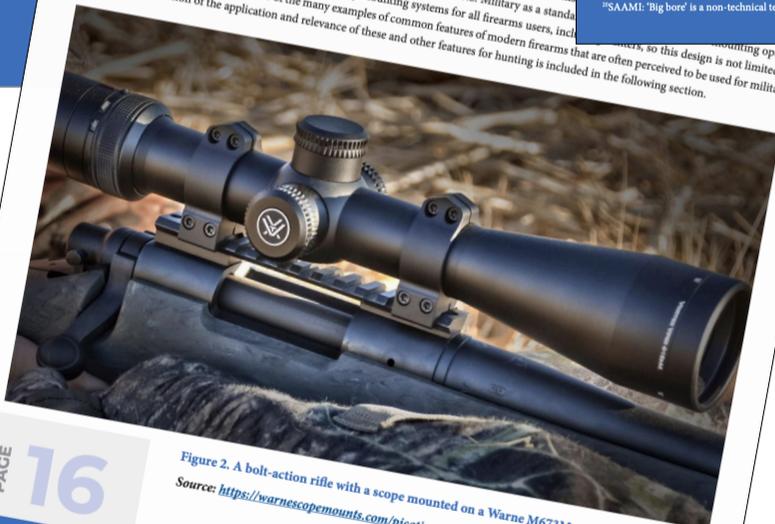


Figure 2. A bolt-action rifle with a scope mounted on a Warne M673M tactical Picatinny rail.  
Source: <https://warnescopemounts.com/picatinny-vs-weaver-style-bases/>

<sup>16</sup>SAAMI: 'Cartridge' is a single round of ammunition consisting of the case, primer and propellant with or without one or more projectiles. Also applies to a shotshell.  
<sup>17</sup>SAAMI: 'Muzzle brake' is a muzzle attachment or feature that uses the propellant combustion gas with the desired effect of redirecting the recoil.  
<sup>18</sup>SAAMI: 'Recoil' is the rearward movement of a firearm resulting from firing a cartridge or shotshell. Sometimes called "kick".

### CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SELECTING A FIREARM FOR HUNTING CONT.



Figure 5. A visual representation of common rifle cartridges and game animals/varmints that they would typically be used for.

Figure 5 only shows rifle cartridges and does not illustrate all calibres of SOR/2020-96 prohibited firearms; however, calibres can be loosely grouped to gain a better understanding of how they may be used by hunters:

- **Rimfire<sup>16</sup> rifles** (e.g., 22LR) are commonly used for small game and varmint hunting;
- **Mini-action centrefire<sup>17</sup> calibres** (e.g., 223 REM, 5.56MM NATO, .22-250, 6.5 Grendel, 6.8MM SPC, 7.62x39MM) are commonly used for predator and varmint hunting, and for some medium game (e.g., deer) in certain situations;
- **Short-action centrefire calibres** (e.g., 308 WIN, 7.62MM NATO, 6.5MM Creedmoor), are commonly used for medium and big game (e.g., elk);
- **Standard or long-action centrefire calibres** (e.g., 30-06 Springfield) are commonly used for medium and big game hunting;
- **Magnum-action calibres and large-bore rifles<sup>18</sup>** (e.g., 416 BARRETT, 460 WBY MAG, 600 NITRO EXPRESS, 50 BMG) are often used for larger big game hunting, and many are described as 'dangerous game' rifles; and,
- **Handgun calibres** (e.g., 9MM LUGER) are often used for varmint hunting.

<sup>16</sup>SAAMI: 'Rimfire cartridge' is a rimmed cartridge design in which the rim is formed with a cavity to contain the priming mix.  
<sup>17</sup>SAAMI: 'Centrefire cartridge' is any cartridge intended for use in rifles, pistols, and revolvers that has its primer central to the axis in the head of the case.  
<sup>18</sup>SAAMI: 'Big bore' is a non-technical term generally referring to any firearm using a centrefire rifle cartridge with a bullet .30" or larger in diameter.

# SUNDAY GUN HUNTING EXPANSION



The OFAH presented the benefits of Sunday gun hunting to three municipalities in 2021 and helped add two of them to the province's ever-expanding list of Sunday gun hunting opportunities. This brings the total number of municipalities who have approved Sunday gun hunting from 67 in 2006 to 187 as of the end of 2021. These efforts have helped add thousands of days of hunting opportunities in southern Ontario over the past 15 years.

# FIREARMS BYLAW ADVOCACY

The OFAH was actively involved in five discharge of firearms bylaw issues in 2021, which included our participation in a specially formed committee, dozens of meetings with staff and councilors, representation at public meetings and providing outreach to ensure that OFAH members know what's happening in their communities.

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*The VOICE of Anglers & Hunters since 1928*

Home > Firearms > Town of Grimsby – Discharge of Firearms and Bows By-Law

## Town of Grimsby – Discharge of Firearms and Bows By-Law

Attention OFAH Member/Supporter,

The Town of Grimsby will be discussing the new revised **draft Discharge of Firearms By-Law** next Monday evening (details for the meeting will be released on the town website on Friday, September 24). Given our direct involvement in working with the Town on this by-law, we have been granted permission to share the newly revised by-law/map with you prior to it being posted on their website, which will occur at some point tomorrow.

OFAH representatives met with Town staff again following the recent Open House meeting, which has led to further revisions to the draft as you will see.

