

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



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

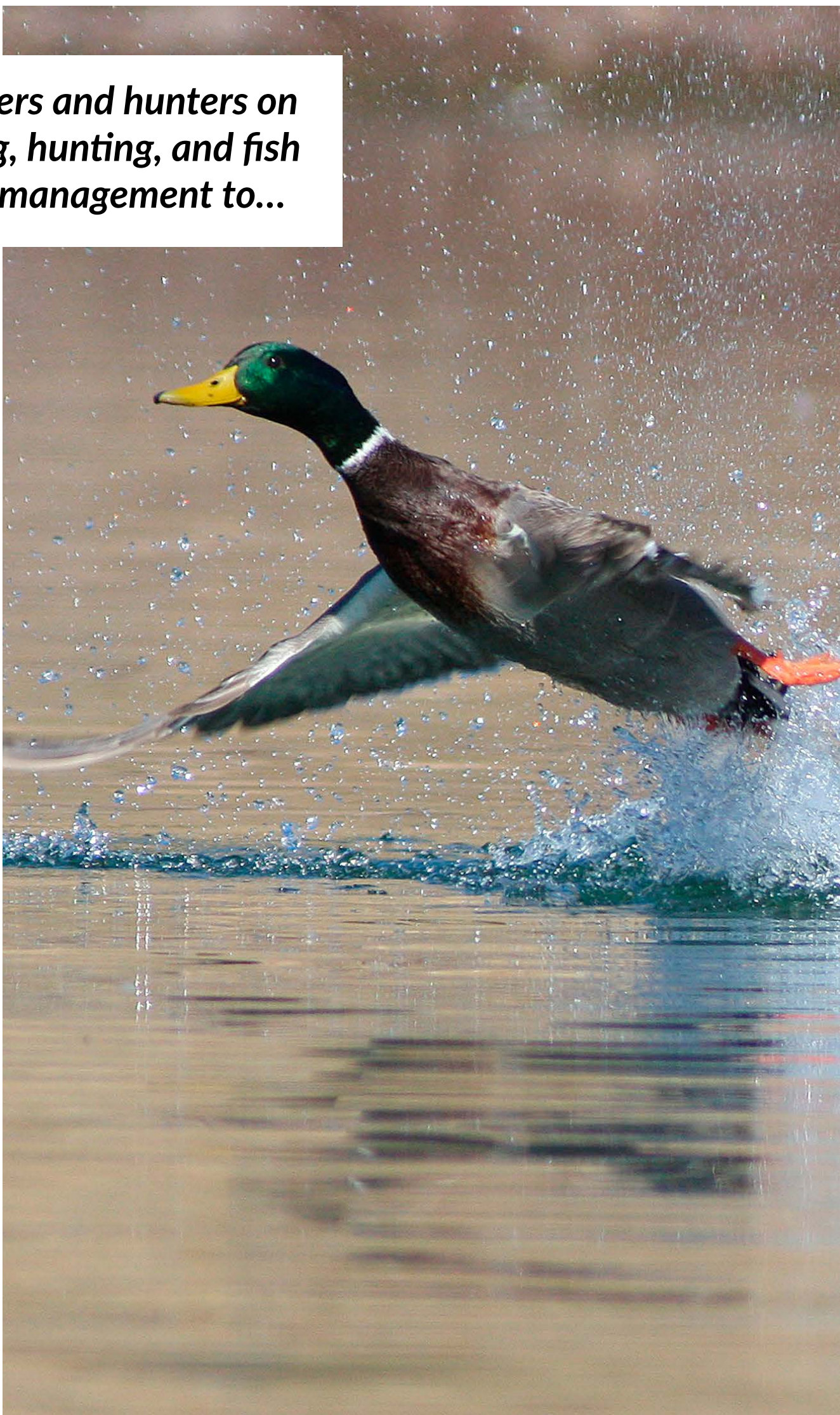
ENHANCE the quantity and quality of sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities

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



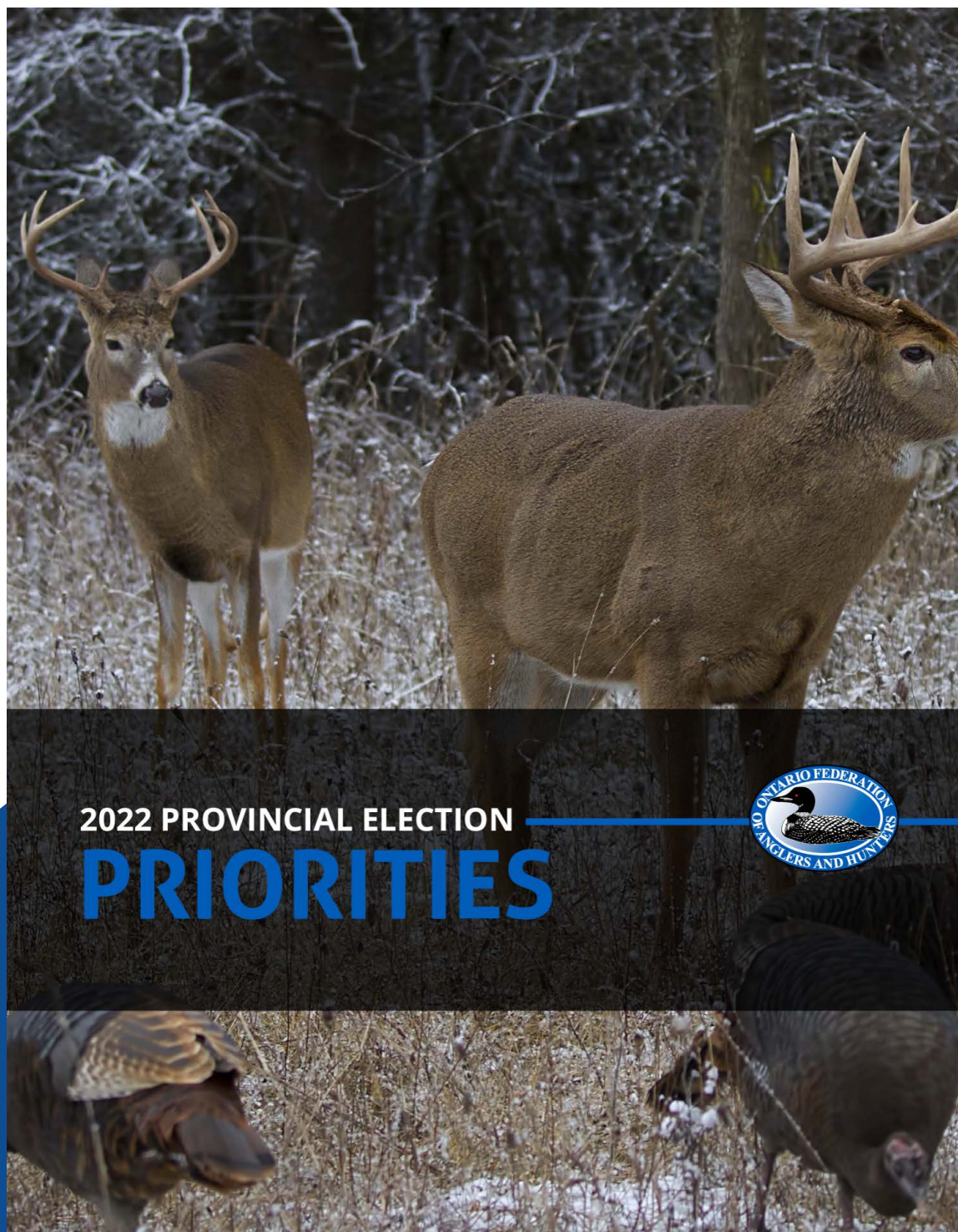
Visit www.ofah.org/finance to view the 2022 financial summary

