

OFAH ZONE J JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER



Special Points of Interest:

- *Study of K9 tapeworm by Jon Kotwa, University of Guelph*
- *Study of Gray and Black ratsnakes in Niagara*
- *OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting August 21, 2016*
- *OFAH Zone J 28th Annual Youth Camp*

OFAH ZONE J 28TH ANNUAL YOUTH CAMP

The German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club was the host of this year's youth Camp. 45 youth ages 8 to 17 years and their adult mentors took in a weekend of HOT HOT HOT weather, wind blown camping and exciting events!!



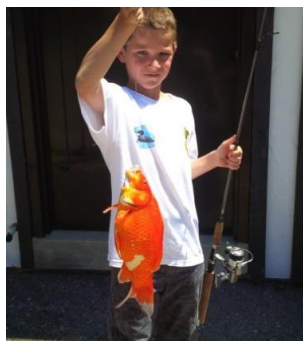
We had the most FANTASTIC group of Volunteers, Campers, Supporters and Sponsors EVER!

One lucky angler caught a 1 1/2 pound goldfish!

Looking forward to the 29th Annual Youth Camp being held June 9-11, 2017



Photos courtesy of GCHFC



These unwanted aquarium species are NOT to be released into the wild. This fish was NOT released.

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Follow us on
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www.ofah.org/zonej



Did you catch a big one!

Get your entry in!

ontarioanglerawards.com





OFAH ZONE J EXECUTIVE 2016-2017 CONTACT INFO

Chair, Brian Moore	Watford area	brianmoore@live.ca 519-919-1520
1st Vice, Pud Hunter	Aylmer	phunter.ofah@gmail.com 519-773-7245
2nd Vice, Maya Basdeo	Ancaster	mayabasdeo@gmail.com 289-442-6526
Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Moore (also Newsletter Editor)	Brantford	secretaryzonej@gmail.com 519-861-0965
Alternate Director, Felix Barbetti	Fonthill	fbarbetti@congeco.ca 905-892-4381
Past Chair, Tony Jackson	Stratford area	tonyj_ofah@mail.com 519-273-4193

Landowner Permission Form

Can be found at
www.ofah.org
Look under "HUNTING"

To have something added to
the OFAH Zone J website,
please send
an email request to
websitezonej@gmail.com



As southwestern Ontario continues to see higher than normal temperatures and less than normal rainfall, some areas are being hit harder than others.

Grand River Conservation Authority posted Low Water Level signs at Whitemans Creek as water levels continue to hover between a Level 2 and Level 3 Low Water Advisory.

Please consider not fishing during these hot, dry conditions. The fish are stressed, hiding in holes trying to find cool water and adequate food.



www.shopofah.org



Please share this Newsletter with
your Club and your friends.



OFAH ZONE J

OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting Attendance Prize
An Altan Hub pop up camo hunting blind

How do you get entered to win?

Attend one of the following OFAH Zone J Member meetings

April 2, 2016—August 21, 2016—January 8, 2017—April 1, 2017

The next draw will happen at the OFAH Zone J AGM on April 1, 2017 being held at the Wellington Street Sportsmens Club in Dorchester



OFAH 2016 Board of Directors

The annual Board photo was taken during our May Board meeting in Peterborough. Back row far right is OFAH Zone J Executive Pud Hunter, Maya Basdeo and Kathy Moore. These volunteers work tirelessly on your behalf.

Photo: Steven B.

Mark Your Calendars

2016

August 21—OFAH Zone J membership meeting, hosted by St. Catharines Game and Fish Association at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 350, 57 Lakeport Road, Port Dalhousie

2017

January 8—OFAH Zone J membership meeting at the Dover Rod & Gun Club in Pain Court

April 1—OFAH Zone J AGM and Election at the Wellington Street Sportsmens Club in Dorchester

June 9—11—OFAH Zone J 28th Annual Youth Campout hosted by the German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club

August 20—OFAH Zone J Membership meeting at the Brant Rod & Gun Club, near Brantford

Many Thanks to the OFAH Member Clubs who have stepped forward with their interest in hosting OFAH Zone J Meetings and Youth Campouts.