We encourage you to review the draft by-law and if you have specific questions, please email [brian\\_mcrac@ofah.org](mailto:brian_mcrac@ofah.org).

### Recent Updates

- Deer: ACTION
- OFAH Student Research Grants
- OFAH Virtual AGM – 2022
- Lands & Access: ACTION
- Moose: ACTION
- 2022 3-Year Membership Draw
- Sporting Dogs: ACTION
- 2021 Premium Membership Draw

TRADITIONAL OFAH MEMBERSHIP

# COVID IMPACT ON THE OUTDOORS

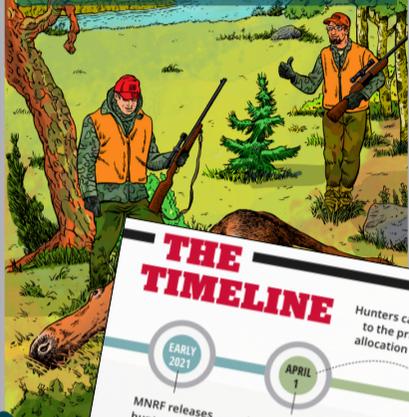
Throughout another year of the pandemic, the OFAH continued bringing our members and supporters the latest breaking news about COVID-19 and its impact on hunting and fishing and outdoor activities. OFAH was outspoken on the unnecessary closures of boat launches and successfully advocated to lift restrictions on Crown land camping.

We also pushed the government to take a full look at the value of hunting, fishing and the outdoors, in general, as it worked through the roadmap to economic recovery within the province, even delivering testimony during an online town hall session ahead of the provincial budget release. The OFAH took the opportunity to reiterate what we've been saying throughout the COVID-19 pandemic: *Fishing and hunting can and should be invested in as a critical sector in Ontario's social and economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.*



# UNRAVELLING THE NEW MOOSE HUNT

If you're still scratching your head over the new moose hunt rules, here's all you need to know



## ALL TAGS ARE WMU-SPECIFIC

All tags (bull, cow/calf, and calf) are WMU-specific and will be awarded through a two-stage allocation process (see timeline). In each stage, hunters can make up to three choices for preferred tags.



A calf tag no longer comes with a moose licence.

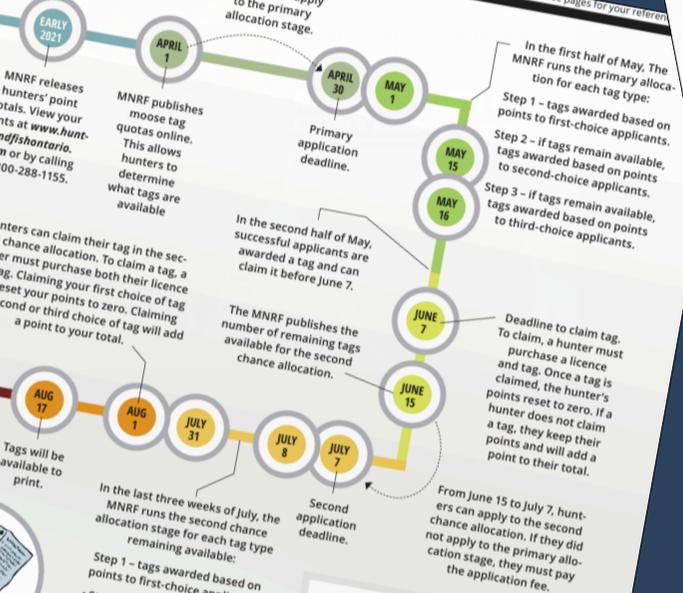
### \$15

Hunters pay a \$15 fee to apply for a tag. If a hunter applies to both the primary and second chance stages, they are only required to pay the application fee once.

## SECOND CHANCES

Hunters awarded tags are given the option to claim the tag by a certain date (see timeline). Unallocated and unclaimed tags from the primary stage will be available to other hunters in the second chance stage. The second chance stage replaces the old surplus tag system.

## THE TIMELINE



## A FEW MORE POINTS

- Calf tags are valid for the entire adult season and for both gun and bow seasons.
- Adult tags are specific to gun or bow seasons.
- Earlier gun moose seasons in southern Ontario will prevent moose and deer season running back to back as in 2020.
- Tag transfers will be limited to exceptional circumstances.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

[www.ontario.ca/mooseview](http://www.ontario.ca/mooseview) for summary of changes.  
[www.ontario.ca/mooseprocess](http://www.ontario.ca/mooseprocess) for in-depth breakdown of the allocation process.

## THE OFAH PERSPECTIVE

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) members hunt moose over a huge area of the province using different methods and following different traditions. Because of this, OFAH members hold mixed views about these changes. OFAH is committed to taking all member feedback to the MNR to ensure that they understand how the changes are being received with the ultimate goal of having a system that works for hunters and does not present barriers to participation. A key component of this is pushing for the three-year review that the Big Game Management Advisory Committee recommended in their report. OFAH would like to hear from moose hunters as they work through this new system in order to communicate concerns.

Visit [www.ofah.org/moose](http://www.ofah.org/moose) to see OFAH's advocacy related to the changes and other moose issues.