PROVINCIAL ELECTION INFLUENCE

Fishing and hunting contribute to a triple bottom line with enormous economic, environmental, and social benefits to the people of Ontario. Leading into the 2022 provincial election, the OFAH made it a priority to remind government of the significance of investing in the outdoors.

Modest investments through post-pandemic recovery plans can leverage massive returns so we asked the government to invest in a green economy and outline priorities for wildlife, fisheries and conservation in Ontario.

The full picture of what we asked for can be found at www.ofah.org/election2022.



NEW TURKEY SEASONS A WIN FOR CONSERVATION

The OFAH has long advocated for additional turkey hunting seasons in Ontario where the population can sustain them. So we were pleased to see in 2022 that the MNRF introduced new fall seasons in seven Wildlife Management Units -- WMUs 60, 63, 69, 70, 74, 75 and 86. These new seasons will be open Oct. 1 to 31 each year.

"The opening of more fall seasons validates this conservation success story as it shows how well reintroduction of wild turkeys has worked in Ontario," then OFAH Resource Management Specialist Lauren Tonelli told OOD's Steve Galea in the May 2022 edition of the magazine.



IMPACTS OF FISHING REG CHANGES

Changes to the 2022 Ontario Fishing Regulations provided the OFAH with an opportunity to share concerns with the government over how some of the changes would impact anglers in different areas of the province. We provided the government with an official submission on the subject, and talked directly to our members in OOD about the concerns we shared. Grab your copy of the March 2022 Fishing Annual, or login at www.oodmag.com to view the digital version. An image of our spread, complete with comments and concerns, can also be found below.

NEW FISHING REGS

Find out what's changed for 2022

A new year brings new changes and challenges for Ontario anglers. The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) released the 2022 fishing regulations and the following is a summary along with a variety of new things for anglers to be aware of.

Fishing with live bait

Four Bait Management Zones (BMZ) have been created to limit the harvest, use, and movement of live or dead baitfish and leeches in Ontario. Anglers fishing outside their home BMZ must purchase baitfish and leeches from the BMZ they will be using them in, retain a legible receipt that can be immediately produced if requested by a conservation officer, and use or dispose of their bait within two weeks of purchase. More details available at www.ontario.ca/bait.

➔ **OFAH take:** The OFAH has been involved in the bait discussion since the beginning (read more at: www.ofah.org/issues/baitfish-review), and continues to promote awareness of invasive species, but also wants to see enhanced enforcement, education, and outreach before unnecessarily over-complicating fishing regulations.

Cleaning boats and watercraft before transporting

Anglers and recreational boaters will need to be more diligent in cleaning their watercraft and equipment before transporting overland and arriving at launches. See Boater Pathway Regulation, right, for more information.

Lake trout

Seasons have been extended in FMZ 6 (zone-wide).

➔ **OFAH take:** The OFAH provided official feedback and supported the lake trout proposal. Creating sustainable angling opportunities by extending the winter angling season and removing other exceptions, is a good news story for anglers, businesses, and communities.

Lake Nipissing

There are species-specific changes affecting wall-eye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge and northern pike.

➔ **OFAH take:** Regulation changes for Lake Nipissing might be falling short of conserva-

tion goals – so anglers will need to be mindful of the new narrow harvestable slot for wall-eye, between 40 and 45 cm.

Lake whitefish: a species at risk

After a recommendation to list lake whitefish in Lake Opeongo as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, the season for lake whitefish has been closed year-round in this lake.

➔ **OFAH take:** The OFAH supports species at risk conservation and recovery, but designations like this could have serious consequences for other whitefish fisheries and other cold-water species like brook and lake trout.



The 2022 Fishing Regulations Summary can be found on the ministry's website.

...AND NEW BOATER-PATHWAY REGS

Watercraft movement represents a significant pathway of spread for aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Ontario.

To prevent watercraft users from inadvertently transporting AIS, the NDMNR has regulated watercraft (boats, canoes, kayaks) and watercraft equipment as "carriers" under the Invasive Species Act, 2015, effective January 1, 2022.

According to the new regulations, boaters must take reasonable precautions to remove all aquatic plants (weeds), animals, and algae from any boat, boat equipment, vehicle or trailer before:

- transporting a watercraft over land,
- reaching a boat launch, and
- placing a watercraft/equipment into a body of water.

It is illegal to place a boat, boating equipment, vehicle, or trailer into a waterbody if there are any of those organisms attached to it. In addition, boaters must remove or open drain plugs to allow water to drain from the boat or boat equipment before transporting their watercraft over land.

More online...