We are seeking Clubs to host our 2018 Meetings on the following dates: January 7, April 7, August 19. Also seeking a Club to host the 30th and 31st Annual Youth Camps in 2018 & 2019.

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

We are always told to protect our PIN and passwords from strangers.

We are told to protect our credit card number.

But do you also protect your SIN?

Your drivers license?

Your Outdoors Card?

Your Possession/Acquisition Licence?

Making on-line purchases from a stranger is a scary procedure.

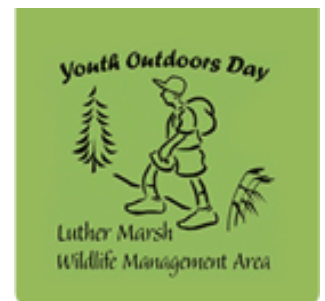
Your personal info is out there.

It's always possible the person you are dealing with could handle your confidential information in a careless manner, opening you up to identity theft.

Deal with reputable people on-line whenever possible.



**15th Annual Youth
Outdoors Day at
Luther Marsh is
Sept 17, 2016
Visit OFAH Zone J
booth and say Hello!**



www.youthoutdoorsday.com



Hosted by St. Catharines Game & Fish Association

Being held at the Port Dalhousie Royal Canadian Legion

Sunday August 21 —Tentative Agenda

- 0830 hrs—coffee and snacks
- 0900 hrs—meeting called to order
- 0915 hrs—OFAH reports
- 0930 hrs—John Burnette C.P.H.I., Niagara Region Public Health – Ticks and Lyme Disease
- 1000 hrs—coffee break
- 1015 hrs— WORKSHOP with Friends On The Fly – **How To Fish Small Creeks and Streams**
- 1200 hrs—lunch on site
- 1245 hrs— Club Reports from the floor then OFAH reports
- 1300 hrs—Brittney Poucachiche, Niagara College – Study of Grey & Black ratsnakes in
Niagara Region
- 1330 hrs—continue OFAH reports
- 1600 hrs - adjourn

A few of the topics that will be covered during the meeting:

- : deer management in southern Ontario
- : the health of white tail deer and wild turkey populations
- : Thames and Grand River walleye
- : land use and public access
- : Lake Erie blue green algae
- : FMZ Council reports
- : Firearms Legislation changes
- : neonicotinoid pesticides

Directions to the Port Dalhousie Legion, 57 Lakeport Road, St. Catharines:

- From the QEW exit to Lake Street
- : north on Lake Street
- : left onto Lakeport Road

Nearby accommodations:

- Days Inn 89 Meadowvale Dr, St Catharines (905) 34 5400
- Capri Inn, 391 Ontario St., St Catharines (905) 684 8515
- Canada's Best Inn, 420 Ontario St., St Catharines (905) 688 1646

Don't miss the workshop at 10am on [How To Fish Small Creeks and Streams!!](#)
This informative, interactive workshop is being put on by Friends on The Fly's
very own Larry Mellors and Becky Knifton.



OFAH ZONE J

OFAH Zone J is asking once again asking our members to assist in research being conducted at the University of Guelph by a MSc Candidate.

Jon Kotwa is studying K9 Tapeworm in our coyote and fox populations.

Please see the information sheet on Page 6 for details on how you can get involved.

A maximum of 130 coyote carcasses will be accepted

A maximum of 130 fox carcasses will be accepted

Donations are expected to come from many sources: hunters, trappers, hunters hunting with dogs, farmers, landowners, road kill

YES—road kill coyote or fox are accepted

YES—you are encouraged to keep the pelt

Anyone picking up road kill must follow the reporting process that can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/keep-dead-wild-animal>.

OFAH Coyote and Fox Collection Depots

Target areas of Collection are: Huron, Perth, Middlesex, Oxford, Norfolk, Elgin, Lambton, Chatham-Kent and Essex counties. Carcasses from other areas are also Welcomed and will be collected.