# Let the moose applications begin

The OFAH walks you through the first part of the 2021 moose tag allocations online and hunters can start applying. The OFAH is committed to making sure moose hunters have all the information they need to successfully navigate the first round of the allocation process — the primary allocation stage.

**On April 1**, the MNR will publish the 2021 moose tag allocations online and hunters can start applying. The OFAH is committed to making sure moose hunters have all the information they need to successfully navigate the first round of the allocation process — the primary allocation stage.

## Important things to remember

All tags — bull, cow/calf, and calf — are now allocated through this system and a calf tag no longer comes with a moose licence. Under the new system, things are happening earlier. The primary allocation stage opens on April 1st and closes on April 30th. The MNR will announce the results in mid-May and hunters will have until June 7th to claim a tag they are awarded.

The hard copy of the Hunting Regulations Summary should be available shortly after April 1st. All applications submitted between April 1st and April 30th are treated the same, so hunters who do not use a computer are not at a disadvantage. Applications can be done online ([www.huntandfishontario.com](http://www.huntandfishontario.com)), over the phone (1-800-288-1155), and at licence issuers and participating Service Ontario locations.

## What determines your chances?

The old two-pool system has been replaced by a points-based system (see more on this in page 15 or visit the links, right). Point totals can be viewed at [www.huntandfishontario.com](http://www.huntandfishontario.com) or by calling 1-800-288-1155.

Hunters who do not want to apply for a tag but still want to earn a point can pay their \$15 fee and apply to the fictional WMU 992.

Five points will be considered to applying to a northern unit but only one to a southern unit.

**How are you applying?** All hunters will apply to 30 individuals — group applications such as bull and cow/calf tags, make your application fee and send your choices for tags. When applying, hunters will be awarded tags if there are tags available for their points and applicants' first choice tag, make your application fee and send your choices for tags.

# Your second chance at a moose tag

The OFAH walks you through the second part of the 2021 moose tag process

**On June 15**, the second chance allocation stage for moose will open. Here is what you need to know to navigate this stage of the process.

## What are the important dates?

The second chance stage runs from June 15 to July 7. Following that, the MNR will run the allocation stage on August 1. While the primary allocation stage had a roughly three-week period in which hunters want to claim a tag, the second chance stage will have until the end of the season to decide whether they want to claim a tag. All tags, including those awarded in the primary stage, will be available to hunters on August 17.

## What tags are available?

During the second chance stage, hunters can apply for tags that were not applied for during the primary allocation stage and tags that were awarded to hunters, but not claimed. Hunters can find out what tags are available by visiting [www.ontario.ca/moosequotas](http://www.ontario.ca/moosequotas) or by calling 1-800-288-1155 on June 15 or after.

While many of the tags available in this stage will likely be the same as those typically available under the old surplus system, there could be a few high-demand tags available in a different situation.

Second chance stage. Those choices can be any tag type (bull, cow/calf, or calf) for which there are available tags. Hunters also have the option to apply for a point and did not do so in the primary allocation stage.

The second chance stage differs from the primary allocation stage. In that only tags that will be awarded based on points and use random draw and do not use a hunter's points. This recognizes that in the second chance stage, there will be a mix of high and low demand tags. A hunter who selects 992 as their first choice can still enter second and third choices.

## How it works

Example: Imagine that in the second chance stage there are 20 bow bull tags available in WMU 24 and five hunters applied for those tags as their first choice. 100 hunters applied as their second choice and the five hunters who applied for the WMU 24 bow bull tag as their first choice will receive a tag. The remaining 15 tags will then pass to the hunters who applied as their second choice, with the tags that were not awarded remaining available for the third choice.

## Other moose matters

The OFAH continues to work on all aspects of moose hunting and management. A letter to Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry John Yakabuski on the importance of moose serial inventories (MAIs) to effectively manage moose in the province.

The OFAH also provided recommendations to ensure that MAIs are conducted at a frequency that supports adaptive management in a way that effectively tracks and manages moose population trends, and at a scale that is supported by science. Concerns have also been raised about the vulnerability of MAIs to climate change and asked that the MNR begin working on proactive solutions. Read the full letter [www.ofah.org/moose](http://www.ofah.org/moose)

# GET MOOSIN'

What you need to know for the fall moose hunt

The major changes to moose hunting in 2021 in Ontario have been well documented here in the pages of Ontario OUT of DOORS. Previous stories (which you can find at [www.ofah.org/moose](http://www.ofah.org/moose)) have provided a high-level overview of the changes and breakdowns of the primary and second chance allocation stages. In this article, the focus is on the changes hunters need to know about as they head into the woods this fall.

## Before you go

Moose tags will be available to print on August 17th. Tags can be printed online at [www.huntandfishontario.com](http://www.huntandfishontario.com) or through a licence issuer or participating Service Ontario. If you were awarded a tag during the second chance stage, you have until the end of the season to claim your tag if you wish to do so.

Tag transfers have been significantly restricted and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances such as injury, illness or death of the tag holder or an immediate family member, or redeployment by the Canadian Armed Forces. Anyone seeking such a transfer should contact the Natural Resource Information and Support Centre at [nrisf@ontario.ca](mailto:nrisf@ontario.ca) or by calling 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940.

Starting in 2021, the opening date of gun season in southern Ontario (WMUs 46-50 and 53-63) has reverted to the third Monday in October.