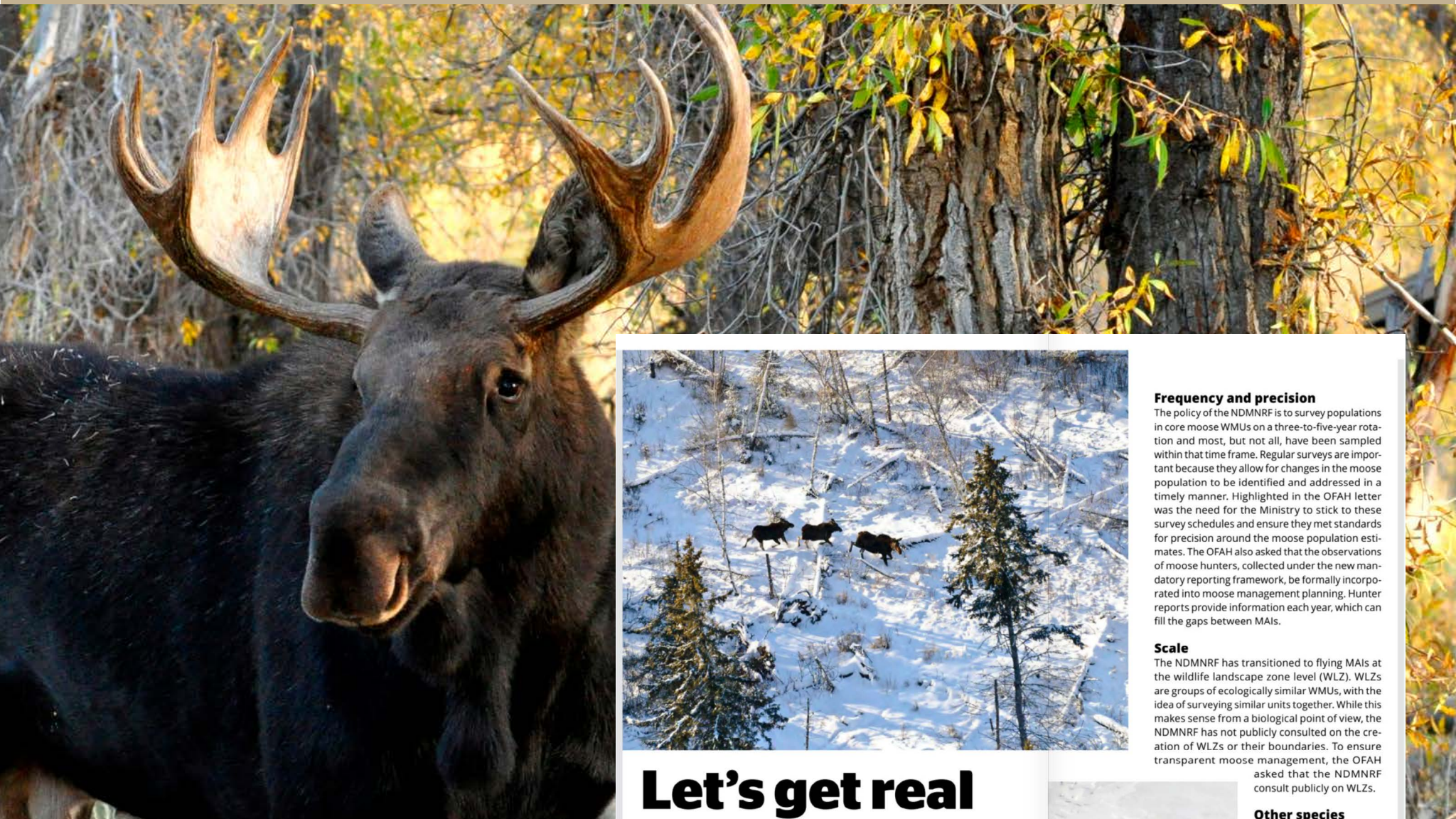
➔ Learn how to effectively clean, drain, and dry your watercraft, at www.invadingspecies.com/pathways/boating/

➔ The OFAH's Water Steward Program teaches volunteers to perform an AIS-check on watercraft. To volunteer or learn more visit www.invadingspecies.com/programs/volunteer-water-steward-program/

➔ Learn more about Ontario's new boater-pathway regulations, and other changes to the Invasive Species Act, 2015 at www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-ontario

OFAH ON MOOSE

In May of 2021, the OFAH wrote the Ministry to underscore the importance and value of Moose Aerial Inventories, and in March of 2022 we went public, calling on the government to provide a clearer picture of moose populations in Ontario. Our public comments echoed what was in our letter to the government, where we asked them to address funding for MAIs with increased investment, provide clarity about how hunter information is used and, among other things, investigate opportunities to conduct MAIs without the need for a snow conditions.



Let's get real on moose

The OFAH pushes for a clearer picture of moose populations by improving Ontario's aerial surveys

Each winter, the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) conducts helicopter surveys of moose populations. These surveys, called moose aerial inventories (MAI), estimate the size of a WMU's moose population and the number of bulls, cows, and calves and the results are used to track moose population status, identify and address conservation concerns, and allocate sustainable moose hunting opportunities.

In May 2021, the OFAH sent a letter to the Ministry on the importance of MAIs. Here is what we asked for:

Funding

Moose are an integral part of Ontario's ecological and cultural landscape. This means that it's not only hunters that benefit from healthy moose populations. Recognizing the benefit to all Ontarians, the OFAH asked that the Ministry increase investment in MAIs and that this increased investment come from general taxpayer revenue, not just hunting licence sales. As costs in staff time, equipment, and fuel increase with inflation, the OFAH wants to ensure MAIs remain fully funded.

Frequency and precision

The policy of the NDMNR is to survey populations in core moose WMUs on a three-to-five-year rotation and most, but not all, have been sampled within that time frame. Regular surveys are important because they allow for changes in the moose population to be identified and addressed in a timely manner. Highlighted in the OFAH letter was the need for the Ministry to stick to these survey schedules and ensure they met standards for precision around the moose population estimates. The OFAH also asked that the observations of moose hunters, collected under the new mandatory reporting framework, be formally incorporated into moose management planning. Hunter reports provide information each year, which can fill the gaps between MAIs.

