



# OFAH club news

The latest fishing, hunting, and conservation updates for member clubs

## Message from OFAH

The Community Engagement Program (CEP) has completed its inaugural year, highlighted by establishing foundational supports designed exclusively to assist OFAH-affiliated clubs in achieving greater community impact, growth, and long-term sustainability.

Some key 2025 accomplishments of the Community Engagement Program include:

- Development of the CEP web page, a new club kit, and a club promotional one-page PDF for recruiting new members.
- Administering a survey to collect feedback from clubs on their resource and support needs
- Improving direct communication with clubs and members through the first CEP quarterly club newsletters distributed in June and September and December
- Connecting OFAH members, clubs and zones through the Club/Zone Mapping Project, -- a public interactive map showing club locations and identifying clubs actively accepting new members
- Creating the Campus Club Startup Kit, piloted with NXT GEN Ambassadors at Lakehead University and the University of Guelph.
- Representing OFAH at the national Advancing Women in Conservation (AWIC) Summit
- Providing ongoing support, resources, and connections to clubs and partners holding events.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Held the first meeting of the OFAH Community Stakeholder & Engagement Committee.

Issue #3 | December 2025

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

### Women's Waterfowl Day at Long Point

Women's Waterfowl Day, held on November 1, 2025, welcomed women of all experience levels to learn waterfowl hunting skills from experienced hunters at the Long Point Waterfowler's Association. Through expert instruction, mentored hunts, and engaging discussions, participants gained hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of hunters'

role in protecting habitat and wildlife. Spearheaded by Heather Ketchibaw and supported by the OFAH Community Projects Fund and the Long Point Waterfowler's Association, the event strengthened inclusivity within the sport and inspired a new group of conservation-minded hunters. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about this on OOD Online.



### Halton Sportsmen's Club Hosts Heritage Day Event

OFAH Zone J's membership meeting and National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day celebration on September 20, 2025, brought members together at the Halton Sportsmen's Club for some updates on policy, conservation, and community initiatives. Presentations from OFAH's Manager of Policy Mark Ryckman, Hullett Marsh's Steve Dalrymple, and Zone J executives Mark Braet and Paul Prowse highlighted updates, important wildlife management topics, hunting opportunities, and new OFAH programs, making it a highly informative and enjoyable day for

all who attended. Did you know that there is a National Hunting Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day Planning Tool Kit that was created exclusively for clubs? You can access it on the Community Engagement Program web page under "The Club Hub".



## FUNDING & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Community Engagement Program Hosts Funding Webinar Dec 16 at 7pm

Make 2026 your club's most successful year yet by learning how to write winning grant applications at our upcoming funding webinar. This session is tailored for OFAH clubs and members, with expert guidance from OFAH Supervisor of Conservation Programs Sophie Monfette and Chris Robinson, Manager of Programs on where to find funding, how to strengthen your applications, and what funders are really looking for--so be sure to pass it along to your full membership! Register here

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

## UPCOMING OFAH & CLUB EVENTS

[Zone J representing OFAH at the Hamilton Adventure Expo](#)  
Jan 24-25

[German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club \(Hubertushaus\)](#)  
New Year's Eve Party Dec 31

[Ontario Women Anglers Lake Nipissing Fishing Trip Jan 29-Feb 1](#)

[Ontario Women Anglers Parry Sound Ice Fishing Trip Feb 5-8](#)

[Ontario Women Anglers Intro to Ice Fishing Feb 14](#)

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT CONT'D

### Huron Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt

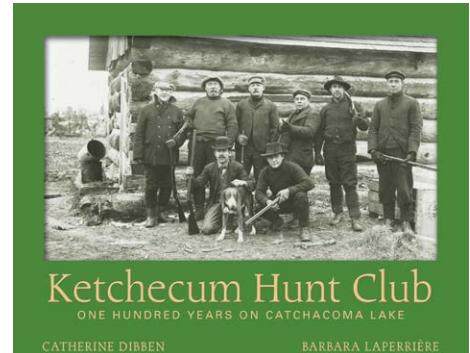
The 2025 Huron Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt was a successful collaborative effort supported by OFAH, the Ruffed Grouse Society - North Shore Chapter, the Seaford Big Buck Show, the Tavistock District Rod and Gun Club, and the Huron Fish and Game Club. With the help of dedicated volunteers, skilled dog handlers, and

the excellent facilities at Hullett Marsh, youth participants were given the opportunity to experience an upland game bird hunt. The event showcased how these clubs and partners continue to create meaningful outdoor opportunities for youth in their communities.



### Ketchecum Hunt Club Chronicled

Ontario Out of Doors magazine featured an article on the history of the Ketchecum Hunt Club, one of North America's oldest continuously operating OFAH-affiliated hunt camps. Their book, Ketchecum Hunt Club: One Hundred Years on CATCHACOMA LAKE, draws on generations of photos and logbooks to celebrate the club's legacy from its inception in the 1860s. You can read the article on [OOD Online](#).