## In the field

One of the most important changes to remember this year is that a calf tag no longer comes with a moose licence and all tags are distributed through the allocation process. To go moose hunting, a hunter must have their own tag or be party hunting with another hunter who holds a valid tag. The rules for party hunting moose remain unchanged from previous years. Party hunting on someone else's tag does not affect your points.

Starting this year, non-resident hunters can only obtain moose tags through a tourist outfitter. Non-residents who are immediate relatives of an Ontario resident who has a valid moose tag can party hunt on that tag if they purchase a non-resident moose licence and are hunting during an open non-resident season. All hunters (resident and non-resident) who are hunting on an outfitter tag, either their own or through party hunting, must be a registered guest of the outfitter and carry documentation proving this.

## After the hunt

All hunters who purchase a moose licence in 2021 must complete a mandatory moose hunter report. Resident hunters and non-resident hunters who hunt with an immediate relative must complete their regular moose hunter report by December 29, 2021. Resident hunters who received a tag through an outfitter must also provide a report to the outfitter by December 22, 2021 with information specific to their time hunting with the outfitter.

Since the implementation of mandatory reporting, response rates for moose hunters have significantly improved from 51% in 2018 to 81% in 2019 and 85% in 2020. This provides crucial information for effective moose management and moose hunters should feel good about the positive contribution they are making.

## What the OFAH is doing

The OFAH continues to push the government to review the changes to moose hunting within three years of their implementation to ensure they are working as intended, having a positive effect on moose populations, and not creating barriers to participation for hunters.

The types of moose tags hunters will have in their pockets this fall



**Bull tags** are specific to WMU and season (gun or bow) and can only be used to harvest a bull.



**Cow/calf tags** are also specific to WMU and season and can be used to harvest a cow or a calf (not both).



**Calf tags** are WMU-specific but are valid for the full length of all moose seasons within the WMU, meaning both the gun and bow seasons. If there is any uncertainty, always refer to the information printed on your tag.

Refer to the 2021 Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary (online at [www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary](http://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary)) for detailed moose hunting seasons and regulations.

# GUIDING YOU THROUGH THE NEW MOOSE TAG ALLOCATION SYSTEM

Navigating the new moose allocation system was overwhelming for many hunters, but the OFAH and Ontario OUT of DOORS Magazine provided some necessary assistance throughout 2021.

At each stage in the process, OFAH provided hunters with the information they needed from NDMNR through the magazine and social media, as well as providing some direct hunter-to-hunter advice. Members hold a wide range of opinions on the new system and OFAH made sure that the government heard the views of all moose hunters loud and clear.

# OFAH INSIDE ACCESS: VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT BRINGS YOU THE INFO YOU NEED ON FIREARMS AND MOOSE

Members and online viewers from all corners of the province joined us for the launch of the new OFAH Inside Access series of webinars. In 2021 we hosted sessions about the new moose allocation system as well as a discussion on firearms. Hosted by our Wildlife Biologist, Dr. Keith Munro, the session about the new moose allocation process featured guest speakers and presenters from NDMNRF, while our own Matt DeMille and Brian McRae were front and centre in the firearms discussion, which was hosted by Ontario OUT of DOORS Editor, Ray Blades.

These events provided an important service for our members and followers during a time where face-to-face communication was not possible.

**OFAH INSIDE ACCESS**  
**A DISCUSSION ON FIREARMS**  
**MARCH 23, 2021 AT 7 P.M.**

HOSTED BY ONTARIO OUT of DOORS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, RAY BLADES

FEATURED SPEAKERS:  
MATT DEMILLE & BRIAN MCRAE

REGISTER TODAY [www.ofah.org/insideaccess](http://www.ofah.org/insideaccess)  
\*LIMITED AUDIENCE, PRIORITY TO OFAH MEMBERS

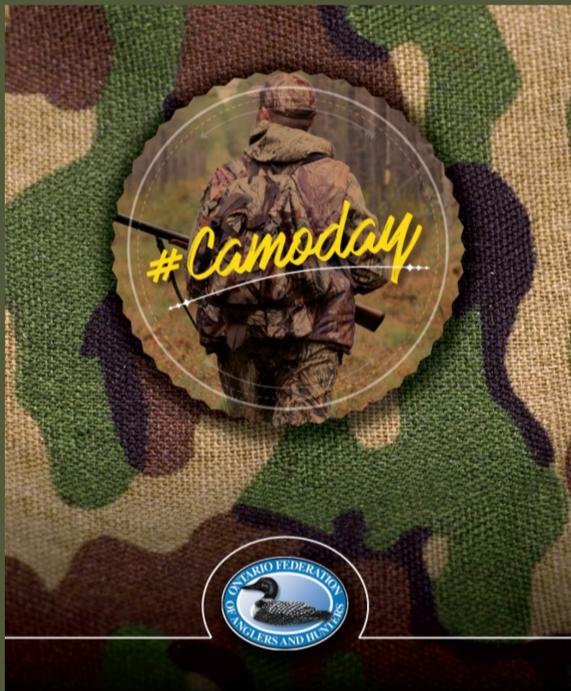
**OFAH INSIDE ACCESS**  
**HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW MOOSE TAG ALLOCATION PROCESS?**  
**MARCH 30, 2021 | 7 - 9 P.M.**

Join the OFAH and MNRF Licensing and Policy staff for a live discussion and online demonstration of the new moose allocation system.