Scale

The NDMNR has transitioned to flying MAIs at the wildlife landscape zone level (WLZ). WLZs are groups of ecologically similar WMUs, with the idea of surveying similar units together. While this makes sense from a biological point of view, the NDMNR has not publicly consulted on the creation of WLZs or their boundaries. To ensure transparent moose management, the OFAH asked that the NDMNR consult publicly on WLZs.

Other species

While moose must remain the focus of MAIs, the OFAH asked the NDMNR to explore the value of recording sightings of other species such as white-tailed deer, caribou, coyotes, and wolves. Information on these species could provide

important insight and support effective wildlife management.

Climate change

MAIs require specific snow conditions, which were absent across much of northern Ontario in 2020. Knowing that these situations will likely become more common in the future, a request was made to NDMNR to investigate survey methods that would make MAIs less dependent on snow conditions.

Moose have been identified as a species vulnerable to climate change, so accurate population information in a changing climate will be crucial to their effective management.

The OFAH received a positive response from the Minister on the letter and met with government staff, who listened to feedback and outlined how they were addressing concerns raised. The OFAH anticipates further discussions about how MAIs can continue to support healthy moose populations and hunting opportunities in Ontario.

Visit www.ofah.org/moose and look under ACTION to read the entire letter.

PHOTOS: BRUCE BANTA

ACTION ON WILD PIGS

Over the last couple years, the government has changed its entire approach to dealing with the threat of wild pigs and the OFAH is proud of being a driving force in making these positive changes happen. Our non-stop pressure on this issue has paid off as wild pigs are now restricted under the Invasive Species Act. Pigs can't be released into the environment, farming Eurasian wild boar will be phased out over the next two years and hunting wild pigs is now prohibited. This last point is unpopular with some hunters, but the science is clear that hunting wild pigs ultimately makes the problem worse. The OFAH has long recognized the threats posed by wild pigs and these changes are a direct result of recommendations we made and political pressure that we applied to convince the government to do more.



Action taken on wild pig threat

Eurasian boars get phase-out and wild pigs see an invasive species listing

FIREARMS ADVOCACY AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

In 2022, the OFAH invested significant time and resources into advocating for all firearms owners at all levels of government. At the municipal level we were active on both Sunday gun hunting and discharge of firearms by-law issues, while, at the provincial level, our efforts to influence government and its approach to firearms and fire-arm-related issues, had a few layers to it. Ahead of the municipal election we asked political parties to commit to permitting Sunday gun hunting province-wide and asked that they consider creating guidelines for municipalities to follow when it comes to restricting firearms within its jurisdictions. We also wrote Premier Doug Ford and asked that his government oppose Bill C-21.

Speaking of C-21, we can't fill out this section without addressing the federal firearms issues. Our script on that was consistent all year long as we asked government, both behind closed doors and publicly, to avoid bans, to consult with firearms owners and to target criminals over law-abiding firearms owners. We also pressured them to stop using firearms as a political wedge and to focus time and resources on root causes of firearms violence in Canada.

Spoiler alert if you're just getting caught up -- we saw some movement on this file in early 2023. You can get details on all this and more at www.ofah.org/firearms.



GREAT LAKES DAY ON PARLIAMENT HILL



Photo by: A. Miehl, GLFC



For decades, the OFAH has been a key player in discussions about the policies and practices in and around the Great Lakes that continue to advance conservation in the basin. In May 2022, the OFAH went to Ottawa for Great Lakes Day on Parliament Hill and while there with some partner groups, we promoted the value of the Great Lakes and provided government officials with a list of shared priorities for the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River -- priorities that included improving bi-national dialogue, enhancing coordination and governance of domestic freshwater management, the impacts of climate change, and more.

OFAH INSIDE ACCESS WEBINARS

The OFAH Inside Access webinar series continued to inform members in 2022, with dedicated events on the moose allocation system and another on the changes to the Migratory Game Bird Regulations.

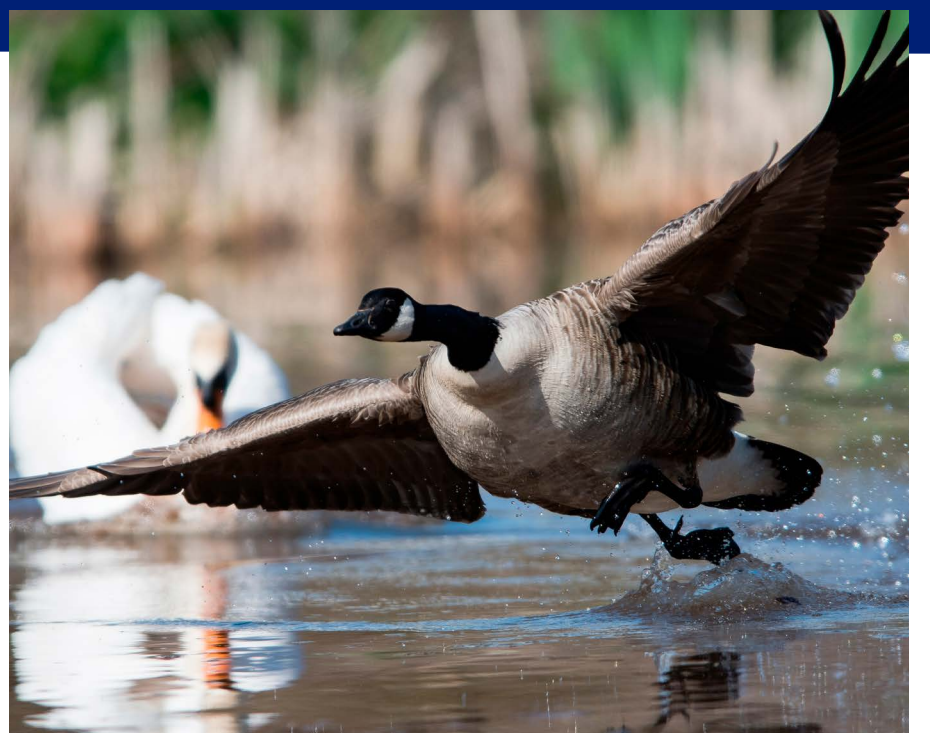
MOOSE: In the spring of 2022, the Ministry published information on the results of the 2021 moose allocation, including the number of points used to get tags. This was highly sought-after information that hunters wanted and needed to inform their 2022 applications, so with that in mind, the OFAH invited Ministry staff to present and answer questions on the 2021 results as part of the ongoing OFAH Inside Access webinar series. The event was hosted by OFAH Manager of Policy Mark Ryckman, and featured Dr. Patrick Hubert, senior wildlife policy advisor with the MNRF's Wildlife Section, drawing viewers from all across Ontario and as far afield as British Columbia, Florida, and California.

