

# OFAH ZONE J FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



## Special Points of Interest:

- OFAH Zone J virtual AGM and Elections
- Executive Election information
- OFAH Zone J Grants Funding Opportunities

Keeping our members, families and partners safe is our utmost concern so

OFAH Zone J is continuing to host virtual meetings. Unfortunately, the OFAH Zone J Annual Youth Camp is being cancelled for 2022.

We hope to hold one in 2023.

Please follow our website or facebook page for the most up to date information.

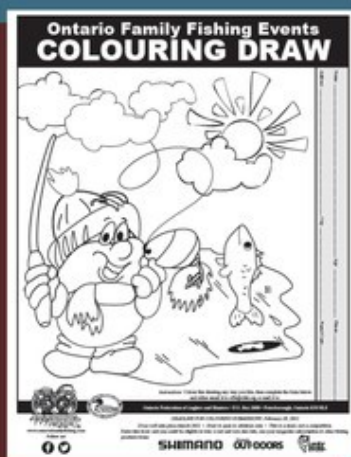
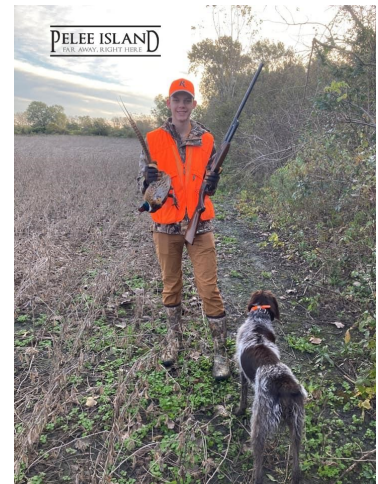
## Inside this issue:

Executive Contacts	2
Election Information	3
Grant Money Available	3
Message from the Chair	4
Zone J AGM Agenda	5

[www.ofah.org/zonej](http://www.ofah.org/zonej)

## OFAH Zone J virtual Annual General Membership Meeting and Election Sunday March 27, 2022 9am—noon Join us on ZOOM

Meeting ID: 893 0214 4676  
Passcode: 353201  
Dial-in toll free: 1-855-703-8985



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Thanks Derek for sharing this photo with us!

Sales are open now until April 1 for the Main Hunts. Call 519-724-2931 or visit <https://www.pelee.org/pheasant-hunts/register/> for more details & to order

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## OFAH ZONE J EXECUTIVE 2021-2022 CONTACT INFO

Chair, Brian Moore	Watford area	brianmoore@live.ca 519-919-1520
1st Vice, Randy MacPherson	Kitchener area	mrmac1954@gmail.com 519-835-5442
Director, Al Metcalfe	Sarnia area	metcalfeal@gmail.com 519-542-3758
2nd Vice, Ray Boilard	Windsor area	rayboilard.ofah@gmail.com 905-736-2076
Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Moore (also Newsletter Editor)	Brantford area	secretaryzonej@gmail.com 519-861-0965
Past Chair, Tony Jackson	Stratford area	tonyj_ofah@mail.com 519-273-4193



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### Mark Your Calendars

**OFAH Zone J virtual Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday August 25, 2022**  
**7pm**

**Join us on ZOOM**  
**Details will be printed in the next**  
**OFAH Zone J Newsletter**

### *Gosfield North Sportsmen Association*

#### Pheasants For Sale



Live birds (2 to 4 lbs)  
\$19.00 to Dec 31<sup>st</sup>      \$21.00 at Jan 1, 2022

Oven-Ready [Government Inspected] - \$8.00/lb

To Order call Joe Drouillard (226-350-0825)  
or Stan Gevaert (519-995-1512)



## OFAH ZONE J



**WE NEED YOU!!!** Please consider standing for a position as some of our current Executive have held their positions for many years and will be retiring in 2022.

### WE NEED YOU!!

As OFAH Zone J Executives we invite members in good standing (at least one full year) to step up to the plate and bat for our South Western Ontario hunting and fishing interests. Your contributions to making our Zone what it could and should be regarding increased opportunities and standing up for our collective interests will be appreciated. To stand for one of the Zone's 5 annually elected executive positions, after determining your personal time and travel availability you simply need to declare your intent to stand by advising Tony Jackson (nominating committee Chair) by e-mail or phone or by advising any of our current executive.