# SHOWING OUT FOR #CAMODAY AND HERITAGE DAY

For the seventh year in a row, the OFAH was proud to bring awareness to National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day -- September 18, 2021. The OFAH dedicated much of our September social media content to highlighting the importance of hunting, trapping, and fishing heritage, with a total of 170 posts across all platforms.

The OFAH also celebrated #camoday on September 17, asking Canadians to wear and share their camo photos. Things stayed virtual this year due to the pandemic, but that didn't stop people from showing their #camo pride across social media. We reposted that user content along with our own posts, and through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, the OFAH reached almost a quarter of a million online users for #camoday and #heritageday.



# UPDATES ON DEER DISEASES

The OFAH has an important role and responsibility to keep the outdoors community informed. The OFAH shared information about two diseases that were detected in deer in 2021.

In September, three white-tailed-deer in the Kingston area tested positive for Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD). In November 2021, there was a positive case of Chronic Wasting Disease in the neighboring province of Manitoba.

OFAH wildlife staff monitored these situations closely and passed along valid information through OFAH communications channels.



# COMMUNITY AND GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

OFAH-led programs like the Invading Species Hit Squad delivered on the ground, community-based invasive species education, awareness and monitoring in 2021. Working in partnership with NDMNRF district offices, stewardship councils, conservation authorities, and non-governmental organizations, 14 summer students were hired to attend local festivals and events, deliver educational programming to the public, and monitor local areas for invasive species. The community hatchery support fund was also helping community hatcheries cover operational expenses during a time when traditional fundraising events were not possible -- all in an effort to continue raising fish for stocking into public waters.



# SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

The OFAH uses a science-based approach to our advocacy in fish and wildlife management and in 2021, with some critical thinking and good connections, we were able to coordinate and fund an important study to better understand how prescribed fire and forestry affect moose parasites in Northwestern Ontario.

The study will help piece together a puzzle about how moose brainworm passes through slugs and snails and will provide some baseline data.

The OFAH and partners also funded three research grant projects in 2021. The fisheries grant will help understand thiamine deficiency in stocked Lake Ontario Lake Trout. The wildlife grant looks at white-tailed deer trait variation in Ontario and the avian grant research will help by using intrinsic markers to improve existing northern pintail management. Research supported by the OFAH is used to improve resource management in Ontario.



# HABITAT

Through various conservation programs, the OFAH is improving fish and wildlife habitat and the ecosystems that support them. Listed below are a few examples of habitat conservation efforts in 2021:

- ALUS Peterborough helped convert marginal farmland into useful wildlife habitat
- The Invading Species Awareness Program mapped and removed water soldier plants from the Trent Severn Waterway
- ISAP also carried out shovel-ready projects to combat invasive species as partners in the Green Shovels Collaborative and coordinated and promoted the OFAH Wild Pig Surveillance program to assist people with detecting pigs on properties
- The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration program carried out tree and shrub plantings and clean ups along Lake Ontario tributaries



# OPPORTUNITIES



The OFAH continued to partner with OFAH clubs, provincial parks and volunteers to maintain world-class, controlled waterfowl hunting opportunities at Long Point, Rondeau, and Darlington Provincial Parks, resulting in thousands of hunter-days in 2021.

In addition, thanks to our continued partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), OFAH members secured permission to hunt on a number of NCC-owned properties, which resulted in an additional 500-plus hunter-days in the fall of 2021.

# OUR INAUGURAL NXT-GEN AMBASSADORS

The first group of OFAH NXT-GEN Ambassadors were selected in 2021 after the program was created to provide opportunities for direct input into OFAH discussions and volunteer experiences for younger people of all abilities.

The NXT-GEN participants served as spokespersons and influencers for the OFAH while gaining valuable experience, connections, and insights into fishing and hunting and other conservation management topics.

The OFAH was proud to host these new ambassadors who brought new ideas to staff and the OFAH board in 2021 and we look forward to the continued growth of the program and impact it will have on the next generation of anglers and hunters.