MGB: On July 30th, 2022, significant changes to migratory game bird hunting came into effect in an effort to modernize the regulations. This marks the first major comprehensive update since 1918.

Some of the changes included: the elimination of Waterfowler Heritage Days and the introduction of free migratory game bird hunting permit and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp for youth/minors (under 18 years of age). Others included permitting the use of crossbows, a prohibition on use of drones, introduction of the concept of 'preservation,' with preserved birds no longer counting towards possession limit, changes to labeling requirements, allowing hunters to leave either a fully feathered head or wing on unpreserved birds, allowing the donation of harvested birds for charitable purposes, and a new prohibition on the abandonment of harvested birds.

To discuss these changes, in September the OFAH hosted an Inside Access event with staff from the Canadian Wildlife Service, reaching members/viewers from every corner of Ontario.

WATCH both webinars at www.ofah.org/insideaccess.





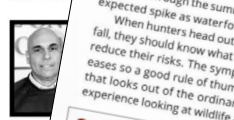
Our look at issues that matter to you

Your media voice

Here in the OFAH Insider, you see content that highlights what we do on behalf of the outdoors community. Our own media helps members stay informed on what matters most to them.

Something you might not see or hear, though, is our reach beyond our own channels. The media landscape has drastically changed in recent years and there are so many forms of public discussion that need an informed and credible perspective from the fishing, hunting, and conservation community. Our professional staff are often the first people mainstream media turn to on issues like wild game, arms, and more. As you know, so too are the types of information from traditional print, emerging platforms, and social media. These earned critical because of often misunders left without a vo versation. We w information right ers, and smart sure to keep y in the media.

We are you are everyw important th



DAN ELLIOTT
President, OFAH



Previous OFAH/Fitzsimons Financial Group Inc. Intern Erica Kendrick at the Toronto Sportsmen Show with the Invading Species Awareness Program.

Honing those conservation skills

Avian influenza spike expected

Outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) continues

This outbreak is different from past outbreaks in terms of both the number of species affected and the level of wild bird mortality. Confirmed or suspected cases have been reported in all Canadian jurisdictions except for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and in most American states. While the number of detections in Ontario dropped through the summer, experience from Europe suggests an expected spike as waterfowl start their fall migration.

When hunters head out into the woods, fields, and marshes this fall, they should know what to do if they see something and how to reduce their risks. The symptoms of HPAI can resemble other diseases so a good rule of thumb is to be on the lookout for anything that looks out of the ordinary. Fortunately, hunters have a lot of experience looking at wildlife and a good sense of what is normal.

Symptoms of infected animals:

- Diarrhea
- Tremors and a lack of coordination
- Coughing, gasping for air, or sneezing
- Swelling of the wattles, combs, and skin around the eyes, head, and neck
- Sudden death, potentially of multiple animals in proximity

Hunter safety:

While the risk to humans is considered low, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has recommendations for hunters. Because mammals including foxes, skunk, and mink have been infected with HPAI, PHAC recommends hunters:

- Check for federal or provincial announcements before hunting.
- Not handle or eat animals that appear sick or that died of unknown causes.
- Avoid direct contact with blood, feces, and respiratory secretions.
- When handling or cleaning game, work in a well-ventilated area, avoid inhaling dust, feathers and aerosols, and wear vinyl, latex, nitrile, or rubber gloves. If ventilation is poor, wear a mask.
- Don't eat, drink, or smoke while handling wildlife.
- When finished, wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol and thoroughly clean and disinfect all tools, work surfaces, clothing, and footwear.
- Keep children and pets away from areas where game is being cleaned and prevent them from contacting tissues or fluids.
- If you become ill within 10 days of handling wildlife, call your doctor, and tell them you were in contact with wildlife.
- Follow safe food handling practices. Cook pieces and cuts to an internal temperature of 74°C (165°F) and whole birds to an internal temperature of 82°C (180°F). These temperatures equate to "well done."

Report sick, strange-acting, or dead wildlife at www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/report-and-submit.php. 1-866-673-4781. Reports are crucial to tracking the extent, duration, and seriousness of this outbreak.

A committee for the future

We've kicked off the second year of our NKT-GEN program, and I am once again humbled by the enthusiasm and passion of young OFAH members wanting to give back. They are keen to get involved and they are doing it while going to school, starting careers, and caring for young families. It is truly inspiring and fills me with optimism for the future of the OFAH and fishing and hunting in this province.

I've already seen our Ambassadors in action during recent advisory committee meetings. They are raising issues for discussion, asking critical questions, and even bringing unique expertise to the table. They clearly have a pulse on contemporary issues like access for anglers and hunters, wildlife disease threats, and many other top-of-mind fishing, hunting, and resource management concerns. Our new and returning NKT-GEN Ambassadors are already enriching important OFAH discussions.

We are not just hoping to create interest and opportunities for younger members to engage in these discussions, but also to create quality volunteer leadership that will lead us into the future. Succession planning for strong leadership will be critical to face mounting pressures on our community, but also to build a Federation that is ready for those challenges.

For this reason, we are expanding the OFAH NKT-GEN program to give our youngest members more than just an invite to the discussion. We want to give them an opportunity to lead some of those discussions. During the next 12 months, we will be working with our NKT-GEN Ambassadors to establish a stand-alone advisory committee that won't be deep into the issues of today, but rather step back and look at how OFAH needs to prepare for the future.

The OFAH NKT-GEN Advisory Committee will have a much broader focus than our traditional committees focused on agriculture, big game, small game, firearms, fisheries, land use, and sporting dogs. All these advisory committees are important, but this new one will advise the organization on big issues facing the OFAH and the outdoors community. Conservation topics like climate change, biodiversity, and habitat, as well as human dimension, accessibility, and barriers to participation.