### Time & Travel Commitments

There are 3 quarterly general meetings at which delegated reports and updates are presented to our membership at large. Between these get together are teleconferences scheduled as required. Other discussions and commitments should also be expected commensurate with your dedication and interests to our core directions. In appreciation, Executive and their spouses are also invited to our OFAH annual conference.

Travel and costs incurred while conducting Zone business are reimbursed. It's essential to the health and progress of our Zone J to refresh the team and network by encouraging new energetic and dedicated members to stand for election for **Chair**,

**1st Vice Chair** and **Director** (these

positions are also full OFAH Board participants with additional commitments), **2nd Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer**.

After the elections a new year commences with the newly elected team announced. The chair then assigns or confirms the areas of interest that each member is expected to be attentive to and or report on. The Zone J and OFAH policies are also discussed early in each year.

Our past Zone Chair is also a member of the current executive for Zone continuity and their proven expertise.

So please join us and continue to make your Zone a great place to hunt and fish. Please contact Tony Jackson to express your interest.

Double check the expiry date on your Outdoors card!!  
 MNRF does NOT send our reminder notices, it is up to YOU to check.  
 Don't miss out on any opportunities!  
 December 31 is the expiry date, check what year yours expires.



## OFAH Zone J has Grant Money Available

Does your club or organization have a project that aims to:

1. Conserve or enhance natural habitat?
2. Promote, cooperate or participate in conservation education?
3. Promote and support scientific research in the areas of fish and wildlife?
4. Promote and enhance the wise use of fish, wildlife and natural resources?
5. Cooperate with other organizations in conservation?

Are you a member of an OFAH Zone J Club?

Is your club doing conservation work?

Short on funds due to the pandemic stalling your club fundraising?

Hosting a conservation event for youth or families?

If so, did you know OFAH Zone J has funds set aside to help our Clubs?

Contact [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com) for an application to request funding.

Complete the application and return it to the Secretary/Treasurer.

The Zone J Executive will review the applications during an Executive meeting and choose our Grant recipients.

Contact us today and help your Club help the Conservation efforts we all love!



## Message From the Chair

Members and friends,

As I sit down to write a short message, I was reminded just how quickly times goes by. I reflect back to my first report to the OFAH Zone J membership back in 2008. That report would be followed by countless meetings, conferences, board meetings, conference calls, various committees, far too many nights in a motel to count and a list of new friends and experiences that can hardly be measured.

This Fall and Winter has been no different. We have been blessed with an abundance of fish and wildlife to harvest throughout the seasons. The ice has been decent and allowed for many days of cold feet and chapped lips, maybe the odd fish as well. We need to remember to make time to enjoy the outdoors with family, our children and friends. If you are able, invite your neighbor, a neighborhood youth or someone from work - you never know the positive impact you may have on them. We have the future of hunting and angling in our hands.

Since my childhood, I have felt a very deep connection to the land, our wildlife, the water flowing down a creek. Coming from a non-hunting family, I faced a very serious "disconnect" with my connections to the land. It wasn't until High School that I was able to finally meet a friend that did everything that I wish that I could have. We became friends and I had a mentor. Over the years, I was introduced to hunting (gun and archery), the finest points of fishing and how to conserve for future generations. A number of years later, on an archery hunt, I asked my buddy "how do I ever make up to you what you've taught me over the years?"

His response was "Promise me that you'll teach others as I've done with you!"

This brings me back to a fond memory of taking a friend ice fishing back in about 2002. I heard that she had wanted to try her hand at ice fishing but never found anyone to take her. We book the very next Saturday, I called a friend to help (ice auger, etc) and we go. Once at the lake, my friend with the auger wasn't there.... All I had was a claw hammer to make a hole in the ice. This wasn't going to stop me. Long story short, another fisherman sees my struggle and offers his auger. We punch a few holes and we're off! We fish for a few hours and called it a day after many laughs and memories made. I enjoyed myself, as well as my friend.

It wasn't until a few years later, she passed away. Her daughter came to me to tell me just how much fun her mom had that day. We only fished a few hours, that was all it took to leave a life long impression with her. She told everyone that she went ice fishing that day!! Moral of the story - it doesn't take much to leave a legacy or a lasting impression on someone. It's up to us to inspire others with our passion for the outdoors!

