OFAH club news

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

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Message from OFAH

Summer may be over, but the incredible work of OFAH-affiliated clubs continues. Across Ontario, clubs spent the summer bringing people together through youth fishing derbies and camps, community events, hatchery projects, conservation initiatives and celebrations of our outdoor heritage. In this issue, we're highlighting just a few of the amazing ways our clubs are making a difference in their communities, while celebrating National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day, held on September 19, and the people, traditions and experiences that continue to connect us to Ontario's great outdoors.

POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATES

OFAH Calls on Government to Address Flaws in Moose Aerial Inventory Process

The OFAH has identified a potentially serious flaw in the design of moose aerial inventories that can arise naturally in small wildlife management units. The letter to the Minister of Natural Resources outlines the issue in detail and provides actionable solutions. Read the full letter at OFAH Calls on Government to Address Flaws in Moose Aerial Inventory Process | OFAH Membership

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Club 50th Anniversary

The Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Club turned 50 on Saturday, June 20th and the celebration was a great success, welcoming more than 100 members, families, dignitaries and guests. We were pleased to have representatives from local government, national organizations and clubs dedicated to Canada's hunting, fishing, sport shooting and conservation heritage join us for the occasion. The morning featured optional trap and target shooting from 9-11 a.m., followed by an opening ceremony and barbecue. Greetings were shared by local dignitaries, including the mayors of Clearview and Grey Highlands, along with representatives from national organizations and local clubs. The OFAH Director of Operations also attended and delivered congratulations to the club on this milestone.

North Hastings Fish Hatchery Annual Summer Fish Fry & Pig Roast

The North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery's annual Summer Fish Fry & Pig Roast was another tremendous success, welcoming 280 guests and raising an impressive $32,425 in net proceeds to support hatchery operations. This year's total surpassed last year's results,

reflecting the continued generosity and strong support of the angling and conservation community. The event was made possible by the dedication of more than 150 volunteers, led by Peter Varley, along with the generous donors, participants, and guests who continue to support the hatchery's important work. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to making the evening such a success. The 21st Annual Fish Fry & Pig Roast is set for July 10, and we look forward to another great year of community support and fellowship.

Zone J Youth Camp - Brant Rod and Gun Club

The 2026 OFAH Zone J Youth Camp, hosted by the Brant Rod and Gun Club, was a wonderful example of what can happen when dedicated volunteers come together to create meaningful opportunities for young people. For many campers, it was their first experience sleeping under the stars, hearing coyotes at night, fishing, learning to shoot a pellet gun or bow, and discovering how to light a fire without matches. These experiences build confidence, independence, and memories that will stay with them long after camp is over. The commitment of the BRGC volunteers, together with the support of OFAH, helped make this special weekend possible and demonstrated one of the many valuable opportunities available through membership in an OFAH affiliated club. OFAH is for all Ontarians–and through programs like this, volunteers and member clubs are helping introduce the next generation to the outdoors.

40th Annual Kids Fishing Derby - Georgian Triangle Anglers Association

The Optimist Club of Collingwood and Southern Georgian Bay was proud to celebrate the 40th annual Kids Fishing Derby, bringing more than 200 young anglers together for a fun morning on the water. Through the partnership between the Optimist Club and the Georgian Triangle Anglers' Association, more than 150 rod-and-reel combos were distributed, helping introduce a new generation to the joy of fishing. A special thank-you goes to the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the event possible, as well as Boston Pizza for generously providing pizza for 120 kids. The strong connection between the Optimist Club, local anglers and the OFAH community demonstrated what can happen when volunteers come together to support youth, conservation and outdoor experiences.

Zone G Meeting and Ringwood Hatchery Tour

The Zone G meeting and tour of the Ringwood Fish Hatchery provided members with an informative look at community hatchery operations. The meeting included updates on OFAH initiatives, an overview of the hatchery's history and stocking efforts, and a tour of the facility. A key part of the day was recognizing the dedicated volunteers who give their time and expertise to operate and maintain the hatchery. Community hatcheries like Ringwood play an important role in fisheries conservation by growing public fish for public waters, helping to support local fish populations and provide benefits for anglers and communities for years to come. The meeting also provided an opportunity for members to ask questions and share valuable feedback and ideas for future meetings.