We won't be looking to them for solutions to global challenges. Rather, we will ask them to take on a leadership role in considering those issues and influencing how the OFAH can and should position itself to support the future of fishing and hunting right here in Ontario. It is their future after all, so they need to play a meaningful role in helping to shape it.



DAN ELLIOTT
President, OFAH

Winter programs in full swing

Four OFAH conservation education programs are in full swing this winter, so if you are a teacher, know a teacher, or have school-aged children, check out these great programs now available all across Ontario.

Conservation in a Box

Now available to elementary teachers across Ontario, Conservation Crates are officially ready to borrow, thanks to funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. OFAH educators have assembled a total of 20 brand new crates, filled with hands-on resources and curriculum-linked lessons. They are free to borrow, and in an effort to reach more students across Ontario, shipping costs to your school will be covered in 2022.

So, what's in these crates? They are grade-specific, with each grade focusing on a different topic, including things like birding, fishing, trapping, hunting, and wildlife. Students and teachers can explore a Conservation Crate for two weeks at a time and staff are taking extra steps to ensure they are thoroughly cleaned and quarantined between borrowers.

LEARN MORE → www.hfhc.ca/conservation-crates

Classroom Hatchery

The Bring Back the Salmon program is a classroom hatchery program that provides teachers with a variety of science and environmental education resources, including a series of short videos with presentations delivered by experts and accompanied by activities and curriculum-linked lesson plans. Classrooms can also schedule a Q&A session with our biologists and many junior high and high school students.

LEARN MORE → www.bringbackthesalmon.ca/classroom-hatchery-program

National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)

Archery is the perfect wintertime physical activity. Whether you are tall, short, male, female, athletic or not, everyone can shoot a bow and arrow. With more than 170 years of NASP programs in Ontario, thousands of kids are enjoying this incredible sport every year.

Is archery currently offered in your school's programming? If not, NASP would be an excellent addition. The Ontario Physical Education Guidelines list archery as an acceptable sport to offer as part of the curriculum. NASP meets or exceeds all mandatory Ontario requirements, including high quality equipment and teacher training designed for students from Grade 4 to Grade 12.

LEARN MORE → www.nasp.ca

Back to School with the OFAH

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on everyone, and over the last 30 months OFAH classroom programs have adjusted on the fly to the changing conditions and needs of schools.

The pandemic, however, also created opportunities to take new approaches to reach the entire province virtually. As we start a new school year we all hope will be fairly routine, the OFAH is pleased to offer the following mix of in-person and virtual programming to schools anywhere in Ontario. Whether you're a teacher, a student, parent, or grandparent, OFAH staff will be pleased to connect with you.

Bring Back the Salmon: virtual classroom

Teachers, parents, and students learn about fish biology, ecosystems, and stewardship while observing Atlantic Salmon develop from egg to fry. The virtual classroom includes weekly lesson plans about Atlantic Salmon. Visit www.bringbackthesalmon.ca/classroom-hatchery-program.

Teachers: schedule live Q&A sessions with biologists by e-mail info@bringbackthesalmon.ca

OFAH | Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre (HFHC): Conservation Crates

Teachers can borrow a themed crate on birding, wildlife, fishing, tracking & trapping, and hunting for two weeks at a time by e-mailing info@hfhc.ca. With the crates, students learn about Ontario's wildlife through hands-on resources and curriculum-linked activities. Includes JK-8.

SLUGS, SNAILS & MOOSE

Research project to help solve a complex problem

We all want healthy moose populations in Ontario but this means looking at all factors that influence moose management. Harvest plays an important role, but we also need to look at predation, habitat, climate, disease, and parasites. The OFAH is a key partner in a research project being conducted in northern Ontario to see how prescribed fire and forestry affect the brainworm parasite in moose.

Brainworm is a parasite that is common in nearly all white-tailed deer populations in North America, including Ontario's. This parasite lives in the membranes that surround the deer's brain and spinal cord and does not harm the deer. However, when brainworm gets into moose, the parasites effectively get "lost" and burrow through the brain and spinal cord. This causes severe neurological problems in moose, often leading to death. Research in neighbouring Minnesota has found that brainworm accounts for 25-35% of adult moose mortality and presents a serious conservation concern. Understanding what influences the spread of brainworm is a major research priority. Brainworm does not spread directly from deer to deer or from deer to moose. Instead, it passes through slugs and snails, what are known as "intermediate hosts". This research project focuses on the different impacts of logging vs. fire on slug and snail communities and the connection to brainworm.

Chair of the OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee Neil Wiens learned that Greenmantle Forest Inc. was planning a prescribed burn in the Nipigon area. Together with Dr. Seth Moore, the Director of Biology and Environment for the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa and an expert on moose and brainworm, the experiment was formed. Slugs and snails were collected before the burn to form the baseline data. All of the slugs and snails were sent to Dr. Moore and colleagues at the University of Minnesota to be identified and tested for brainworm. The goal is to collect and test snails and slugs again in the years following the prescribed burn.

This is a textbook example of the OFAH working to conserve wildlife in Ontario. The project demonstrates OFAH leadership on an important topic that any member or Ontarian can be proud of.

Consider these points:

- OFAH initiated and coordinated the project
- OFAH identified a need for research to help solve a complex moose management concern
- OFAH provided funding through our Fish and Wildlife Fund
- OFAH cultivated partnerships to carry out the project
- OFAH hopes to turn this project into a graduate student research project beginning sometime in 2023
- OFAH will be able to use the information collected in their advocacy around moose management in the future



Read more: www.ofah.org/insider/2020/11/what-do-slugs-and-snails-have-to-do-with-moose

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OFAH INSIDER IN ONTARIO OUT OF DOORS

Delivered to your fingertips all year long, be it the hard copy in your mailbox or the digital version on your preferred device, the pages of Ontario OUT OF DOORS are always full of information anglers and hunters need to know. Specific to the OFAH, the Insider pages that are part of "THE OPENER" provide readers with a unique ground-floor look at the policy issues and OFAH program stories of the day.