**Michael Joseph Lee**  
📍 Toronto, ON



**Daniel Skinner**  
📍 Ennismore, ON



**Jenna Knight**  
📍 Courtice, ON



**Satbir Bassi**  
📍 Toronto, ON



**Branden Fennell**  
📍 Waterloo, ON



**Britney Belanger**  
📍 London, ON



**Trisiah Tugade**  
📍 Toronto, ON



**Leah Robinson**  
📍 Peterborough, ON



**Scott Corner**  
📍 Cayuga, ON



**Steven Zingaro**  
📍 Barrie, ON



**Erin Stewart**  
📍 Peterborough, ON

# OFFERING EXPERIENCE THROUGH INTERNSHIPS



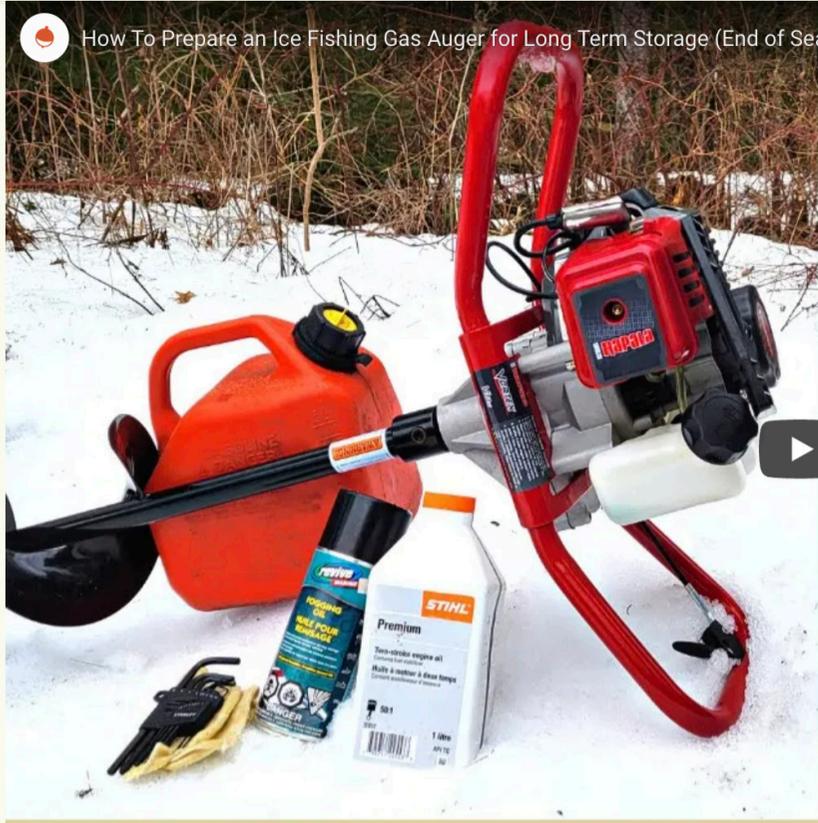
The OFAH/BrokerLink Conservation Internship and the OFAH/Fitzsimons Financial Group Inc. Fish & Wildlife Conservation Internship provided opportunities for two recent graduates to work with OFAH fish and wildlife professionals on a range of policy and conservation program projects in 2021.

These interns worked alongside our Policy & Programs department biologists and managers, gaining experience in fish and wildlife policy review and development.

Where possible due to COVID-19 restrictions, they also conducted spring field work that included fish stocking, tree planting, stream clean-ups and monitoring.



How To Prepare an Ice Fishing Gas Auger for Long Term Storage (End of Season Maintenance)
Copy link



# HOW TO

# STORE YOUR GAS AUGER



Let's Go Fishing

Watch on YouTube

## How To Prepare an Ice Fishing Gas Auger for Long Term Storage (End of Season Maintenance)

How to prepare an ice fishing gas auger for long term storage and include other end of season maintenance. Air filter cleaning, mixing fuel, and fogging for long term storage. ...

[\[+\] Show More](#)



### How To Prepare an Ice Fishing Gas Auger for Long Term Storage (End of Season Maintenance)

How to prepare an ice fishing gas auger for long term storage and [...]



### DIY Rod Tube - Easy Project to Protect Your Spinning Rods

Here's an easy DIY Rod Tube to protect your two-piece spinning rods. [...]



### Self Hook Setters (via fishing rod under tension - Jaw Jacker/Celcius)

How to set up a self hook setter device (such as a Jaw Jacker) [...]



### How To: Tie a DOUBLE UNI KNOT (Fishing Knot: Tie Braid to Fluorocarbon)

In this video we quickly show how to tie a double uni knot. The uni [...]



