

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



*Ontario Conservation Centre*

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OFAH FILE: 410  
June 26, 2023

To: Mayor Cathy Miller and  
Members of the Pelee Island Hunting and Fishing Committee

Subject: Proposed Expansion of Pelee Island Upland Bird Hunt

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is Ontario's largest, non-profit, fish and wildlife conservation-based organization, representing 100,000 members, subscribers, and supporters, and 725 member clubs. We would like to express our continued support for the existing pheasant hunt on Pelee Island and encourage its expansion.

Hunting is a highly regulated, responsibly managed and sustainable form of outdoor recreation, and a means of procuring local, healthy food. It is also among the largest sources of conservation funding in North America. Pelee Island's pheasant hunt, specifically, has been a long-standing tradition that continues to create opportunity and financial revenue for the community. It is our understanding that most of the island's full-time residents have been supportive of the hunt since its inception in 1932.

Recently, however, licence sales for the Pelee Island hunt have been declining.

For this reason, the OFAH would like to express our support for the implementation of an expanded hunt to include additional upland game bird species. The current supplier of Pelee Island's pheasants also breeds other popular game bird species, including Hungarian partridge and chukar, and adding these birds to the hunt would undoubtedly attract niche groups from within the upland game hunting community. The addition of new species to the hunt could be accommodated by either adjusting the present licence to include other upland birds, or by creating multiple distinct licences. In this way, the Township of Pelee could generate increased revenue through licence sales and tourism with no associated conservation concerns and no cost to the municipality. This opportunity is a true win-win.

We appreciate the township's consideration and would be glad to provide further recommendations regarding this topic.

Yours in Conservation,

Mark Ryckman  
Manager of Policy

MR/jb

cc: OFAH Board of Directors  
OFAH Small Game/Migratory Birds/Wetlands Advisory Committee  
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director  
Matt DeMille, OFAH Director, Policy & Programs  
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