Tavistock /Stratford/Perth County: Lead Contact Tony Jackson 519.274.1697 to coordinate with donor

Norfolk/Middlesex/Oxford/Elgin counties: Lead Contact Dave Snook 519.644.0168 Mapleton Taxidermy, 11664 Belmont Rd, Belmont to coordinate with donor

Sarnia /Lambton area : Lead Contact Brian Moore, Warwick, 519.919.1520 to coordinate with donor

Please direct inquiries to the appropriate Project Lead Contact, Jon Kotwa, the University of Guelph (226.820.2200) or OFAH Zone J Project Contact Pud Hunter (226.688.7231).

Donors: please provide with your submission your name & phone number, your small game or trapper licence number, date & location harvested (cross roads or GPS coordinates).



Please see next page for more information

K9 Tapeworm Study

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to determine how common the k9 tapeworm is in coyotes and foxes across southern Ontario, and what factors increase the likelihood of infection in coyotes and foxes.

Echinococcus multilocularis, the k9 tapeworm, lives in the intestines of coyotes and foxes. When mature, the tapeworm sheds eggs into the environment in fox and coyote droppings; those eggs are immediately infective for rodents. If a person swallows these eggs (for example by eating with contaminated hands, or by eating contaminated food), a disease called alveolar echinococcosis (AE) can develop. This disease causes tumour-like growths in the liver. It takes 5-15 years for the infection to produce signs and symptoms in people, and if left untreated, AE can be fatal. Like people and rodents, dogs can also be infected with the eggs and develop AE. Southern Ontario was considered free of this parasite until 2012. However, in recent years, AE infections have been found in several animals in the province.

How are we collecting data?

We plan to collect coyotes and foxes carcasses during the normal hunting/trapping seasons in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Samples for this study will be collected from inside the animal, so the carcass can either be skinned or unskinned. If you are willing to donate fox or coyote carcasses that you don't need, please contact Jonathon Kotwa at the email address or phone number given below. We are asking that with each carcass, you provide your name and contact information, and indicate where the animal was killed (cross roads or GPS coordinates).

What will my contact information be used for?

The contact information you provide to us will be used **only** to communicate with you about the results of the study, and not for any other reason. Your contact information will **not** be shared with any other organization for **any** purpose without your express written consent for us to do so, and will be destroyed when the study is over.

Can I get this disease? What can I do to lower my chances?

We are unsure if this k9 tapeworm is in Ontario, but yes, because you are touching the carcass you have a chance of being exposed to the parasite.

Preventative measures:

**Wear gloves
while handling
carcasses**



**Wash hands with warm
soapy water for at least 20
seconds after handling the
carcass**

Both of these methods will help lower your risk of infection.

Why is this study important?

The results from this will help us better understand the risks of infection for people and dogs in Southern Ontario.

How will I get the results of this study?

Using the contact information you provide, a summary of our findings will be sent to you in the late spring/early summer of both 2016 and 2017.

**Interested? Do you have
Questions? Contact us!**



Contact information:

Jonathon Kotwa (MSc Candidate, University of Guelph)

Phone: (226)-820-2200

Email: tapewormstudy@gmail.com



This year's OFAH NASP Championships was a big success. A total of 248 archers from all over the province competed in the inaugural event.



OFAH Zone J is proud to congratulate Marco Dilaudo of Kingsville Public School. Marco placed 3rd in the Boy's Middle School Division.

The NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program), is a very exciting opportunity now available to Ontario Schools. This is an in-class, curriculum based archery program. The OFAH is extremely proud to be the official provider of the NASP to Ontario Schools. When a school commits to the NASP program, and purchases the HIGHLY discounted archery equipment, one of the 14 OFAH teacher trainers will come directly to your school and train your staff how to run the NASP archery program.

Some schools already have an after school archery program. This is a great activity. However; the students participating in an after school program already know they like archery. When archery is added to the phys-ed curriculum, every student in the school will try this amazing sport. Archery teaches kids focus, discipline, honesty, and mathematics. These life lessons are what teachers are looking for when introducing anything new to their students. Archery does not discriminate. Every person in the world can shoot a bow and arrow, regardless if you are male/female, tall/short, athletic or not.