### Homemade Goldfish Crackers (EASY and Delicious)



### How To: Clean and Maintain your Spinning Reel



### Ice Fishing Rod and Reel Combos (for Beginners)



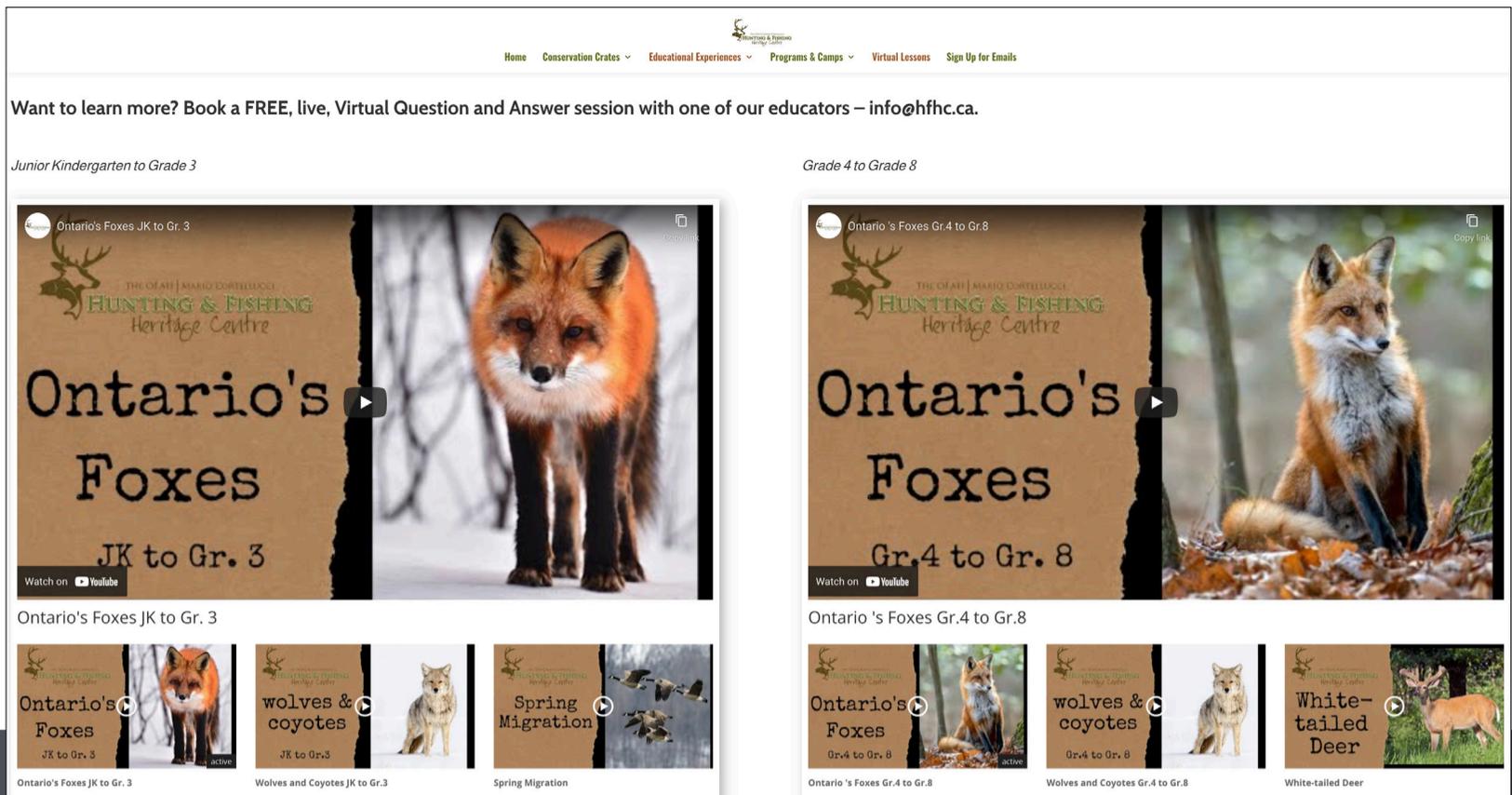
### Ice Fishing for Panfish with Tungsten Jigs

# TIPS FROM TACKLESHARE

Supported by OPG, the TackleShare program ran in a virtual format in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to prevent in-person group fishing events.

That couldn't stop staff from educating the next wave of anglers through the program, though. Each week, OFAH staff ventured out to local lakes and rivers to fish for different species and their adventures, tips, tricks and lessons learned were shared by video on tackleshare.com.

Viewers were also encouraged to upload photos of their own catches to receive free fishing prizes and entry into monthly prize draws from TackleShare sponsors. Staff also provided additional videos with activities and crafts for kids, DIY projects, and "fishing 101" lessons on equipment, species identification, cooking your catch, and how to use the fishing regulations summary.



# VIRTUAL EDUCATION THROUGH THE HERITAGE CENTRE

The OFAH | Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre building may have remained closed to the public in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, but thanks to funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund grant, we were able to continue to provide great educational services across the province.

Our Conservation Crates program was a hit, providing staff and students in Grades 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 with hands-on resources and curriculum-linked lesson plans shipped direct to their school(s).

The grant also funded the purchase of video equipment needed to produce our Virtual Lesson series -- which can be found by all on our HFHC YouTube Channel.

In-line with our goal of delivering virtual programming while the Centre remains closed, we also hosted a total of five Virtual Question and Answer Sessions with students across the province, from Thunder Bay to London and in between.

# HUNTER ED ADDS AN ONLINE COURSE IN ONTARIO

The screenshot shows the HUNTERcourse.com website. At the top left is the logo 'HUNTERcourse.com Educating Hunters Online'. At the top right are links for 'Login', 'Get Started', a menu icon, and the Canadian flag. The main heading is 'Official Ontario Hunter Education Course'. Below it, text states: 'Take this province of Ontario-approved online course to receive your Certificate of Completion for hunter education. HUNTERcourse.com is a delegated provider for Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.' To the right is a preview of a certificate that reads: 'Ontario THIS CERTIFICATE is hereby granted to Jane Hunter You have successfully completed Ontario's Hunter Education Course and Examination!'. Below the text are two green buttons: 'Start Your Course' and 'Cours en français'. A grey banner below contains an information icon and the text: 'To get a hunting licence in Ontario, you need proof of hunter accreditation.' The bottom section is titled 'Get Your Hunter Education in 3 Easy Steps' and lists three steps: 1. Study and pass the \$60.00 online course. 2. Print your Certificate of Completion. 3. Buy your hunting licences.

**HUNTERcourse.com**  
Educating Hunters Online

Login | [Get Started](#) | |

## Official Ontario Hunter Education Course

Take this province of Ontario-approved online course to receive your Certificate of Completion for hunter education. HUNTERcourse.com is a delegated provider for Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.

[Start Your Course](#) [Cours en français](#)

**Ontario**

**THIS CERTIFICATE**  
is hereby granted to  
Jane Hunter

You have successfully completed Ontario's Hunter Education Course and Examination!

**Ontario**

To get a hunting licence in Ontario, you need proof of hunter accreditation.