Ontario
OUT of DOORS
THE BEST IN HUNTING AND FISHING SINCE 1967

KEEPING YOU INFORMED AND ENTERTAINED WITH AHTV

From March Break Lake Trout in Episode 1 to Flippin' Largemouth in Episode 13, the 2022 season of Angler and Hunter Television with Mike Miller was action-packed and informative. Mike, along with his daughter August, hit the woods and waters across Ontario to harvest deer, turkey and bear while hauling on some monster muskies, Nipigon brookies and topwater smallies all while spreading the word and brand of the OFAH within households across the country.

WATCH Mike and August on all their adventures through the AHTV YouTube Channel.



ARE YOU BETWEEN 12 AND 15 AND PASSIONATE ABOUT HUNTING OR FISHING?

THIS COULD BE YOU!

Angler Hunter
TELEVISION
A production of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

HOST
Mike Miller

We are looking for an apprentice to join Mike filming 2 upcoming episodes of Angler and Hunter TV.

Selected applicants will join Mike on a big game hunt or a fishing adventure to be filmed for TV and shared on our YouTube channel!

SCAN HERE for more information

WWW.AHTV.COM

SPORTSMAN CHANNEL

SATURDAY MORNINGS ON City

City SPORTSMAN CHANNEL

Global Peterborough Durham Kingston

MOTV WYOUTUBE TV

CHECK YOUR LOCAL LISTINGS FOR PROGRAM TIMES.

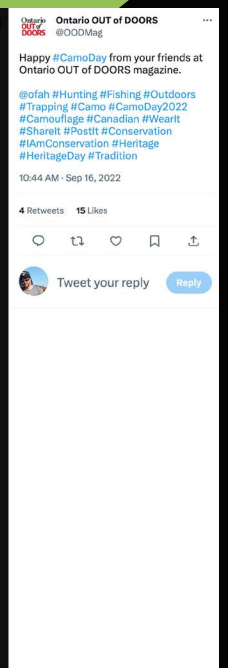
SPONSORS: MINN KOTA, CAMILLUS, Sufix, YUKON GEAR, OUT-DOORS, Cabela's, Lucky Strike, 13, TUCKER'S MARINE, JETSTREAM

SPONSORS: MERCURY, BROWNING, BROWNING AMBASSADOR, LUND, YAMAHA, RAPALA, HUMMINBIRD, Burris

SHOWING OUT FOR #CAMODAY AND HERITAGE DAY

For the eighth year in a row, using the power of social media, the OFAH was at the forefront of generating awareness of National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day. Mixed within our usual policy and program content, our channels across all platforms were plastered with messaging promoting NHTFHD and the value of the outdoors while underscoring the importance of our hunting, trapping, and fishing heritage.

As part of the promotion, the OFAH also celebrated what we dub as #camoday, where we ask Canadians from coast-to-coast-coast to wear their camo best and share photos with us online. We use that user-generated content to further spread the message around the importance of the outdoors, showing that anglers, hunters and trappers come from all walks of life and reside in all areas of the province.



Veteran wins Heritage Day giveaway

Earlier this fall, the OFAH was proud to announce Kris Dezan as the winner of our \$500 Cabela's gift card giveaway for National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day.

The recently retired veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces uses hunting and fishing to manage symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"When my symptoms get bad/severe, a way that I am able to ground myself and start my path back to being me is either going to the bush, sitting in my blind/tree stand listening to nature around me, or paddling out in my canoe and throwing a line in the water," the veteran explained.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HATCHERIES

Community hatcheries — 36 of them to be exact — weathered the many challenges of operating during a pandemic in 2021 to raise and stock millions of fish into Ontario waters. The Ministry provided 2021 funding to support the Community Hatchery Program (CHP) administered by the OFAH, however, with pandemic-related increased costs of running community hatcheries and on-going safety concerns around hosting traditional fundraising events, community hatcheries needed further financial support. The OFAH stepped up with an additional \$10,000 contribution made available in 2022 to assist with operations.

The CHP also focused on helping community hatcheries with volunteer recruitment and developing new resources to make it easier for managers to train volunteers on aquaculture practices. The program also provided financial support in 2022 to create educational resources and conduct training for community hatcheries.



[Home](#) [About CHP](#) [Fish Stocking](#) [Funding](#) [Resources](#) [Volunteer](#)

Funding



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION FUND

For years the OFAH Conservation Lottery supported many provincial conservation efforts and even provided specific support to OFAH clubs who sold tickets on our behalf. Pre-pandemic, the OFAH was already shifting toward online fundraising through new initiatives that made for a more convenient, accessible, and efficient lottery system, though it removed the potential for proceeds of club-based selling to go back into community conservation.

Through the Community Conservation Fund (CCF), the OFAH is now supporting the conservation and outreach efforts of clubs with a new, focused process. This program revives and expands a funding program that recognizes the important volunteer-driven conservation work happening in communities throughout Ontario and is in addition to the traditional support our conservation lotteries provide to provincial-scale initiatives every year.

The CCF makes available \$40,000 in funding each year for conservation work. In 2022, it helped fund projects for the following groups: Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association, Youth Pheasant Hunt Huron Perth, Friends of Hullett and the Dryden District Conservation Club (DDCC).

Go to www.ofah.org/insider to read more about these projects.



DEER SAVE INVESTMENT



When weather conditions are severe, and data predicts a high probability of die-off in deer, emergency feeding might be a necessary action to help deer survive the winter.

This was the case during the winter of 2022 in north-western Ontario. That's when the Dryden District Conservation Club stepped up and assisted the Ministry with feeding deer and breaking trails, using \$10,000 in funding from the OFAH DeerSave fund.

About the OFAH DeerSave Fund

The fund was established in 1995 to help members, clubs, and partners deliver emergency winter deer conservation programs across the province.

To help replenish funds for future DeerSave efforts, please consider donating to the OFAH at www.ofah.org/donate.

STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

In 2022 the OFAH and partners awarded three different grants worth \$4,000 each to university students researching fish and wildlife topics aimed at helping to improve resource management. The criteria included graduates or post-graduate university students researching a fish and wildlife topic, and whose findings would benefit Ontario's fish and/or wildlife management.

Have a look at the image on the right to learn more about the students and the projects funded through the grant program.