Since NASP's inception in 2002, over 15 million kids worldwide have shot a bow and arrow during class. NASP is now active in 10 different countries, and includes over 20,000 schools. OFAH is very committed to bringing this program to as many of Ontario's schools as possible. In 2016 we ran our 1st Annual Provincial NASP Championships. Ontario is the 8th province to join the NASP team, and a National tournament already exists and Ontario will participate in the National Event in the future.

So far, there are 53 Ontario schools participating in NASP. During the 8 hour NASP training session, the teachers quickly realize why archery is one of the safest sports in the world. The training is very structured, and after passing a written test, teachers become certified NASP instructors. NASP certification stays with them forever, even if they move to a different school. Certified teachers have the ability to start the NASP program at their new school.

All of the NASP equipment is designed to work together. The targets, bows and arrows all complement each other to insure the up-most safety possible. The NASP equipment is designed so that every student from grade 4-12, can enjoy the sport of archery. For more information about this exciting program visit www.ofah.org/nasp

If you prefer the telephone, I can be reached at 705-748-6324 ext. 235.

Yours in Conservation,

Tim Watts
NASP Coordinator
Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters





OFAH Zone J Members are being asked to assist in another wildlife study being conducted in the Niagara Region by Brittney Poucachiche, Niagara College.

A presence/absence study of the Grey Ratsnake & Black Ratsnake in the Niagara Region

Project Summary: The Drainage Investment Group would like to collaborate with Niagara college to conduct a presence/absence study for the Carolinian population of the Grey Ratsnake in the Niagara Region. This will be accomplished by completing visual survey and deploying snake boards in area where historic sightings have been documented. Presence and absence data will be used to better understand habitat requirements and population size.

How can you help?

Watch for snakes as you traverse thru Niagara Region and report sightings as follows:

- 1) take a photo of the snake
- 2) Location specification such as town, address, GPS co-ordinates
- 3) Description of surrounding area where species has been found
- 4) Description of the snake including its behaviour

Email any information to Brittney at Brittney.mp88@gmail.com or call her at 289-228-8837 and leave a message please. Time frame for reporting is between now and Spring 2017.

For information on ratsnakes please visit:

http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Pantherophis_obsoletus/#physical_description

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMNJ8CPax_0

Learn more about this project during the OFAH Zone J Membership meeting in Port Dalhousie on August 21. Brittney will present her project to us after lunch.



Updates on Municipal Discharge By-Laws and Sunday Gun Hunting

City of Hamilton—Two informal meetings were held (Binbrook and Ancaster). Our understanding is that a work group or task force is being created. OFAH has submitted a request that we have a representative on this task force. Meetings are anticipated in the fall.

Town of Milton—OFAH worked with the town and many OFAH recommendations were taken into consideration. This revised By Law was passed by council recently. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of the town council, OFAH members and Halton Sportsmans Association in this effort.

City of Thorold—At a packed council meeting, the by law was discussed at length and was deferred. OFAH has submitted critique of the proposed by-law. We have heard nothing new since this time.

Sunday Gun Hunting: Southwold and Perth East will be added to the new Map September 1st. Mapleton defeated the motion to allow SGH.



What is the EBR and how do I use it?

The Environmental Registry contains "public notices" about environmental matters being proposed by all government ministries covered by the **Environmental Bill of Rights**. The public notices may contain information about proposed new laws, regulations, policies and programs or about proposals to change or eliminate existing ones.

Each notice tells you:

- where you can find the details about the proposals
- how and where you can send your comments
- the deadline for having your comments considered

When final decisions are made, you will be told how many and what kind of comments were made, as well as the impact, if any, the comments had on the decision. You will also be told whether and how you can appeal and challenge the decision.

But the Registry is more than just an electronic filing cabinet.

- You can use the new, recently improved search capacity to find out about proposals that affect your community.
- You can create personalized search requests to help you track the progress of specific environmental proposals.
- You can now send in your comments electronically, making it easier for you to comment on the environmental matters that you care about.

Most importantly, the Environmental Registry allows you to participate in decisions that affect the environment.

www.ebr.gov.on.ca

Congratulations to all Winners!

The OFAH Conservation Lottery draw was held Friday May 27, 2016 the OFAH Head Office in Peterborough.