### Get Your Hunter Education in 3 Easy Steps

- 1 Study and pass the \$60.00 online course.** Take the course wherever, whenever! Log in and study at your own pace. The course saves your progress wherever you leave off.
- 2 Print your Certificate of Completion.** Once you have completed the online hunter education course, you can print out your Certificate of Completion and take it to a participating **ServiceOntario** location to get your certificate on file. A **valid Outdoors Card** is required before you can purchase hunting products.
- 3 Buy your hunting licences.** Once your certificate (hunter accreditation) is on file with the **Fish and Wildlife Licensing Service** you can buy hunting licences and products and get ready to go hunting. It's that easy!

In the summer of 2021, the NDMNRF launched the first Ontario-specific online hunter education course.

The OFAH supported the development, delivery and promotion of an online course option for hunter education, but also wanted to make sure that the program changes did not compromise Ontario's exceptional hunter safety record, and that the impacts to our passionate and dedicated instructors were respected and fully considered.

# OFAH ZONES AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTED  
TO CONSERVATION

Even though 2021 looked a lot like 2020 as the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and the accompanying restrictions meant another year altering the way we connect with our members at the Zone level, our OFAH Board of Directors remained busy and engaged on a number of fronts.

Though the pandemic again impacted some of our plans to host events like youth campouts, hunts, fishing derbies and range days, we didn't let the impacts of COVID stop us from connecting with our members and keeping people involved and in the know about what was happening with the OFAH and the broader fishing and hunting community.

Zone meetings went ahead as planned, with a few of them held in-person in the later part of the year, and a majority held virtually through Zoom. This offered thousands of members and non-members alike a quick and easy way to connect, participate in presentations and Q&A sessions with OFAH and Ministry of Northern Development Mines Natural Resources and Forestry staff and other fish and wildlife experts from across the province.

On a broader organizational scale, we have been investing in research about the OFAH so we can be responsive to the changing environmental needs and shifting demographics in angling and hunting to strongly position ourselves and the activities we love within a rapidly changing social landscape. We want to be progressive with these shifts while remaining true to the foundation of our almost 100-year-old organization. Many challenges lie ahead, but with great challenge comes great opportunity for us to critically reflect on the history of the organization and how that can inform our future.



# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President – Dan Elliott (Aylmer)

1st Vice President – Rick Moore (Keewatin)

2nd Vice President – Gerry Giesler (Powassan)

Treasurer – Stephen Huntley (Beeton)

Past President – Rob Hare (Keswick)

Past President – Kerry Coleman (Oxford Mills)

## **ZONE A**

Chair – Chris Bonner-Vickers (Fort Frances)

1st Vice Chair – Loretta Bilous (Dryden)

2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – Justin McGinnis (Kenora)

Secretary/Treasurer – Crystal Gray (Emo)

2nd Alternate Director – Roy DeCorte (Atikokan)

## **ZONE B**

Chair – Josef Brecka (Thunder Bay)

1st Vice Chair – Jeff Bevilacqua (Thunder Bay)

2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – Vince Falcigno (Thunder Bay)

Secretary/Treasurer & 2nd Alt. Dir. – Matt Wituluk (Thunder Bay)

Director – Carmen Woodcock (Thunder Bay)

## **ZONE C**

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2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – Gerry Stroud (Temagami)

Secretary/Treasurer & 2nd Alt. Dir. – Tom Woollings (Kirkland Lake)

Director – Richard Mongeon (New Liskeard)

## **ZONE D**

Chair – Roy Polsky (Val Caron)

1st Vice Chair – Gerry Giesler (Powassan)

2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – Glen Polsky Jr. (Hanmer)

Secretary/Treasurer & 2nd Alt. Dir. – Debbie Halverson (Copper Cliff)

Director – Dan Polsky (Sturgeon Falls)

## **ZONE E**

Chair – Eric Smith (Arnprior)

1st Vice Chair – John Hinton (Bridgenorth)

Secretary/Treasurer & Alt. Dir. – Alan Fennell (Cannington)

Director – Brian Sutcliffe (Griffith)

## **ZONE F**

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Secretary/Treasurer & 2nd Alt. Dir. – Ben Storey (Nepean)

Director – Bob Emery (Perth)

## **ZONE G**

Chair – Steve Laird (Uxbridge)

1st Vice Chair – Chris Roman (Toronto)

2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – Marco Federico (Ajax)

Secretary/Treasurer – David Dixon (Port Perry)

2nd Alternate Director – Jim Kelly (Schomberg)

## **ZONE H**

Chair – Michael Evers (Innisfil)

1st Vice Chair – Chris Geberdt (Dashwood)

2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – John Ford (Owen Sound)

Secretary/Treasurer – Wally Motz (Kincardine)

2nd Alternate Director – Rob Little (Orangeville)

## **ZONE J**

Chair – Greg Balch (London)

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2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – Mark Braet (Petrolia)

Secretary/Treasurer & 2nd Alt. Dir. – Paul Prowse (St. Marys)

Director – Randy MacPherson (Waterloo)

## **DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

Jim Bertulli (Copper Cliff)

Spyros Chrysochou (Hastings)

Neil Wiens (Shuniah)

## **PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

Maya Basdeo (Ancaster)

Bill Blackwell (Port Perry)

Chris Davies (Lakefield)

Tony Jackson (Fullarton)

Joseph Wilson (Mono)

\* as of March 31, 2022