Want to be featured in the OFAH Club Spotlight?

Email your club event, story and photos to andrea_bauman@ofah.org

Halton Sportsmen's Club Children's Fishing Derby

The Halton Sportsmen's Association hosted its annual Children's Fishing Derby at Mill Pond in Milton on April 24 . Despite the cold and wet weather, the club delivered an outstanding day for local families, stocking the pond with fresh trout and providing lunch and prizes, while asking participants to support the local food bank with a non-perishable food donation. Events like this showcase the strength of the OFAH family–affiliated clubs across Ontario working in their communities to introduce the next generation to fishing, conservation and outdoor recreation. The Halton Sportsmen's Association is a great example of the positive impact OFAH-affiliated clubs have in their communities.

Fall Fishing Day Sunday, October 4, 2026 (Algoma Fish and Game Club)

The Algoma Fish and Game club wrapped up the fishing season with a fun-filled day of fishing, learning, and making memories at the annual FREE Fall Kids Fishing Day at Kinsmen Park Pond, just north of Sault Ste. Marie. The event gave local kids an opportunity to try fishing, including many who were holding a fishing rod for the very first time. The club provided all of the fishing rods and bait, and the kids had plenty of opportunities to try jigging and fishing throughout the day.

Along with fishing, participants learned about fish cleaning and filleting, fish conservation, and the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species in our region. They also had the chance to learn and practice casting techniques and take part in archery.

Need help promoting your club event? Reach out to your OFAH Community Engagement Coordinator Andrea Bauman at andrea_bauman@ofah.org

Rondeau Bay Waterfowler's Association - Youth Duck Hunt Sat Oct 3

The Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association hosted the annual Youth Waterfowl Hunt on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at Rondeau Bay Provincial Park. These hunts have been hugely successful in creating lasting memories while introducing young hunters to the traditions and heritage of waterfowling. For more information about this event and how to get involved, visit Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers' Association

Dryden District Conservation Club - Women's Trap Shoot Meet

On August 30, 2026, the Dryden District Conservation Club hosted its first annual Women's Trap Shoot Meet, bringing together 18 women–from first-time shooters to seasoned participants–for a fun day of learning, competition, and community. The event was a great reminder that outdoor activities are for everyone, and there is a place for all skill levels to get involved, build confidence, and enjoy the outdoors. Women in shooting sports is growing and it's great to see the interest and participation of OFAH clubs hosting women-focused events.

NATIONAL HUNTING TRAPPING AND FISHING HERITAGE DAY 2026

Camo Day & National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day
On Friday, September 18, the OFAH promoted for Camo Day, wearing camouflage and sharing photos online to help promote awareness of National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day. The next day (September 19), Canadians across the country

celebrated National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day by getting outdoors and taking part in activities that recognize the important role hunting, trapping and fishing play in Canada's heritage, culture and conservation. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped celebrate and promote these important outdoor tradition. Visit Community Engagement Program | OFAH Membership to access the Club Hub and download the National Hunting Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day planning guide for 2027!

FUNDING & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Lessons from the Wild - Fundraising for Youth Education

As another school year begins, students are preparing to learn. Let's make sure they're also experiencing meaningful, conservation-based lessons.

At the beginning of September, we were proud to launch the 2026 Lessons from the Wild campaign! Together, we are inspiring future stewards through hands-on conservation education and programs that connect young people to Ontario's fish, wildlife, and outdoor spaces.

Our goal is to raise $95,000 by December to expand these opportunities and reach even more youth across the province. Donations support programs like the Community Conservation Fund (CCF), which provides grants to communities groups and organizations, including OFAH member clubs, for projects like delivering youth-focused conservation programs.

For example, the CCF supported the Canadian Malayali Anglers and Hunters' Fishing Derby on July 25 at Prospect Park in Halton Hills. The event engaged youth in outdoor fishing while promoting conservation education, including the impacts of invasive goby fish and responsible angling.

Your club can help bring more Lessons from the Wild to youth in your community. Please share the campaign with your members, encourage donations, or make a gift today.

Together, we can create more opportunities for young people to connect with nature and become lifelong conservationists.

Visit Lessons From the Wild | OFAH Foundation for more information or click here to donate.