Many of the OFAH Zone J Executive were on hand to assist in the draw.

43rd Annual OFAH Conservation Lottery Tickets for Club sales should be available in October, with tickets going out to individual members in early December.

When you sell a book of Conservation Lottery tickets for your Club, your Club will receive a rebate of \$9.00 to use towards Conservation projects. Many of our Clubs use the Conservation lottery as a major fund raiser! Start planning now on how your Club can raise funds thru the sales of these tickets.

To get your ticket order placed early, please send an email to cathy_mackay@ofah.org or call 705-748-OFAH.

**42nd Annual
OFAH
Conservation
Lottery**

CALL TO ALL MEMBERS

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J is seeking nominations for the Annual OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award.

Deadline for Nominations is December 31, 2016

This award is to recognize an individual's outstanding effort towards Stewardship, Conservation, and/or the promotion of angling or hunting in Southwestern Ontario as selected by the OFAH Zone J membership.

Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member, for this award. Nominees for the 2016 award may be submitted to the Zone J Secretary/Treasurer no later than December 31, 2016.

Please include a description of the work the nominee has done as well as photos, news articles, etc. The Zone membership will vote on the winner at the January 2017 Quarterly meeting at the Dover Rod & Gun Club, with the winner being announced at the Zone J Annual meeting in April 2017 at Wellington Street Sportsman Club.

We know there are many deserving volunteers who quietly devote their time, energy and money to conservation, hunting and angling within our Zone. Please help us recognize them by submitting a story about their dedication and passion.

2016—2017 Migratory Bird Hunting regulations can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/29UKcvB>

Hunting season is quickly approaching. As always, we wish everyone could fill their freezer with the bounty this beautiful country has to offer. To assist us in being successful, we suggest you use the months of August and September to research and practice for the big day.

KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT

KNOW YOUR TARGET

KNOW YOUR RANGE

BE A RESPONSIBLE HUNTER





The Conservation Corner

Personal Liability Coverage

Demystifying your member insurance coverage

I am not an insurance professional, but in my visits and discussions with various clubs throughout the province, I am frequently asked about the liability insurance coverage provided through the OFAH. Because of this, I have spoken to our insurance brokers, and I'm pleased to provide you with further information in answer to the most frequently asked questions.

Understanding liability coverage is not easy, and the answers are rarely black and white. Determining if liability exists is complicated. There must be an investigation to determine if the cause and origin of the loss falls within the scope of the liability coverage provided by the policy.

What is clear is that in some cases, incorrect information is being provided to anglers and hunters in Ontario and we'd like to set the record straight.

Some organizations may unintentionally be representing their insurance as primary coverage, when in fact it is not. The individual members' public liability insurance coverage provided through your OFAH insurance is excess, not primary; **the same as what is provided through other organizations.**

If you are ever in a situation where there is a lawsuit brought against you as a result of a covered activity for third party bodily injury or property damage, your first line of defense is and always will be your personal homeowner's policy or any other primary personal insurance that you may carry. This is the same for all insurance offered through other organizations, regardless of claims to the contrary.

Your homeowners policy **SHOULD ALWAYS be notified** and respond **first** in the case of a third party bodily injury or property damage claim against you. Be aware, however, that most homeowner's policies contain a clause to the effect that, "if there are criminal charges laid in connection with a claim, your homeowner's policy may have the right to deny coverage". (i.e. deny coverage as a result of being charged with a criminal act).

If you are involved in an accident that causes third party bodily injury or property damage as a result of either hunting and/or recreational shooting, there will likely be some form of criminal charge laid against you. This could open the door for your homeowner's policy to deny your claim, leaving you without any insurance coverage and the potential of a very large settlement and/or legal expenses to deal with if you are found at fault.

If your homeowner's policy denies coverage, this is where any other personal insurance coverage that you may have kicks in (i.e. the excess personal liability coverage that comes with your OFAH membership). **Your excess insurance could possibly respond with coverage even though there was a criminal charge.** Coverage would be determined once the insurance company has completed its investigation to determine if the loss would **legally** be considered an **actual accident** or gross negligence or intentional negligence. If coverage is allowed, it would be based on the results of the investigation, and cause and origin of the loss.