Back in about 2006, I wanted to connect with more like minded people. People that had a passion for Conservation, Hunting, Fishing and our great outdoors. The best way I found to do this was to attend the OFAH meetings and Conference. After attending a few OFAH Zone J meetings and the OFAH AGM and Fish & Wildlife Conference, I found myself running for a position with the Zone J Executive. Little did I know at that time, what exactly I was in for. I'll never forget the time I heard "Brian, do you stand for Alternate Director?" I was beyond nervous and I'm not sure if I actually said anything or just nodded my head. What was I afraid of? I'm not really sure... One thing I can promise you is, that was the most rewarding "nod" I've ever given.

The OFAH/Zone J has taken me on a journey over the past 14 years that I never could have imagined. I have met some of the most passionate hunters, angler's, conservationists and outdoors people over the years. The depth of many of these friendships will last a lifetime.

As I mentioned above, time seems to slip by quicker than we can keep track of some times. In the past 14 years of holding a position with OFAH Zone J, I now have two young children of my own that have a deep passion for our hunting, fishing and conservation. My kids have attended many meetings, calls, conferences and shows. As my little ones are now more than old enough to hold a fishing rod or make a campfire, it's time that I focus on them to ensure they have the same passion as I did and furthermore, have the guidance at an age when I searched so hard for it.

My time with the OFAH/ZONE J has been extremely rewarding and a time I'll never forget. Like all great things, there comes a time when we have to re-look at priorities.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the past directors and board members, the current directors and board members for their continued dedication and leadership. I would also like to thank the future directors.

I would be amiss if I didn't thank my wife and children for their support and dedication with my various roles and committees that I've held at one time or another over the past 14 years.

Yours in Conservation,  
Brian Moore





## OFAH ZONE J OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Due to the ongoing global pandemic and lack of events, OFAH Zone J Executive have decided to set aside the Outstanding Achievement Award until we are able to once again work together.

### **OFAH Zone J AGM Sunday March 27 via Zoom Tentative Agenda**

9am—open meeting, recite Conservation Pledge  
- introductions by everyone  
930 am—Chairs Report  
- Secretary/Treasurer minutes & financials  
940am—Directors Report  
945 am—First Vice Chair Report  
950am—Second Vice Chair Report  
Short break  
10am—Matt Robbins—Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach  
Liaison re: new Invasive Species Boater Regulations  
1030—Club Reports  
1045—update on Discharge By Laws and Sunday Gun Hunting  
1100—Big Game Report  
1145—Executive Election



**We're Back for 2022!!**  
**Niagaraoutdoorshow.com**  
**Saturday March 19 9am to 3pm**  
**Crystal Ridge Community Centre**  
**Crystal Beach**



### **OFAH Zone J Tag Bags**

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to hold your  
license paperwork.

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to order yours for \$4 each.



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conservation management to:*

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**THE RIGHTS AND TRADITIONS OF**  
**ANGLERS AND HUNTERS**



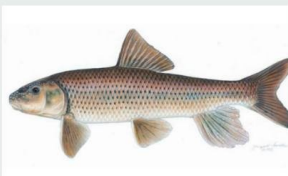


## "SCARCELY" SPOTTED SUCKER

Action needed to protect fish species of special concern  
Spotted Sucker (*Minytrema Melanops*)

### CHARACTERISTICS

Grows to average 22-38cm  
Average weight up to 1.3kg  
Unique brown-black spots on base of scales, with mostly bronze, copper or silver white undersides. Dorsal, caudal and anal fins usually olive grey or dusky to white



### THREATS TO SPOTTED SUCKER

Main threat is degradation related to pollution, siltation, and dams/barriers. Specific to the Sydenham River the largest threats are turbidity and erosion.

**Act now to protect the species by initiating erosion control practices!**



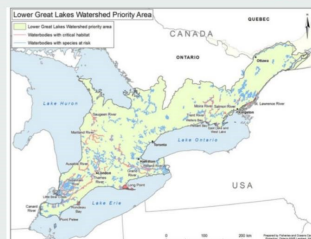
Created by Colin Chevalier, Environmental Management Student, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus. In partnership with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. For more information please visit [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca)

### HABITAT

Medium sized rivers with sand, clay or gravel bottoms, moving to more rocky areas of streams in late spring-early summer for breeding.

### WHERE IT IS FOUND

Fresh waters in Eastern and central North America. In Canada it is limited to Southwestern Ontario (Lake St. Clair, Western Lake Erie, & Detroit, St. Clair, East Sydenham and Thames Rivers.



<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/cnf/asar-fnceap/priority-priorite/profiles/great-grands-eng.html>



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