**Ketchecum Hunt Club**

ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON CATCHACOMA LAKE

CATHERINE DIBBEN

BARBARA LAPERRIÈRE

### Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Making Hunting Accessible

Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association (RBWA), a proud OFAH member club, has built a new fully accessible hunting blind in Rondeau Provincial Park to ensure hunters with mobility challenges can participate. This project reflects RBWA's long-standing leadership in conservation, community service, and accessibility, supported by countless volunteer hours and a commitment to inclusive outdoor experiences. Their continued efforts demonstrate how OFAH clubs are opening doors -- literally and figuratively -- to make hunting and nature more accessible for all Ontarians. Learn more at [Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers' Association](#)



## LESSONS FROM THE WILD UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the OFAH Foundation's Lessons from the Wild campaign has surpassed \$80,000! This milestone means more young Ontarians can:

- **Engage with Nature:** Hands-on programs provide real-life outdoor experiences.
- **Learn and Grow:** Conservation education teaches kids how to protect wildlife and habitats.
- **Become Leaders:** Inspire the next generation of conservationists.

Your club plays a key role in making this impact. By continuing to engage your community, share our campaigns and impact and support Foundation initiatives, you're helping create lasting opportunities for children and youth to explore and care for the outdoors. Thank you for being champions of conservation!



Community Engagement Program

OFAH club membership

Contact us

## NEW CLUB/ZONE MAP

The new OFAH [Club/Zone interactive map](#) is now live, offering a valuable tool for members clubs and zones to connect and engage. This map allows individuals to easily find clubs in their area, see which ones are accepting new members, and connect with the outdoors community. It's a great way for clubs to increase visibility within

their zones, build stronger local networks, and enhance overall community engagement. The map is an opt-in system, so if your club is not yet listed, please have a club official reach out directly to [andrea\\_bauman@ofah.org](mailto:andrea_bauman@ofah.org) to get included and help grow the collective impact of the OFAH network.

## RESOURCES & SUPPORT FOR CLUBS

### The Club Hub

The Community Engagement Program has created "The Club Hub" -- an exclusive library of resources for OFAH members and clubs. The Club Hub will continue to grow as we add toolkits and resources. To access the Club Hub, please go to [Community Engagement Program | OFAH Membership](#) scroll down to the Club Hub section and log in to your MyOFAH Membership Portal. Once logged in you will see the resources.

Did you know that we have a club promotional document with all the benefits of becoming an OFAH affiliated club? You can download the pdf "The OFAH Club Advantage - view the benefits of becoming an OFAH club" on the CEP web page. You can print and share, link to the page, share on your club socials or send electronically as an attachment. It can be a great tool for recruitment and to explain the benefits of being an OFAH club member.

### Donate your antique waterfowl decoys: Support the Crafted for Conservation Campaign

The OFAH Foundation invites you to help preserve hunting legacy through the Crafted for Conservation Campaign, calling for the donation of antique waterfowl decoys. These contributions will support ongoing conservation and education efforts, ensuring that the natural spaces and outdoor traditions reflected in these carvings continue to thrive for generations.

For those interested in donating, or to learn more about the Crafted for Conservation Campaign, visit [hfhc.ca/duckdecoys](http://hfhc.ca/duckdecoys) or reach out to Brad Ferren at [brad@hfhc.ca](mailto:brad@hfhc.ca).

Preserve the past. Protect the future. Your decoy's next chapter starts here.



## CALL FOR CLUB INPUT

Do you have suggestions for future club newsletters? Or perhaps you would like to share a great resource or challenge that your club is facing? Email the Community Engagement Coordinator, Andrea Bauman [andrea\\_bauman@ofah.org](mailto:andrea_bauman@ofah.org) with the details.

## MEMBER BENEFITS & DISCOUNTS

OFAH members and clubs can save six cents per litre on propane when they switch to Avenir. Details at [Exclusive Propane Discounts for OFAH Members | OFAH Membership](#)



NEW -- Save up to 30% on regular consumer rate plans with the Rogers Preferred Program, exclusive for OFAH members. Learn more [here](#).



Part Source offers OFAH members 10% off online or in store on auto parts and vehicle essentials. Details at [Exclusive Member Savings at PartSource | OFAH Membership](#)



Exclusive in-store savings at SAIL for all of your outdoor lifestyle items. Details at [Exclusive Member Savings at SAIL | OFAH Membership](#)

## POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATES

The MNR is proposing significant changes to black bear management in Ontario including the introduction of tag draws in areas with sustainability concerns and new population objectives for your WMU. They are also proposing to extend protections for cubs and females accompanied by cubs to the fall hunting season and to clarify the prohibition on the possession of bear bile. This is your chance to ensure the population objectives

reflect what you see on the ground and voice your opinion about expanded protections and a tag draw.

Read the full proposal here: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-0761>

Submit your comments through the ERO before the deadline of Jan 5th, 2026.

Questions? Email our policy team at [policy@ofah.org](mailto:policy@ofah.org)



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