FACT:

The OFAH advertises their personal excess liability coverage as "excess" not primary, even though it **MAY** drop down and become primary once cause and origin is determined, and the investigation is complete.

FICTION:

Other organizations state its personal liability coverage is primary coverage.

Before you accept this statement, you should ask to see the wording of the policy and the exact wording that indicates that coverage is primary. Most policies have a very narrow and limited range of what activities are covered. It should be noted that few, if any, insurance providers in Canada provide primary personal liability coverage.

The individual and club membership insurance programs offered by the OFAH through Great North Wildlife Affiliates (GNWA) is by far the best coverage available in Canada.

You should also know that there is an appointed "GNWA Insurance Committee" for the GNWA. All four participating provinces have representatives who meet annually with our broker to review administration, coverages and discuss coverage improvements, etc. As a result, the insurance program is continually evolving and growing with changes and improvements in coverages and policy terminology.

This program was designed by members and initiated by the members of the GNWA / OFAH.

For more detailed information, please don't hesitate to contact Brian McRae at OFAH head office, 705-748-6324, ext. 246, or at brian_mcrac@ofah.org.



Message from the Chair....

Hello Members:

Since our last Newsletter, things have been busy....and HOT!!

Notably, the 28th Annual O.F.A.H Zone J Youth Camp was held June 10-12 in partnership with the German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club (GCHFC) just outside of Kitchener. The weather was perfect and the energy was insane! Over the weekend, 45 youth participated in a range of activities that included Archery, Pellet Guns, Lure Making, Bird Houses and more!! This camp continues to be hosted at NO COST to the participants, this would not be possible with the volunteers, supporters, donors, sponsors and the host club! THANK YOU!!

The host club had provided us with a very unique peek at an event that dates back to medieval times. Bogeschinessen started back when the men would leave the pubs and on their way home would compete to see who could shoot birds off of the brick chimneys with their bows. Today, this activity is only carried out in a few locations and the archers shoot at a foam bird on a flag pole.

We are looking forward to working with the GCHFC next year for the 29th annual Camp!

With the extreme heat and lack of rain in many parts of our Zone, water levels are low and in some cases (GRCA), there have been low water advisories issued along with voluntary "No Fishing" bans. This heat and low water is very stressful on the fish and other life in the waters. The fisheries report during our next OFAH Zone J Membership meeting will provide more information.

As you may be aware, this summer has seen a high number of Black Bear sightings across much of our Zone in the Central and Western regions. Sightings have been anywhere from London to Forest to Bothwell and all points between. In early July, there was a bear struck by a vehicle near London. Deceased cubs have been found at 2 or 3 locations this Spring as well.

Wishing everyone a safe and success fall hunt.

Yours In Conservation,
Brian Moore

In Brief.....

- ◆ 17 Wild Turkey Hunter Education Courses were held this Spring. The at home study DVD is very popular and can be ordered from ofah.org
- ◆ OFAH in partnership with Elgin, Perth and Middlesex Stewardship Councils continue to actively pursue youth hunting events in an effort to recruit youth who want to try hunting, but have no one to mentor them.
- ◆ OFAH continues to be engaged with FMZ 19 and FMZ 20 advisory councils as well as Lake Erie Percid Management Advisory Group (LEPMAG) and Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (GLFC).
- ◆ Springbank Dam in London continues to be a hot topic
- ◆ Community Hatchery Program (CHP) has wrapped up the first 3 year agreement between OFAH and MNRF. A new 3 year agreement is being worked out
- ◆ Invasive Species on land and in the water continue to be of concern. Asian Carp, Water Soldier, Round Goby, Giant Hogweed and others have kept the Invasives Species Hotline busy.
- ◆ EDDMapS Ontario has proved to be a valuable tool in collecting data on where invading species are being sighted
- ◆ OFAH Annual Report for 2015 can be found at ofah.org/annualreport
- ◆ Angler & Hunter Radio is in it's 6th Season. More info can be found at ahradio.ca
- ◆ Mike Miller continues to host the successful Angler & Hunter Television. Visit ahtv.com