OFAH Zone G Wildlife Research Grant

► **Shilah LeFeuvre, Trent University**

Using indigenous knowledges and genetics to study the distribution and behaviour of eastern wolves (*Canis lycaon*)



OFAH Zone H Fisheries Research Grant

► **Erin Stewart, Trent University**

Drivers of intraspecific variation in thermal tolerance and physiology of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)



OFAH Dave Ankney/Sandi Johnson Award for Avian Ecology

► **Meredith Meeker, Carleton University**

Do stormwater management ponds support avian biodiversity better than natural urban wetlands?



NXT-GEN AMBASSADORS

The second group of OFAH NXT-GEN Ambassadors provided valuable insight on their perspectives of the outdoors throughout all levels of the organization in 2022.

These Ambassadors served as spokespersons and influencers for the OFAH while gaining valuable experience, connections, and insights into fishing and hunting and other conservation management topics. This group represents a mix of some returnees from the inaugural year of the program and some new faces as well. See below for more on who they are and where they are from.



Kelly McLean
📍 Lindsay, ON



Britney Belanger
📍 London, ON



Jenna Knight
📍 Courtice, ON



Thomas Benoit
📍 Ottawa, Ontario



Avery Jenks
📍 Elora, Ontario



Scott Corner
📍 Cayuga, ON



Leah Robinson
📍 Peterborough, ON



Satbir Bassi
📍 Toronto, ON



Natalie Mechalko
📍 Owen Sound, ON



Lyle Gayder
📍 Niagara, Ontario



Adam Mumby
📍 Sudbury, Ontario



Jeff Pye
📍 Stoney Creek, Ontario



Erin Stewart
📍 Peterborough, ON



Brooke Wright
📍 Roslin, Ont



Cam Donlan
📍 Strathroy, ON

OFFERING EXPERIENCE THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

Two of our great partners continue to help us offer valuable internship opportunities to students wishing to find careers in the outdoors industry. Both 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.

These interns worked alongside our Policy & Programs department biologists and managers, gaining experience in fish and wildlife policy review and development and following their internships, both landed employment with the OFAH as part of the ALUS Peterborough Program.



ON TARGET: NASP TOURNAMENT A HIT



NASP is an in-school curriculum-based archery program, and one of its many benefits is the opportunity it provides to students to represent their school in the annual provincial championship tournament. In 2022, 11 schools and 209 students from Red Lake to Windsor ran the tournament in their own gyms, with awards handed out to the top five archers in each division and age category, along with the top team in each division.

The top scoring girl, Jordan Sheehan of Tilbury District High School, and boy, Jacob Soudant from Holy Cross Secondary in Kingston, each received a special edition Genesis bow, exclusive to top shooters in the provincial championships. They are pictured above.

"The OFAH is proud to deliver the NASP program as part of our investment in outdoor education in our schools," says NASP Coordinator Tim Watts.



ISAP THRIVING AT 30

For 30 years now the Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) has educated the public on the risks posed by invasive species. We've come a long way from our humble beginnings with minimal staff running the Zebra Mussel Hotline, to now finding ourselves educating Ontario's public on the prevention, identification, management, and tracking of over 400 invasive species, including handling over 1,000 hotline calls each year.

Responding to invasive species is certainly not an easy trail to tread, but alongside a longstanding partner, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as well as many other contributing partners, we have been able to continue the collective fight for three decades as we work together to protect Ontario's terrestrial and aquatic landscapes.

Thirty years of work has led us to some significant things, including to name a few:

- preventing the introduction/spread of Asian carps into the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes
- combating mysterysnails with the help of over 300 volunteers in Haliburton County
- preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species through our volunteer Water Steward Program.
- working with volunteers to monitor landscapes for wild pigs through our Wild Pig Surveillance Program

OFAH ZONES AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTED
TO CONSERVATION

The OFAH is fortunate to have a dedicated group of members who volunteer many hours year after year, including hours that cut into their personal fishing and hunting time, to sit on the OFAH Board of Directors, Zone Executives, and participate in a number of advisory committees. These dedicated folks are located from one end of the province to the other and bring a broad range of personal and professional knowledge and experience to the organization.

Even though the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that 2022 saw us experience some of the same things that the previous two years did, that didn't stop these volunteers from connecting and engaging with our members at the grassroots level.

In 2022 we saw the return of some local hunts, fishing derbies and range days, while zone meetings saw some held in-person and others over Zoom, which helped expose countless members and prospective members to the organization.

With the future in mind, we have continued to invest in more research and planning around how OFAH can best serve our members. We know we need to be responsive to the shifting needs of anglers and hunters across the province and we are committed to developing a modern, progressive, and forward-looking organization that plays a key role in delivering a better future for fishing, hunting, and conservation in Ontario.

Ongoing involvement and action on behalf of anglers and hunters is needed to keep people fishing and hunting, help them get started, and make fish and wildlife conservation a top priority today to keep fishing and hunting strong in Ontario for generations to come.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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)

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

Director – Carmen Woodcock (Thunder Bay)

Zone C

Chair – Peter Sword (New Liskeard)

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

Secretary/Treasurer – Tom Woollings (Kirkland Lake)

2nd Alternate Director – Randy Bukovec (Kirkland Lake)

Zone D

Chair – Roy Polsky (Val Caron)

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

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Director – Dan Polsky (Sturgeon Falls)

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Director – Brian Sutcliffe (Griffith)

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Chair – Kerry Coleman (Oxford Mills)

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2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – Donn MacMillan (Finch)

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Director – Bob Emery (Kingston)

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2nd Vice Chair & Alt. Dir. – Kyle McKibbin (Scarborough)

Secretary/Treasurer – David Dixon (Port Perry)

Zone H

Chair – Michael Evers (Innisfil)

1st Vice Chair – Chris Geberdt (Dashwood)

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

Director – Stu Paterson (Georgian Bluffs)

Zone J

Chair – Greg Balch (London)

1st Vice Chair – Ray Boilard (Windsor)

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

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

Director – Randy MacPherson (Waterloo)

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Spyros Chrysochou (Hastings)

Provincial Directors-at-Large

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Bill Blackwell (Port Perry)

Chris Davies (Lakefield)

Tony Jackson (Fullarton)

Joseph Wilson (Mono)

List as of March 31, 2023