Great Lakes Local Action Fund

Eligible clubs and community organizations can apply for the Great Lakes Local Action Fund to support projects that protect and restore the Great Lakes, with applications due November 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. ET (information webinar: October 19, 2026, 1:00-2:30 p.m.). This funding will support projects from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027, that protect or improve water quality, strengthen climate resilience, restore and protect Great Lakes ecosystems, and support local stewardship and community action across Ontario's Great Lakes basin. Projects must align with at least one of the program's Round 4 objectives: Nature-Based Outcomes, Community Innovation or Economic Resilience.

For important information about applying, including the application guidelines, please visit: www.ontario.ca/GetFunding. Applications close on November 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

Call for Club Input

Do you have any 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 with the details.

UPCOMING OFAH & CLUB EVENTS

OFAH Zone J Outstanding Volunteer Award

Do you know a volunteer who goes above and beyond to make a difference? The OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes individuals whose dedication, time, and passion have made a meaningful impact in their community. Help us celebrate the volunteers who give so much to others by nominating someone deserving of this special recognition. Your nomination is a great way to say thank you and shine a light on the people who make our communities stronger. For more information or to make a nomination contact : secretaryzonej@gmail.com

RESOURCES & SUPPORT FOR CLUBS

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.

Strengthening Our Partnership: BrokerLink and OFAH Clubs

BrokerLink Insurance OFAH

As a longtime OFAH partner, BrokerLink is helping strengthen local clubs by connecting employees with volunteer opportunities to support club activities and conservation initiatives, while also providing OFAH members with information and guidance on their insurance needs.

The relationship between the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and BrokerLink Insurance has been built over many years through a shared commitment to supporting Ontario's outdoor community. Together, we have worked to deliver value to OFAH members while supporting the efforts to promote conservation, education, advocacy, and the rich traditions of hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation across the province.

As this relationship continues to grow, we are excited to announce a new initiative that will see a number of BrokerLink employees supporting OFAH-affiliated clubs within their local communities. These BrokerLink employees are eager to become involved with OFAH and learn firsthand about the clubs, members, and activities that help make Ontario's outdoor community so strong. They are interested in attending meetings, events, conservation projects, fundraising activities, and other club initiatives. Their goal is to learn more about the important work being done by OFAH clubs, volunteer when opportunities arise, and become active and engaged members of their local club communities.

We are grateful for the dedication of the many OFAH clubs and volunteers who invest their time and energy in strengthening Ontario's outdoor community.

Thank you in advance for welcoming these new members into your communities. We look forward to growing these relationships together and continuing to strengthen the connection between BrokerLink, OFAH, and local clubs for many years to come. If you are a club interested in having a BrokerLink representative speak with you about insurance, or volunteer with you, please reach out to Andrea Bauman, Community Engagement Coordinator andrea_bauman@ofah.org.

Member Benefits & Discounts

Member Benefits & Discounts Extra Value with Your OFAH Membership Your OFAH membership comes with more than support for Ontario's hunting, fishing and conservation community—it also unlocks exclusive savings and preferred rates from a growing list of corporate partners. These added benefits can help you save on everything from outdoor gear and vehicle maintenance to travel, insurance and everyday services. OFAH Corporate Partner Benefits

- BrokerLink - OFAH members receive preferred rates on home and auto insurance
- Mark's Work Wearhouse - Members receive a standing 10% discount at all Mark's locations and quarterly larger discount specials
- Rapala - Members can shop online and receive 25% off
- SAIL - Members receive exclusive in-store and online savings
- Rogers - OFAH members have access to exclusive Rogers offers
- Avenir Energy - OFAH members receive preferred pricing on propane delivery
- PartSource - Members save 10% online or in-store
- Hilton Hotels - Members save 9% worldwide on hotel stays
- BoaterExam.com - Members save 30% on BoaterExam certification
- Fitzsimons Financial Group Inc. - Offers a comprehensive suite of financial services for OFAH clients
- HearingLife - Members have access to preferred pricing and exclusive offers
- Relocation Services Group - Members can receive a cash-back rebate on eligible real estate transactions
- Havelock Metal - Members receive 5% off their purchases

Details on these corporate membership benefits can be found at Corporate Partners | OFAH Membership

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